

# M&E of HIV prevention programs for most-at-risk populations



## MEASURE Evaluation Fact sheet Framework for M&E of HIV Prevention Programs for most-at-risk populations

At MEASURE Evaluation, we know that improved analysis and use of data lead 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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**Overview:** MEASURE Evaluation and its partners have developed a guide to monitoring and evaluating HIV prevention programs for most-at-risk populations in concentrated epidemic settings.

The guide, a result of collaboration with UNAIDS, UNICEF, CDC, WHO, USAID, FHI and others, was published in final form in April 2007. It will help countries increase the capacity to plan, implement and use the results of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities for HIV prevention programs addressing most-at-risk populations. Most-at-risk populations generally include female sex workers and their clients, men-who-have sex with men (including male sex workers), and injecting drug users.

While other M&E guidance documents for HIV programs exist, most have been developed with generalized epidemics in mind and with little focus on the unique needs of those settings where HIV is concentrated among high-risk popula-

tions. This is particularly true for guides addressing HIV prevention programs. And while methods and approaches have been developed and used for the monitoring and the evaluation of HIV prevention programs for most-at-risk populations, their role in a comprehensive framework has not been clearly articulated. This new guide incorporates these tested methods and approaches into a conceptual framework in order to provide a comprehensive overview of monitoring and evaluation in these populations.

**Intended Audience:** This document is intended to provide guidance to governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society in M&E of programs for most-at-risk populations. It is

designed primarily for program managers and others involved in planning and implementing M&E of programs and projects for most-at-risk populations at both national and sub-national levels. It may be particularly useful for PEPFAR strategic information officers who work with programs targeting most-at-risk populations.

**Content:** The guidance provides methods and tools that can be applied at the national, and perhaps more appropriately, at the sub-national level. Unlike interventions aimed at the general population, interventions for most-at-risk population are often implemented on a sub-national basis as most-at-risk populations are not uniformly spread across a country. Rather, they are often concentrated in large cities, border areas, and towns with large migrant or tourist populations. In addition, because interventions for most-at-risk populations are often planned and implemented at the local level, M&E efforts should also occur at the local as well as the national level.

The guide aims to provide an overview of monitoring and evaluation methods and approaches for most-at-risk populations and includes recommended key indicators and data collection methods. It also covers the use of strategic information for program planning, monitoring, and evaluation but does not provide specific programming guidance.

The nine chapters provide overviews on methods of size estimation, determinants research as part of program planning, process monitoring and evaluation, methods to track program uptake and coverage, outcome evaluation, monitoring outcome and impact indicators, and triangulation as method to assess collective effectiveness. Each chapter is organized around a series of questions to help orient the reader to the information needs that can be addressed by implementing the activity, the methods and approaches that can be used, specific challenges related to working with most-at-risk populations, and how the

information can be used for decision-making. The chapters also provide a list of resources where more technical detail on the methods can be found.

**Indicators:** Indicators for monitoring and evaluating HIV programs for most-at-risk populations that appear in the recently updated UNGASS reporting guidance for low and concentrated epidemics have been adopted in the guide. The indicators included in the guide are consistent with PEPFAR reporting guidance and the development of the guide helped inform PEPFAR guidance for concentrated epidemic settings.

**Recent Experience:** The proposed framework is being used as an M&E assessment and strategic planning tool in countries with concentrated epidemics and programs targeting most-at-risk populations. Experiences gained from four workshops where the framework is being applied will be used to further inform and develop approaches to capacity building in strategic planning around M&E of programs for most-at-risk populations.

**Publication and Tools:** A Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation HIV Prevention Programmes for Most-at-risk Populations, UNAIDS 2007.

### For more Information

■ Ruth Bessinger (ruth.bessinger@macrointernational.com)

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.unc.edu/measure/>