|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Routine data systems** continuously collect information at different time periods (daily, weekly, monthly) and across different levels -- individual (student, patient), administrative units (school, health center), and administrative levels (district, municipality). | **National record systems** commonly operate in education and health settings, such as Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), but they are increasingly being utilized in other areas, such as water supply and child protection (UNICEF, 2015).  *Strengths* -- They offer full coverage of service points, breadth of information and provide systematic data over time.  *Weaknesses* -- They are expensive to set up, require continued investment to ensure quality of data entry, often hold lots of information that is not processed and analyzed and cannot be changed easily. |
| **Sentinel surveillance**: Sentinel surveillance involves repeat data collection from a sample of service delivery units or communities in selected areas or groups of people. Common examples include demographic sentinel site surveillance systems, ANC clinics as sentinel sites for HIV surveillance, nutritional surveillance and food security surveillance sentinel sites. Monitoring data from sentinel sites offers an indication of what is happening more broadly. Sentinel surveillance may be useful when indicators of interest but cannot be integrated into routine systems |
| **Field monitoring systems**, such as third party monitoring systems which can be used for shorter periods or in contexts of weak government capacities to scale up monitoring. |
| … all of the above can be accelerated, at least for a narrow set of data, through use of new technologies. |
| **Surveys** have been widely used in assessing access to, demand for and quality of service provision as well as higher level outcomes. Surveys typically use a questionnaire, administered by trained enumerators to collect data on variables of interest. | **Random surveys** -- Surveys such as MICS and DHS that are based on random sampling can offer robust data for statistical analysis (with confidence intervals depending on the sample size). |
| **Purposive sample surveys** -- Approaches with purposive sampling or combinations of purposive and then semi-random sampling can be undertaken where time and access constraints or gaps in sample frames do not allow for random surveys; for example, sentinel site surveys. |
| **SMS-based surveys** allow random sampling but within a defined group of cell phone users or using cell phone users as intermediairies to reach others. The sample frame is biased, but the technology allows high volume of data collection very quickly |
| **Qualitative methods** include observation, focus groups and key informant interviews | **Observation** is a basic method that can include non-participant observation (observing participant(s) without actively participating) as well as participant observation (identifying the attitudes and practices of a community by living in the community). is often blended with other methods, for example in Field Monitoring Systems. |
| **Key informant interview**  is an interviews with a person (or group of persons) with unique skills or professional background related to the issue/intervention being evaluated, who is knowledgeable about the project participants, or has access to other information of interest |
| **Focus group interviews** involve small discussions with 6 to 12 people who share certain characteristics and this both makes participants relatively more relaxed and more likely to discuss sensitive issues because of their common experience and able to represent a perspective of a certain group if FGs are repeated enough. They are useful for analysis of specific, complex problems, to identify attitudes and priorities in smaller groups. |
| **Participatory methods**: These approaches are particularly well suited for higher frequency data collection on changes in vulnerabilities and understanding access to demand for and quality of services at the local level. Participatory methods are used to strengthen accountability through community participation. | **Community score cards or monitoring systems** include a range of approaches where community members define what is being measured in relation to specific concerns and engage in data collection. This can be done and aggregated across communities on a large scale through use of SMS technologies or assisted by smart phone technologies managed by trained facilitators. |
| **Participatory Rural Appraisal and Visualization in Participatory Planning and variations** -- A key characteristic is the combination of a variety of processes and techniques to collect, analyze and disseminate information, in ways that are accessible to citizens as well as able to influence donor and/or local and national policies. PRA, Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAP) often draw on the same methods as qualitative data collection and can also draw on surveys, but add techniques to help visualize collective analysis; such as, seasonal calendars, community ranking, community mapping, transect walks. VIPP tends to focus more on the group analysis for planning, with a range of participatory workshop techniques for drawing in participant’s perspectives which is useful in stakeholder’s self-assessment. |