



RAPID HEALTH FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby Activity

USAID Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby (HMHB) Activity helps make sustainable improvements to deliver quality maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and nutrition services by building the technical capacity, leadership, management, and policy reform potential of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan struggles with the poor provision of timely and quality health care services for mothers and children. Registries on health service provision and data management are primarily paper based, which delays services and impacts the quality of care. Partnering with the Tajikistan Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP), HMHB is leveraging technology to digitalize health information, improving coordination between health care stakeholders and expediting decision making.

As part of its broader digital strategy, HMHB digitalized the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Rapid Health Facility Assessment (RHFA), which was originally developed in 2009. The RHFA offers a standardized way to measure progress to prevent morbidity and mortality of both mothers and children under two. This resource improves the availability and quality of lifesaving, evidence-based health interventions for women and children.

HMHB adapted and digitalized the RHFA’s 2,000+ question assessment using open-source platform CommCare. In 2021, HMHB and its partners used the platform to assess 24 health facilities in Tajikistan—12 primary health care facilities and 12 District Central Hospitals.

Given the magnitude of the standard RHFA, HMHB developed a streamlined mini-RHFA to allow routine and shortened facility assessments. Both iterations of the RHFA have a comprehensive workflow, data validation, and logic checks. The data captured provides a baseline snapshot of health facility performance and is used to support trainings, inform planning and implementation of activities, and guide the MoHSPP to improving the health system.

All RHFA primary and secondary level indicators were integrated into the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) system to facilitate data management and analysis. Dynamic dashboards allow team members to analyze indicator and facility-level trends through heat maps, charts, and pivot tables. Users can also respond to data visualizations by adding comments and data interpretations to analyze trends or describe what actions are being taken to improve service quality.

The RHFA is designed to improve Tajikistan’s health and nutrition status by providing health facility managers, MoHSPP leadership, and development partners with increased access to high quality and timely information about health service provision in Tajikistan. It supports the MoHSPP’s goal of adapting existing systems to improve quality and better support interventions that strengthen local technical and organizational capacity. Data from the RHFA flows directly into DHIS2 and to a server at the Republican Center for Medical Statistics and Information to expedite decision-making. The RHFA is scalable, and data can be aggregated at local, regional, and national levels.

