Title of Workshop: Growing Expertise in E-health Knowledge and Skills (GEEKS): Advancing Informatics Capacity for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Public Health

Background:
Effective functioning of integrated health information systems relies on collaborative efforts and well-organized processes for collecting, analyzing, sharing, and utilizing data to make informed decisions. Recognizing the significance of data management capabilities within health management information and reporting platforms has been prioritized for evidence-based decision-making. The Growing Expertise in E-health Knowledge and Skills (GEEKS) program was established to build these capacities.
GEEKS is a comprehensive applied training program specifically designed to enhance informatics capacity within the national health system and establish a sustainable workforce proficient in informatics. Taking inspiration from the successful Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), GEEKS focuses on providing valuable informatics support to public health officers engaged in programs that require expertise in data management.

Empowering local staff through informatics training to enable them in effectively utilizing data for evidence-based decision-making is one of the primary objectives of the GEEKS program. The selection of fellows is based on their individual skills and job descriptions, ensuring a diverse cohort that also includes partners from relevant agencies. The training is conducted in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Training (DGHT) and the Directorate General of Health Promotion (DGHP) in each country, allowing for tailored approaches to address specific challenges and contextual factors.

By May 2023, the GEEKS program had successfully trained 397 fellows from Ministries of Health in Nigeria, Ethiopia, India, Uganda and the Phillipines, equipping them with practical knowledge and skills in the application of informatics in public health. This achievement has significantly strengthened informatics expertise within the public health workforce. Notable milestones include improvements in the implementation of DHIS2 for case-based surveillance and the introduction of data triangulation and visualization techniques. These advancements have played a vital role in supporting program planning, prioritization, resource allocation, and timely responses to public health emergencies.

Workshop Goal:
The goal of this workshop is to enhance participants' understanding of the GEEKS program and its approach to building informatics capacity in public health. Additionally, the workshop aims to facilitate discussions on the feasibility of implementing similar training methods in other countries.

Workshop Objectives:
1. Share knowledge and experiences on the practical application of informatics in public health among participants.
2. Foster collaborative brainstorming to identify unique solutions for using informatics training to address immunization-related obstacles.
3. Sensitize participants to innovative training techniques within the GEEKS program.

Target Participants: Public health officers at both the national and subnational levels who utilize informatics to leverage data for informed decision-making and driving action.
Duration of Workshop: Half-day
Number of Participants: 50
Facilitators/Sponsor: Oluwasegun J. Adegoke, Ester Sikare, Herman Tolentino, MacGregor, Bidemi Adeoye, Alyssa wong, Talya Shragai from the US CDC.