

# MEASURE Evaluation's Capacity-Building Strategies



## MEASURE Evaluation Fact sheet M&E Capabilities: Capacity-Building Strategies

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.

MEASURE Evaluation is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Cooperative Agreement GPO-A-00-03-00003-00 and is implemented by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina in partnership with Constella Futures, John Snow, Inc., ORC Macro, and Tulane University.

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



**Overview:** MEASURE Evaluation works globally to strengthen the capacity of host-country partners to collect, analyze and use HIV/AIDS-related data in programs, policymaking, and service delivery.

The goal of our capacity-building work is to enable monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems to generate quality data, and then use these data to improve program planning and decision making, thus improving health systems and health status.

This capacity-building mandate is a key aspect of MEASURE Evaluation's HIV/AIDS work and includes two main components: strategic planning and technical assistance to strengthen the organizations and systems responsible for M&E, and short courses on M&E of HIV/AIDS topics, with related learning materials available for general use.

**Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance:** When work begins with an organization with which we expect a long-term partnership

or that has explicitly expressed the desire for capacity building, we offer a facilitated organizational strategic planning process as a way to assess and enhance the organization's M&E capacity or the capacity of the national/sub-national HIV/AIDS M&E system. This process brings stakeholders together to define performance objectives, identify capacity strengths and gaps and develop measurable action plans to address the prioritized gaps. We then provide focused technical assistance as needed and work with the partner to monitor progress. This assistance can include one-on-one or small group training; collaboration; mentoring; program planning; and providing equipment, supplies, materials, and other resources. In cases where capacity-building objectives are not explicitly stated in a work

plan, the above activities may be conducted more informally or in a limited way.

Another aspect of our organizational capacity building includes workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of participants to monitor and evaluate their own programs by using information to make more informed decisions. We also work to strengthen the capacity of our regional training partners to offer and conduct HIV/AIDS M&E short courses in a technically and financially sustainable way, as well as enhancing their ability to offer M&E technical assistance to others.

**Short Courses and Learning Materials:** Our courses include M&E of HIV/AIDS Programs and Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS). In an effort to enhance HIV/AIDS M&E knowledge and skills globally, MEASURE Evaluation is also committed to making quality training materials available at no cost to professionals around the world. In addition to their availability on CD-ROM and published materials, MEASURE Evaluation has launched a Web-based training resource site. Known as Monitoring and Evaluation Network of Training Online Resources (MENTOR), offerings include interactive Web courses and downloadable training materials (slides, speaker notes, and case studies, for example) used in the regional M&E HIV/AIDS and RHIS short courses, available at <https://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/training>.

**Recent Experience:** Examples of our recent capacity-building work include the following:

- A map of the specific capacity needs of the M&E units of national AIDS committees (NACs) has been created, diagramming the wide range of capacities needed for NAC M&E units to perform effectively.
- A process has been initiated with the HIV/AIDS Unit of the Jamaican Ministry of Health to develop a strategic plan for strengthening the capacity of the national HIV/AIDS M&E system.
- A series of capacity consultations has been held in the Latin America-Caribbean region, aimed at improving the use of HIV/AIDS-related data.
- A series of M&E capacity-building workshops has been

held in South Africa for PEPFAR implementing partners, in order to improve their programs, decision making, and accountability in key areas such as data use, data quality, and stakeholder engagement.

**Publications and Tools:** Among our key tools and interventions created to help improve performance on various aspects of HIV/AIDS M&E are:

- Building National HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity: A Practical Guide for Planning, Implementing, and Assessing Capacity Building of HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (developed in conjunction with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ORC Macro)
- Program or Project-related M&E System Self-assessment Tool (in conjunction with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; Health Metrics Network; World Bank; Roll Back Malaria; and Stop TB)
- Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM)
- Data Demand and Information Use (DDIU) Toolkit
- Training Partner CB Toolkit

To assist users in selecting the appropriate tools, a draft reference guide/matrix of these tools, interventions, and training resources is available.

## For more information

- Anne LaFond ([anne\\_lafond@jsi.com](mailto:anne_lafond@jsi.com))
- Nina Frankel ([nfrankel@unc.edu](mailto:nfrankel@unc.edu))

MEASURE Evaluation, Carolina Population Center  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
206 W. Franklin St., CB 8120  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

919-966-7482 <http://www.cpc.edu/measure/>