Health information systems (HIS) play a critical role in improving the health of populations. Timely health information is needed to track trends in health, including to detect disease outbreaks, monitor services provided, inform response, and plan for future health system events. Routine health information systems (RHIS), which gather data collected at regular intervals at public, private, and community-level health facilities and institutions, are an important source of data. After many years of investment in RHIS, there is growing interest in using this information for research and evaluation.

Data for Impact (D4I) is carrying on the work of MEASURE Evaluation to help improve the quality of data collected by RHIS and enable confident use in evaluations and interventions. In this edition of the D4I Monitor, we present D4I work that sheds light on the use of routine data in evaluation and can help improve practices around collection and use of routine data.
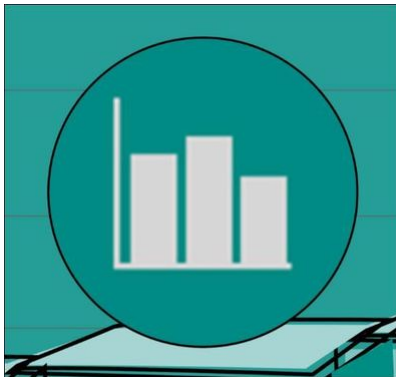
Using Routine Data in Evaluations

A guidance document and 13 accompanying briefs describe use of routine data in evaluations and provide information from experience to help future evaluators and researchers who are considering using routine data in their projects. Though use of routine data in evaluations presents some challenges, these data are available and less costly to collect than primary data. This collection includes examples of routine data use when conducting evaluations and provides guidance for use.

New D4I Webinar Series

A new series of webinars from D4I shares lessons learned and practical suggestions on using routine and other existing data for evaluation and research. Recordings and resources are available for the first webinar in the series, which focused on using routine data for economic evaluations, and

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missing values in routinely reported data. A third webinar on merging data is planned for February 2020.
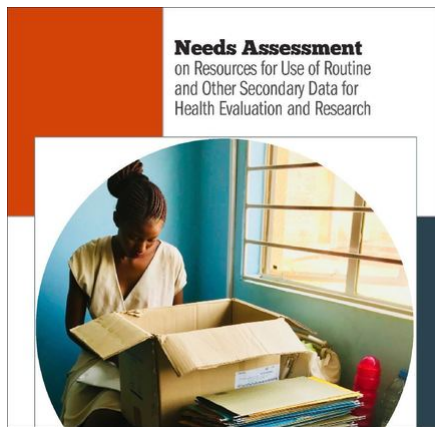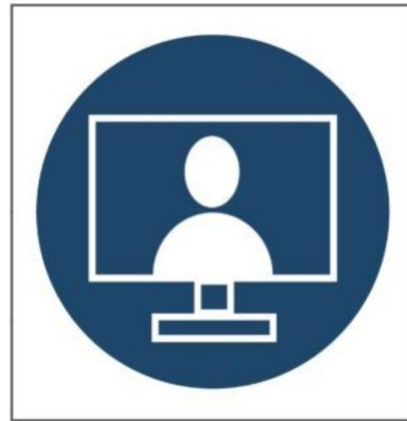
[Needs Assessment on Resources for Use of Routine and Other Secondary Data for Health Evaluation and Research](#)
Using routinely collected or other secondary health data can help answer global health evaluation and research questions. D4I conducted a survey with USAID missions and implementing partners to better understand the perceived capabilities, needs, and available resources related to use of routine and other existing data sources and carried out a review of available online resources. A new report shares findings and makes recommendations for how to better support field needs related to use of routine and other existing data for evaluation and research.

Spotlight on Publications
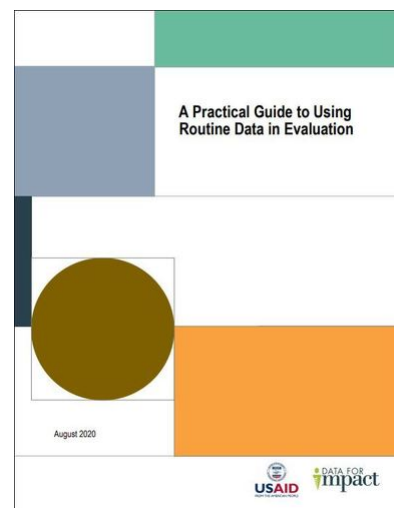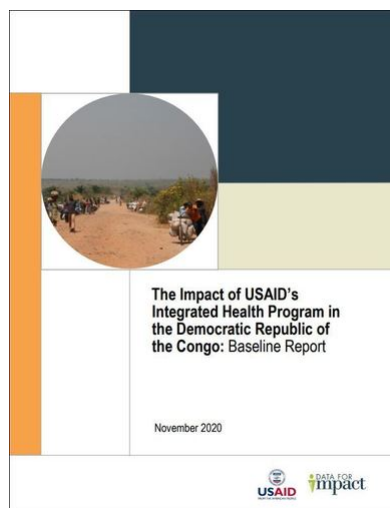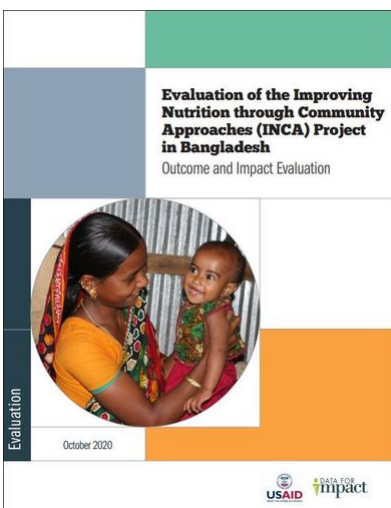
- [Evaluation of the Improving Nutrition through Community Approaches (INCA) Project in Bangladesh: Outcome and Impact Evaluation](#)

- [The Impact of USAID's Integrated Health Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Baseline Report](#)

- [A Practical Guide to Using Routine Data in Evaluation](#)

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