



INDEPTH Network

Better Health Information for Better Health Policy

**Joint Statement from the
Governing Board of the INDEPTH Network
On the
Public Launching on 1st July 2013
of the INDEPTH Data Repository and INDEPTHStats**

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On behalf of the INDEPTH Secretariat, Scientific Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees, we are delighted that the INDEPTH Network has made a bold step to launch the first online data repository (www.indepth-ishare.org) that specialises in longitudinal individual-level exposure and cause-specific mortality data from health and demographic surveillance systems (HDSSs) located in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

The countries where the INDEPTH member centres are located are regions where such high quality data, particularly longitudinal data, are traditionally very difficult to obtain.

Direct access to fully documented, high-quality datasets from INDEPTH member HDSS centres will from now onwards be possible.

Every dataset in the repository is documented using an internationally accepted metadata standard, enabling data users to quickly identify and download the data they require.

We wish to assure the general public that the INDEPTH Data Repository is a long-term project and the datasets will continue to expand alongside with research data management capacity at our member centres.

The datasets at the launch will contain anonymised, quality-assured data in a pre-defined event-history format for approximately 800,000 individuals representing more than 3.7 million person-years of observation.

Associated with the repository is INDEPTHStats (www.indepth-ishare.org/indepthstats), a website for visualising key demographic indicators.

INDEPTHStats is freely accessible and will provide researchers and policymakers with health and demographic information that can guide their decision-making. INDEPTHStats includes crude birth and death rates, age-specific fertility and death rates, infant, child, and under five mortality rates, as well as other health and demographic indicators. Additional indicators, such as death rates by cause of death, will be added in the near future. The indices may be displayed either by single centre over time or across multiple centres.

New data will be added at least annually on 1st July each year.

The process of data sharing and the support provided by funders to do so, enhance research data management capacity and practice. This contributes to the improvement of measurement and data collection methods and advances analytical techniques. Shared data represents a valuable resource to train new scientists.

Core funding from several foundations have enabled INDEPTH to achieve this decisive milestone. We also wish to acknowledge all funders who support the participating member centres.

Signed

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