

Strategies to Improve Data Quality in AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria



MEASURE Evaluation Fact sheet M&E Capabilities: Data Quality in AIDS, TB, and Malaria

At MEASURE Evaluation, we know that improved analysis and use of data leads to better health program decision making and, ultimately, improved health outcomes. This fact sheet introduces one of the innovative toolsets created for monitoring & evaluating public health interventions.

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To learn more about MEASURE Evaluation and our current activities, visit us on the Web at www.cpc.unc.edu/measure.



Overview: MEASURE Evaluation has collaborated on the development of a number of tools to improve data quality for monitoring and evaluation systems.

The goal of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems is to produce good quality data that are used to improve programs. Strengthened systems improve the quality of data produced – increase the confidence of programs in using information for decision making.

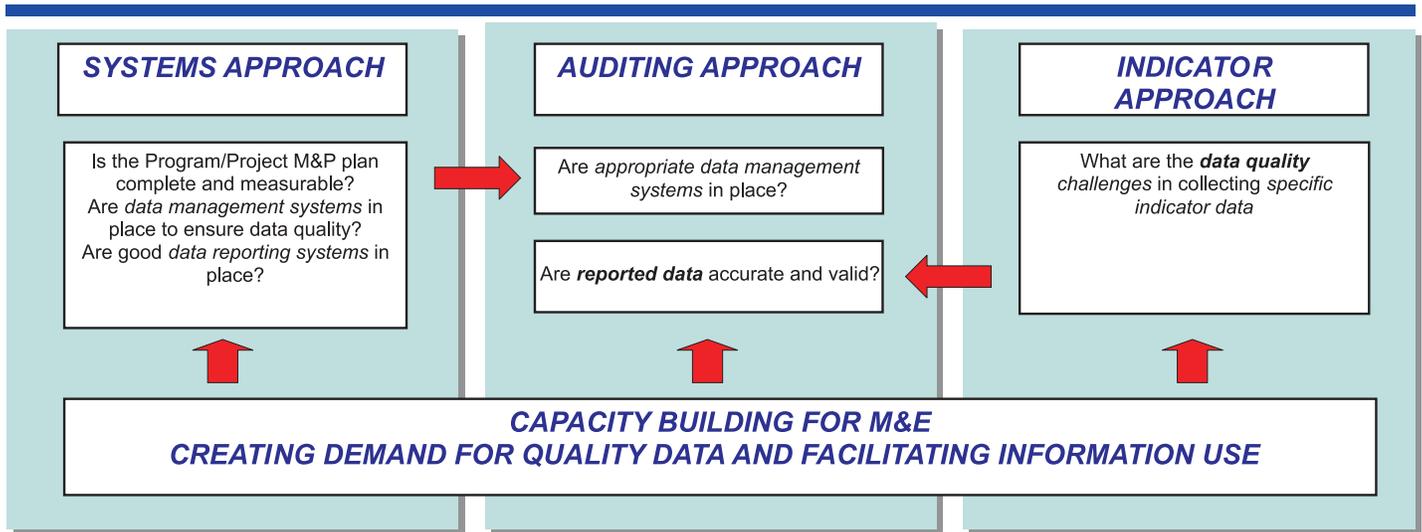
Many national programs and donor-funded projects are working towards achieving ambitious goals related to diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria, as well as other health issues. Measuring the success of these initiatives is predicated on strong M&E systems that produce quality data. Programs and projects need valid, reliable, and timely data reports that managers can use to direct available resources effectively and to evaluate progress toward established goals. Indeed, improving data quality is one of the guiding principles behind the “Third

One” – that promotes one country-level monitoring and evaluation system for HIV and AIDS programs.

Improving data quality requires attention to the systems that produce the data and dimensions of the indicators that may be subject to data quality challenges (such as double counting of individuals served and incorrectly counting those served directly and indirectly through program interventions). Furthermore, data quality audits can help periodically assess the accuracy, reliability, comprehensiveness, timeliness, and integrity of information reported through programs. The framework illustrated above provides a summary of these interrelated approaches.

Recent Experience: MEASURE Evaluation has worked with key international partners to develop a series of tools to diagnose M&E

Framework for Improving Data Quality



systems that relate to the collection, manipulation, and reporting of quality data to measure indicators, to audit the quality of data reported, and to address data quality issues related to indicators. In addition, MEASURE Evaluation has developed a tool to assess the organizational, behavioral, and technical challenges related to routine health information systems (RHIS) that produce data to measure indicators. These data quality and RHIS tools are listed below.

In Rwanda, the Program/Project M&E Systems Strengthening Self-Assessment Tool was initially pilot tested jointly by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The pilot test indicated that the tool is useful for assessing M&E related to HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria and also for national programs, as well as donor-funded projects that support national programs. Subsequently, the tool was pilot-tested in an additional eight countries — the final version of the tool reflects all of those experiences, in addition to the input of other partners that reviewed the tool for use in their programs (e.g., STOP TB, Roll Back Malaria, and the World Bank MAP).

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has mandated use of the Program/Project Systems Strengthening Self-Assessment Tool for use in its Round Six grant negotiations to assure focus and resources are accorded to M&E by grantees. Other partners, including PEPFAR, the Health Metrics Network, the World Bank, Stop TB, and Roll Back Malaria, have also endorsed the tool and its use in M&E systems strengthening. The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator has recommended use of the Quality Assurance Tool for Program Level Indicators in reporting by USG Strategic Information teams and prime partners.

Tools Available from MEASURE Evaluation:

Harmonized Framework for Data Quality

- Program/Project M&E Systems Strengthening Self-assessment Tool (HIV M&E Plan Checklist; Management Unit Capabilities Checklist; Data Reporting Systems by Program Area Checklist).
- Data Quality Audit (DQA) Tool (Protocol to assess the Strength of the Program/Project M&E System; 13 Trace and Verify Protocols, related to specific AIDS, TB, and Malaria indicators).
- Quality Assurance Tool for Program Level Indicators (currently PEPFAR-specific).

Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM)

- Four tools to improve the quality and use of routine health data (RHIS Performance Diagnostic Tool; RHIS Overview and Facility/Office Checklist; RHIS Management Assessment Tool; and Organization and Behavioral Questionnaire).

For more Information

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