

## Individual Exam INF5761/INF9761 Spring 2016

General advice: *When responding to the questions in the exam, please assume that your audience is familiar with relevant literature (i.e. the course curriculum). Refer to concepts and models from lecture slides and the literature as you see fit, but do not waste space by quoting large segments of text or by repeating arguments in the literature in great detail. The document should contain no more than 5000 words excluding title page, table of contents and references!*

In Whotopia (see the Whotopia case description) the district level has received frequent complaints from health facility staff who feel they are filling in too many forms, especially since many forms are designed to collect much of the same data. Looking into the problem, you also realize that the quality and actual use of the collected data might not be too good. Also, many of the data elements to be collected are not relevant at the service level where they are collected, but are in any case requested by the respective national offices of the various health programs.

Based on current challenges, The Ministry of Health in Whotopia aims to 1) rationalize their reporting forms in an effort to reduce duplication of data elements and 2) to improve integration of reporting against an **essential indicator set** from multiple uncoordinated information systems, including donors.

### **1) Develop a three year HMIS strengthening strategy**

You have been recruited as a national HMIS strategist. The Ministry would like you to propose a strategy to achieve their HMIS goals stated above. The Ministry of Health expects you to develop a three year HMIS strategy which details the current HMIS challenges and propose actions and routines to be put in place by the end of each year. Your strategy should be well motivated, with references to literature. The Ministry of Health specifically requests that you consider the overall design of the HMIS/health information system architecture so that it will facilitate increased information use, by managers, at all organizational levels. Explain how you would put your three year HMIS strategy into practice with reference to each level of the health system hierarchy (from local communities to the international level).

**Your answer to assignment 1 accounts for 50% of your exam grade**

### **2) Discuss the relationship between HMIS strengthening and improved quality and coverage of health services in Whotopia**

A well-designed HMIS strategy and a functioning HMIS are only means to an end. What really matters is the efficient provisioning of equitable health services of good quality to the population of Whotopia! Highlight **key aspects** of your HMIS strategy that will help reach the Ministry of Health's ambitions of ensuring improved **quality** and **coverage** of health services in Whotopia over the coming years (relate your reasoning about the relationship between your HMIS strengthening strategy and improved health services in Whotopia to challenges mentioned in the Whotopia case).

**Your answer to question 2 accounts for 30% of your exam grade**

### **3) Monitor and evaluate your HMIS strengthening strategy**

Assume that the Ministry of Health likes your HMIS strategy. In addition, the Ministry wants you to suggest a three year plan for **monitoring and evaluating the implementation** of your Whotopia HMIS strengthening strategy. How will you go about measuring the effect of your strategy over time and across organizational levels? Give concrete examples!

**Your answer to question 3 accounts for 20% of your exam grade**