

# *Health Metrics Network*

## *An update after 50 days*

Current practices in health information  
Opportunities for improvement  
Added value of HMN  
Process of development

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# FAQ - what is HMN not?

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## HMN is not:

- A WHO initiative
- An effort to create new HMN programmes in countries
- An effort that purely focuses on the global level
- An alliance that only aims to coordinate
- An excellent name

# FAQ - what is HMN?

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## HMN is:

- A partnership in the making involving a wide range of stakeholders world-wide
- A platform that considers **sound** health information an essential foundation for public health planning
- An action-oriented alliance that puts strengthening country HIS at the center but pays attention to global and local needs

**PRODUCTION AND USE  
OF  
HEALTH INFORMATION  
CURRENT STATUS**

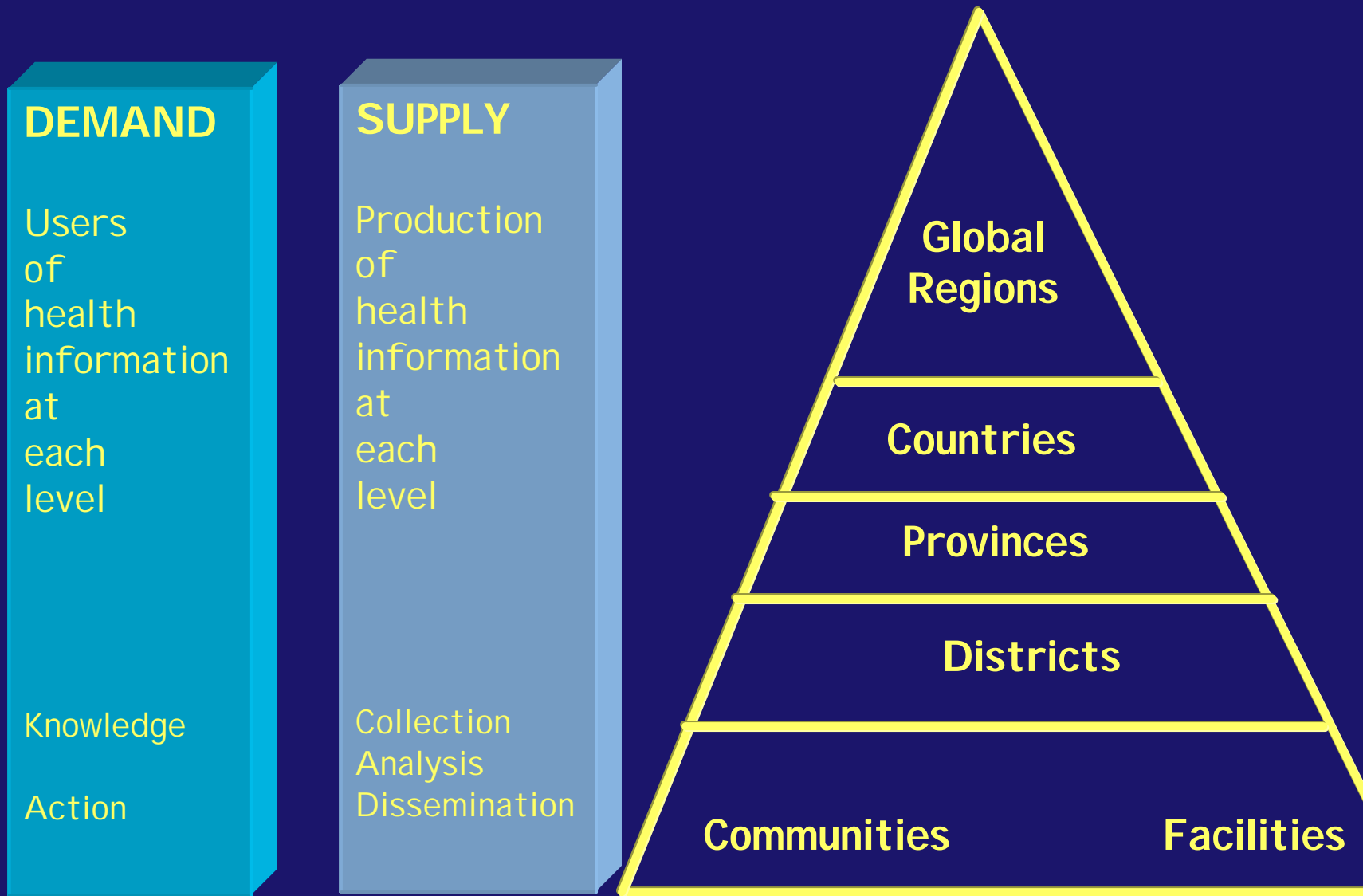
# Need for sound health information: essential foundation for public health programs

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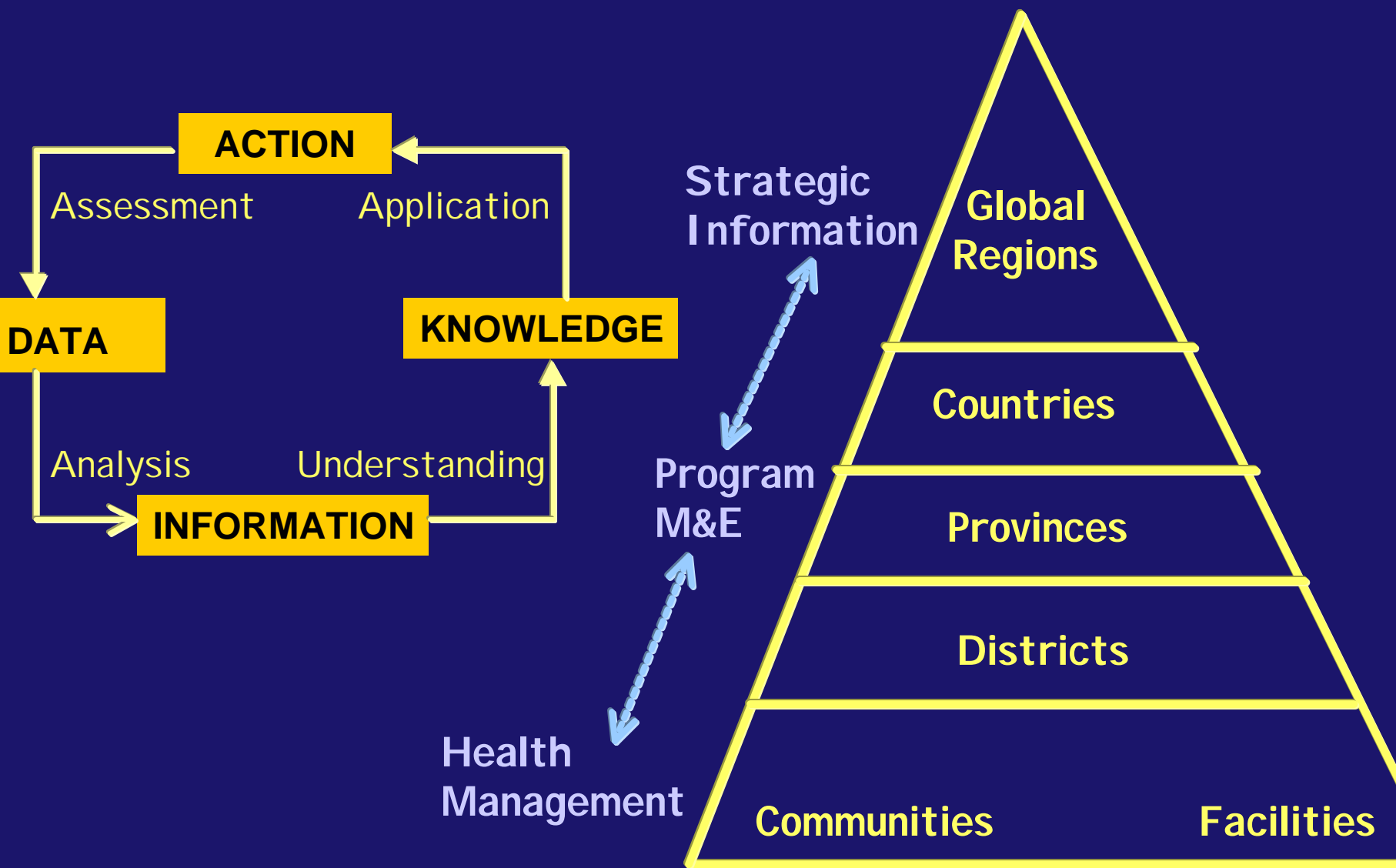
- Prioritizing mobilization and allocation of resources
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Identifying emerging new health challenges
- Making effective managerial decisions on program design and implementation

# Levels of production of health information and use of health information

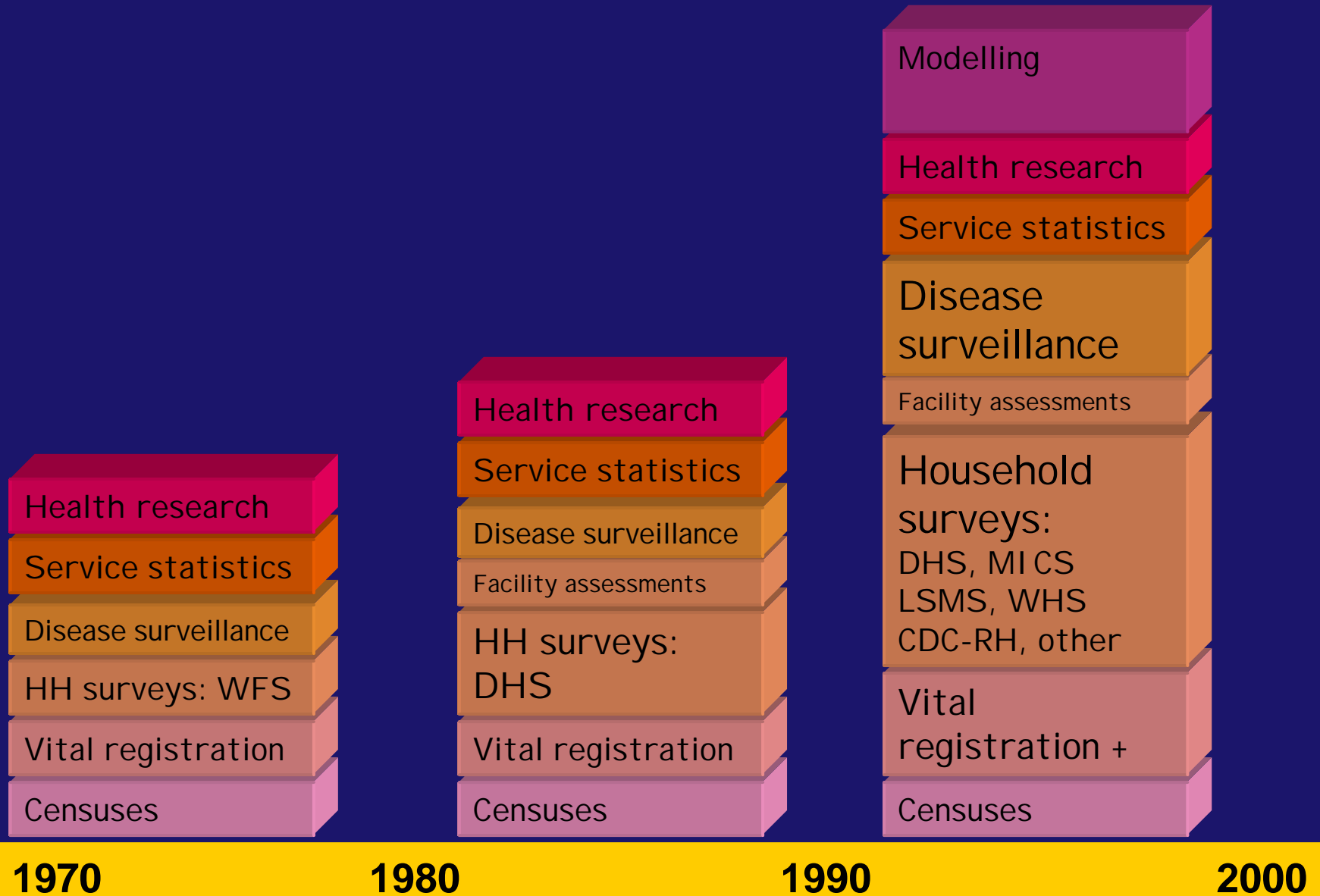
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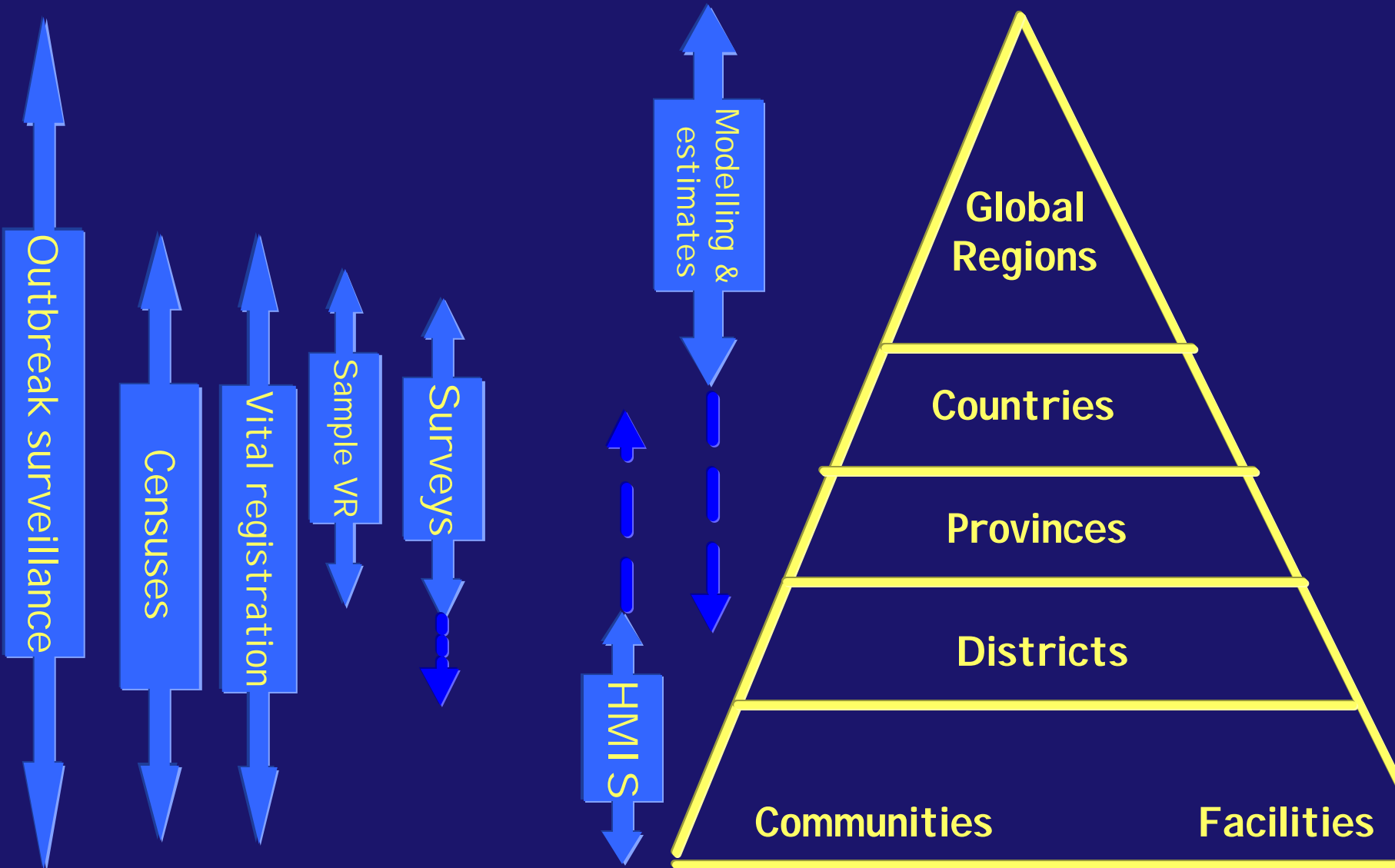
# Levels of use of health information: same principles at different levels



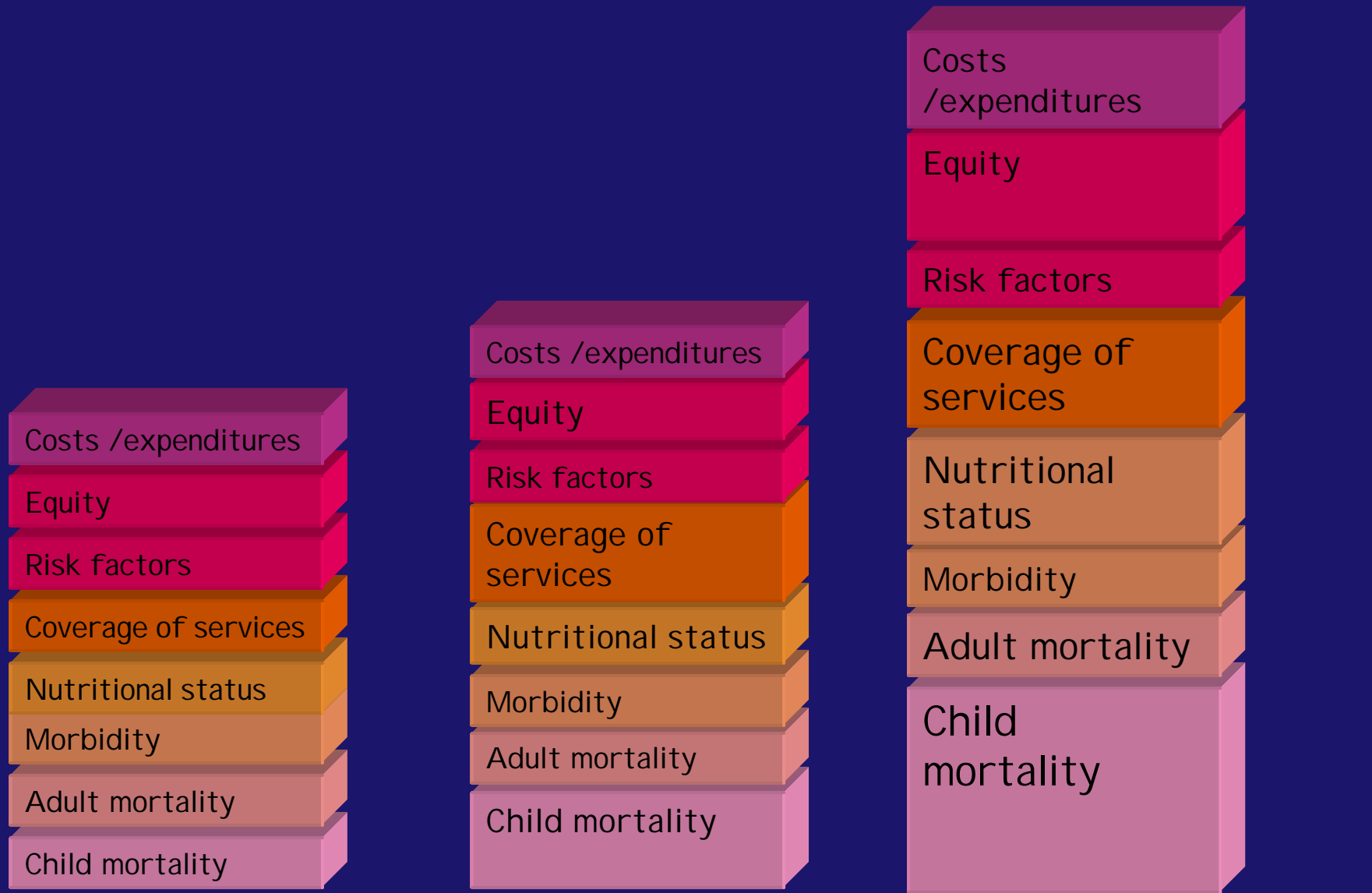
# Production of health information: tools



# Production of health information: tool coverage by level



# Production of health information: areas of measurement



1970

1980

1990

2000

# GOAL

To make sound public health information available for use on a sustainable basis to guide health programmes and policies at the local, country and global levels

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## Major barriers to the goal (from Mck interviews)

### Capacity

Lack of donor support to build country systems

Lack of domestic investment in health information

Too few trained people or training infrastructure

### Coordination

Primarily donor/ disease-specific information focus

Donors/ technical agencies reluctant to collaborate and avoid duplication

Coordination difficult even at country level (sectors, levels, donors)

### Application

Data not used by local/ country/ global decision makers

Lack of quality control, standardization

Limited transparency

Lack of national and local data on health

Limited link between health and other sectors

# **Why Health Metrics Network NOW?**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE  
HEALTH INFORMATION**

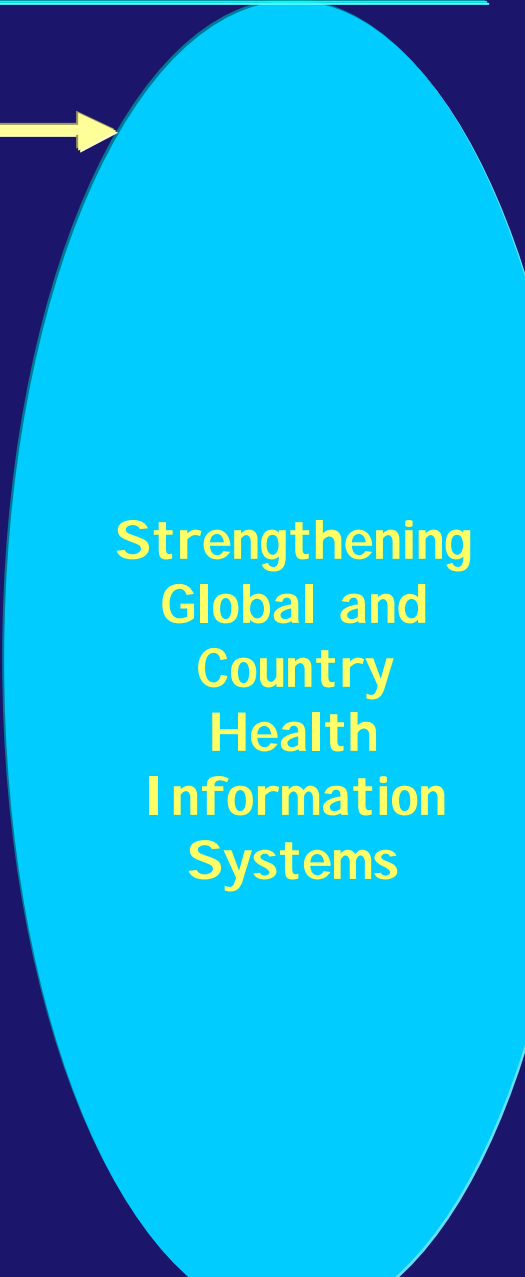
# Opportunities to address the barriers (1)

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Opportunities:  
International



- More initiatives and commitment to equity in health with specific **goals and targets**:
  - more resources for health information
  - requires better coordination between initiatives
- Increased emphasis on **standardization** of targets and tools to improve efficiency and **data quality**
- **Technological** improvements: biomarkers, information technology, GIS



Strengthening  
Global and  
Country  
Health  
Information  
Systems

## Opportunities to address the barriers (2)

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Opportunities:  
National



- Increased need and awareness to develop a **well-coordinated system**, guided by a national plan, coordinating mechanisms, technical capacity, data use strategy
- New stimulus to produce **quality timely information** for better health policy making, planning and evaluation (e.g. performance based disbursement)
- Rising need for **subnational** health information in the context of decentralization of public services

Strengthening  
Country and  
Global  
Health  
Information  
Systems



# Opportunity for Health Metrics Network: where focus

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**Strengthening  
of  
subnational HIS**

**Strengthening  
of  
Country HIS**

**Improve  
global  
information**

# Health Metrics Network: an international alliance in the making

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- **Overall goal: To improve availability and use of sound health information at local, national and global levels**
- **Required action to improve current situation:**
  - **advocacy for health information**
  - **resource mobilization and enhanced efficiency of investments HIS**
  - **normative work on indicators and tools**
  - **promote quality reporting by countries**
  - **capacity building for production and use**
  - **coordination and knowledge sharing**
  - **develop innovations in health measurement**
- **Potential alliance synergies: reduce costs, accelerate progress, improve effectiveness, share or reduce risks**

**Process of development  
of the Health Metrics Network:  
Progress**

# Health Metrics Network: the process of development

Interim Secretariat WHO

## Interim Steering Committee

Chaired by WHO and Gates Foundation  
About 30 members

→ Subcommittee on governance

→ Meeting 2 early January

## Task Force

Coordinators and secretaries of issues groups; Representatives of major investors, countries

→ Meeting 2 end Nov

→ Final synthesis paper

## Issues groups

Country H I S  
Information needs for HIV, TB, Malaria  
Equity  
Monitoring vital events  
Surveys  
Surveillance  
Modelling & estimates

→ Preparatory work Sep-Oct

→ Issues papers mid Nov

## Development structure

McKinsey consultants

→ Interviews stakeholders Sep-Oct

→ Proposal structure Nov

# Health Metrics Network: what structure will meet its goals?

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- Governance models
- Secretariat location and mandate
- Resource management
- Selected key factors affecting decisions on structure:
  - co-ownership by key players, especially main investors in data-information-knowledge production
  - effective mechanisms to hear voice of major clients, such as major investors in international health programmes and countries
  - efficiency of operations

# Health Metrics Network: some emerging ideas on the functions

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- **Coordination function:** advocacy, best practices, enhanced collaboration by investors, standardization tools and methods, setting standards for good practices, developing and promoting research agenda, facilitating global goals monitoring
- **Strengthening country HIS (reform):** situation and needs assessment, technical support system build-up or reform; resources for catalyzing change; regional involvement; prioritization of countries
- **Global initiatives:** investing in innovation, producing tools and methods, research agenda, pro-active info sharing, country assistance
  - District data initiative -- Evaluation of scale up -- Equity in health -- Health status measurement

Thank you