

Fronczak, N., Fapohunda, B., Buckner, B., & Shenck-Yglesias, C. (2007). *Using Health Facility Profiles as a Monitoring Tool: An Example Based on Data from Three African Countries*. (WP-07-101). Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA: MEASURE Evaluation.

<Abstract>

Substantial investments have been and continue to be made to improve health services in countries with weak health systems. However, useful information on the status of services and the overall health systems within which they operate is rarely available. Sound decisions about where to invest resources to improve health services require knowledge of the existing health infrastructure, the services currently offered, the systems needed to support the services, and the availability of equipment and consumable supplies. As a first step towards improving access to this information, the IHFAN has compiled a recommended set of core indicators that measure the presence or absence of minimal, basic standards for facility-based health based services. In this paper, Service Provision Assessment data from three countries (Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania) were used to calculate the core indicators and to develop a profile of the health facilities in these countries.

Authors found that facilities in Ghana were the least likely to have an emergency communication system (33%) and facilities in Tanzania were the least likely to have an emergency transportation system (10 %). The proportion of all facilities with overnight or inpatient beds ranged from 80% in Ghana to 42 % in Kenya. Low availability of sterilization equipment in facilities below hospital level was revealed across the three countries. The proportion with functioning sterilization equipment was highest across all facilities in Kenya (30%), while in Ghana and Tanzania, less than one in five facilities had functioning sterilization equipment. Regarding the availability of varieties of services, 38 percent of hospitals offered all maternal and child health services and reproductive health services in Tanzania, while only 2 percent in Ghana and 7 percent in Kenya. The results of the analysis show substantial room for improvement of infrastructure, equipment and supplies for providing minimum quality of client services.