Geographic Information Systems
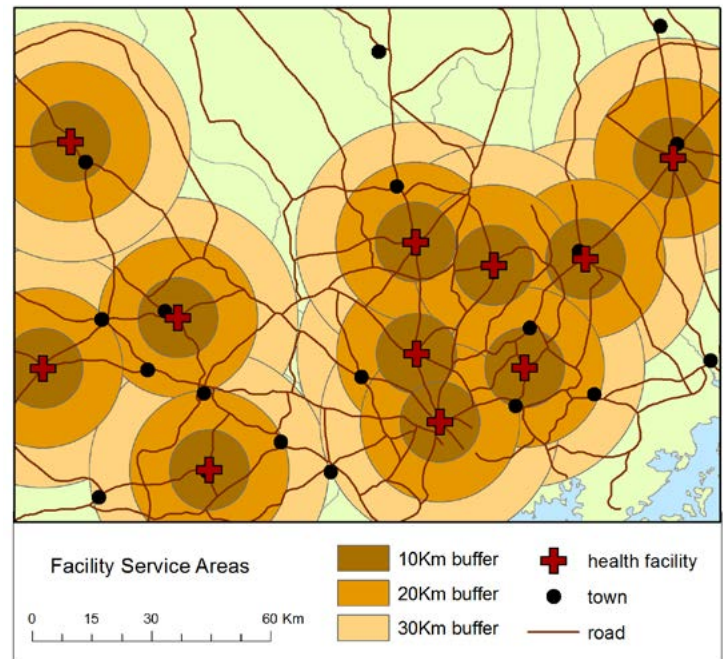for Developing and Maintaining **Master Facility Lists**

An accurate, geo-referenced facility list is a crucial tool for the health sector to be able to offer effective services in the areas where there is the greatest potential to achieve control of the HIV epidemic. MEASURE Evaluation has provided global leadership on this issue and has on-the-ground experience working with countries to build national master facility lists (MFLs). An MFL is the keystone for integrating health information from different actors, programs, and monitoring systems. It is crucial that there be a clear plan for governance issues such as updating and sharing data. Through technical assistance, MEASURE Evaluation addresses both technical issues related to data schemas and governance issues that control updates and use of such lists.

Global Leadership

MEASURE Evaluation served on the World Health Organization (WHO)'s advisory committee that authored the guidance document *Creating a Master Facility List*. In partnership with WHO and the International Health Facility Assessment Network, MEASURE Evaluation authored *The Signature Domain and Geographic Coordinates: A Standardized Approach for Uniquely Identifying a Health Facility*. The signature domain has been used in Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, and other countries to enable facilities to be uniquely identified in MFLs and surveys. MEASURE Evaluation has also played an innovative role in thoughtful leadership on preserving confidentiality with spatial data, an important consideration when data include information on health status. The project has hosted international meetings on spatial data confidentiality and participated in expert meetings on the topic.

Country Technical Assistance

In Ethiopia, for example, MEASURE Evaluation developed an MFL that serves as the backbone of the country's electronic health management information

Facility Service Areas

10Km buffer		health facility
20Km buffer		town
30Km buffer		road

0   15   30   60 Km

system (eHMIS). Using unique identifiers, the MFL is organized by the hierarchical linkage of health facilities with administrative health units and their placement within the political administrative units, allowing effective linkage of MFL data with eHMIS report tracker, aggregate reports, and a decision support system with geographic information system (GIS) capabilities. With MEASURE Evaluation's assistance, the Regional Health Bureau of Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region fully owns and governs this system, from initial data collection through participation by districts, data verification, and updating.

Specific skills and opportunities that can be accessed by missions through MEASURE Evaluation include:

- expertise in geographical information systems (GIS) and routine health information systems and their use in developing MFLs;
- technical assistance in the development and use of facility lists;

- organizing and mentoring stakeholders to develop proper governance for facility lists;
- capacity-building workshops on GIS and routine health information systems strategies to develop and use facility lists with staff from ministries of health, district health offices, and implementing partners;
- expertise in ethical use of spatial data to preserve confidentiality and privacy; and
- expertise in using GIS techniques such as heat maps, clustering to identify disease distribution at multiple scales and predict which populations are most at risk.

To learn more about our capabilities visit
www.measureevaluation.org

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About **MEASURE** Evaluation

Wayne Hoover, MEASURE Evaluation

MEASURE Evaluation is the U.S. Agency for International Development's flagship monitoring and evaluation (M&E) project. Our objective is to enable

countries to strengthen their systems to generate high-quality health information that is used for decision making at local, national, and global levels. MEASURE Evaluation is a team of organizations led by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and includes John Snow, Inc., ICF International, Management Sciences for Health, Palladium, and Tulane University. MEASURE Evaluation offers new opportunities to strengthen health systems through health information systems.

MEASURE Evaluation excels in coordinating expertise across partners to achieve complex, long-term objectives. We have broad access to in-country resources (offices, staff) and short-term technical assistance expertise to provide support in virtually any country where USAID might request assistance. The project is experienced in working across the full range of disease- and service-specific elements in the health sector, including HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, nutrition, water and sanitation, and infectious diseases. MEASURE Evaluation's history has been one of collaborative effort—with tailored responses to individual USAID mission needs, as well as integration of cross-cutting USAID priorities like gender, country ownership, and system sustainability.