

MEASURE Evaluation Helps PEPFAR Deliver Results



Photo of mother and child in Malawi by Elizabeth T. Robinson

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PEPFAR 3.0 aims to deliver on the promise of an AIDS-free generation. It includes new initiatives like DREAMS and ACT, and new systems for collecting data like DATIM (Data for Accountability Transparency and Impact). DATIM strives to bring together a consistent set of data elements from MER, SIMS, and EA. The combination of DATIM, country-level routine health information systems, and other special studies can bring the best science to bear in designing COPs that align with the country epidemiological context and steer a path toward achieving the 90-90-90 targets.

Never before have missions been asked to synthesize, weigh, and consider so much data in the pursuit of cost-effective programming. This presents both an opportunity and a challenge. The MEASURE Evaluation project is one of USAID's means of helping missions to capitalize on opportunities and overcome challenges to deliver results for their partners and those they serve.

How MEASURE Evaluation can help

MEASURE Evaluation is USAID's flagship mechanism for strengthening health information systems in developing countries. As a Bureau-wide global health cooperative agreement, MEASURE Evaluation works with missions and their country partners to strengthen systems for collecting and using health information for HIV programming. MEASURE Evaluation can help plan and conduct special studies and evaluations that are in line with PEPFAR and USAID evaluation policies—evaluations that are rigorously designed and take into account the complexities and realities of real-world settings.

MEASURE Evaluation can also assist with the challenges and opportunities presented by new data streams and information systems such as DATIM. For example,



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MEASURE Evaluation can provide expertise in costing and can:

- Help with interpretation and supplementation of expenditure analysis data;
- Provide assistance in planning for the collection, use, and analysis of new MER elements, such as finer age and sex disaggregation; and
- Apply geospatial science expertise to help with the mapping and spatial analysis of SIMS data and the creation and enhanced use of master facility lists.

MEASURE Evaluation strives to accomplish these goals through collaboration and coordination, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. The project is successful when it demonstrates strengthened collection, analysis, and use of routine health data; when a country's capacity to manage health information systems, resources, and staff is improved; when M&E methods, tools, and approaches are improved and applied to address health information challenges and gaps; and when capacity for rigorous evaluations is increased.

Impact of Key Population Programs

MEASURE Evaluation has been working with the Government of Ghana, with the support of USAID, as it evaluates the performance and impact of the national HIV prevention program for FSW and MSM. We worked with the country's Technical Working Group for Key Populations to determine priority evaluation questions, map existing data sources, and make a plan for filling gaps in planned data collection. With the Ghana AIDS Commission, we successfully brought together implementing partners, donors, and other stakeholders to plan for ongoing evaluation. The results are informing the COP 2015 planning.

MEASURE Evaluation services

- Capacity building and organizational development to support partner government and local institutions to collect, analyze, and share data through national or district health information systems, government health information units, and survey/research/evaluation implementation

- Technical assistance to write and implement protocols to map and produce size estimates of key and priority populations
- Technical assistance to implement and make operational data systems (e.g., DATIM, SIMS) so that real-time data are used for decision making and program planning
- Capacity building for the collection, analysis, and use of HIV/AIDS data, including the implementation of surveys and monitoring systems, development of data standards, support for national health information system planning and development, and implementation of electronic medical records
- Evaluating effective strategies and identifying barriers and challenges to scaling up programs, strategic information, and health systems strengthening activities, and estimating costs to aid in investment decisions
- Improving orphan and vulnerable children programming by facilitating the collection and use of data to determine “what works” and to keep programming on track, ensuring positive impacts on children and families
- Development of methods to track mother-infant pairs to improve child survival

Improving Capacity to Manage HIS

In Swaziland, MEASURE Evaluation will support the Ministry of Health, USAID, and USAID implementing partners to strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of routine health information and improved country-level capacity to manage those systems, resources, and staff.

MEASURE Evaluation will work to build the leadership capacity of local partners; improve the health management information system, with emphasis on the client management information system to harmonize vertical systems; address data-informed decision making barriers; and increase the capacity of in-country partners to analyze, synthesize, and communicate data—particularly with maps.