

INFORMING A NATIONAL PHC FACILITIES AUDIT: WHAT INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

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Objectives

- To assess the availability of provincial data on primary health care facility infrastructure
- To assess the extent to which this data can be used to plan for and cost the maintenance and upgrading of these facilities.

Methods

A set of required data elements that could be used as a basis for costing and planning exercises was agreed upon with the National Primary Health Care, Research and Strategic Planning Directorates. Permission to investigate available data from provinces was given by the National Primary Health Care Directorate.

Sources of data were identified with the assistance of the National Primary Health Care and Research Directorates.

Available data was compared to the set of required data elements, to assess the completeness of provincial data sets.

Results

Only two provinces have complete datasets of clinic infrastructure necessary to inform the costs of upgrading and maintenance of clinics. In other provinces the amount and quality of data varies, and a variable number of important data elements are lacking.

Conclusions

Most provinces require further detailed data collection in order to plan for the infrastructural development of their primary health care facilities.