

MEASURE Evaluation/TZ



Strengthening M&E Systems and Evidence Base for Health and Social Service Programs

Background

MEASURE Evaluation's activities in Tanzania have evolved since commencement in 2008. While activities originally focused exclusively on strategic information and building the capacity of local partners in Tanzania to monitor and evaluate their HIV/AIDS programs and report back to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), MEASURE Evaluation's work in the country expanded to include support for strategic planning and development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for most-vulnerable children (MVC) programs with the Departments of Social Welfare (DSW) within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) in Mainland and the Ministry of Empowerment, Social Welfare, Youth, Women and Children (MESWYWC) in Zanzibar, data demand and information use (DDIU) trainings with regional and district/council health management teams (DHMTs/CHMTs) in Mainland as well as M&E capacity building for U.S. government-supported HIV prevention programs. MEASURE Evaluation has also provided specialized back-up support in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and research.

Building on successes and lessons learned from MEASURE Evaluation's technical assistance to Tanzania since 2008, USAID/Tanzania approved a new 5-year (2014-2019) project phase, known as MEASURE Evaluation Associate Award (MEASURE Evaluation/TZ).

MEASURE Evaluation/TZ Project Approach

MEASURE Evaluation/TZ's project approach rests on two complementary pillars: (1) an enhanced evidence base derived from evaluation, monitoring, and focused research; and (2) widespread use of this evidence for development of policies and guidelines; advocacy for community health and social service programs; and program planning, budgeting, and implementation. By enhancing the evidence base and facilitating the use of evidence, the project seeks to increase the availability and use of high quality data to inform community health and social service policy, planning and decision-making (figure 1).

The project has three core objectives, the first two of which are focused on improving the use of data for policy, advocacy and monitoring of health and social service programs and strengthening M&E systems at national level and sub-national level, while the third objective improves the evidence base through conducting research



Figure 1: Project approach.



This document has been supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of MEASURE Evaluation Tanzania associate award AID-621-LA-14-00001, which is implemented by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with Futures Group, ICF International, John Snow, Inc., Management Sciences for Health, and Tulane University. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.



and building research capacity. Capacity building, Gender Integration, Sustainability and Collaboration cut across all project areas (figure 1).

National level data use and M&E systems strengthening (Objective 1)

Main activities:

1. Strengthening and operationalizing the MVC M&E systems with the DSWs; and expansion of support to National AIDS Control Program (NACP), Mainland, and Zanzibar Integrated HIV/AIDS, TB and Leprosy Control Program (ZIHTLP), through M&E system assessment and strengthening activities.
2. Improving data use through building capacity of key national staff at MoHSW, MoH, MESWYWC, DSWs, NACP and ZIHTLP.
3. Ensuring data quality through working with DSWs, NACP and ZIHTLP to develop their supportive supervision capacity, processes, guidelines and costed implementation plans.

Sub-national level data use and M&E systems strengthening (Objective 2)

Main activities:

1. Strengthening M&E systems through support to the government's existing DHIS2 implementation plan and roll-out of the MVC M&E system.
2. Improving data use through DDIU capacity building for DHMTs/CHMTs and district social welfare officers.
3. Ensuring data quality through: a) undertaking data quality assessments (DQA) among select U.S. government-supported implementing partners; b) building local capacity to conduct DQA; and c) improving monitoring of

referrals between health and social services.

Improving the evidence base through research capacity enhancement (Objective 3)

Main activities:

1. Collaborating with local organizations to undertake two pre-planned studies focusing on impact of savings groups on the well-being of households with MVC and the status of home-based care (HBC) clients.
2. Supporting in-country institutions to develop tailored M&E curricular and conducting training.
3. Establishing a community of practice (CoP) to facilitate online communication and learning and dissemination of tools for research, teaching and practice of M&E.
4. Supporting targeted malaria M&E and research training.
5. Administering a small grants program to build capacity for secondary data analyses, research synthesis and/or small-scale primary data collection studies.

Geographic Areas of Focus

MEASURE Evaluation/TZ activities prioritize districts in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Njombe, Morogoro, Mwanza, and Zanzibar. Up to three additional regions may be selected in consultation with USAID/Tanzania. Additional work will be completed with national stakeholders, including MoHSW Mainland, MoH Zanzibar, DSWs in Mainland and Zanzibar, NACP, ZIHTLP, among others.

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