

Building a Neighbor's Capacity

MEASURE Evaluation provides technical leadership through collaboration at local, national, and global levels to advance the field of health monitoring and evaluation. We build the sustainable capacity of individuals and organizations to identify data needs, collect and analyze technically sound data, and use that data for health decision-making. This capacity building crosses borders. For example, MEASURE Evaluation specialists working in Mozambique were asked by the National AIDS Council in Zimbabwe to provide them and their partners with training in data quality assessment.

In September 2010, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria contracted John Snow, Inc., (JSI) to perform a data quality audit in Zimbabwe. One of the members of the audit team was Maria Joao Nazareth, the MEASURE Evaluation resident advisor in Mozambique; she disseminated the Routine Data Quality Assessment (RDQA) tool to NAC as an important tool to be applied during the routine monitoring process.

In January 2011, Isaac Taramusi of NAC wrote to MEASURE Evaluation, "We are grateful for the DQA tools you produced for ART, condom use, HIV T & C, and HIV & TB collaboration. We have adopted the tools and we are planning to pilot them this quarter. We have an established M&E department and we are running the national HIV & AIDS M&E system for the country; therefore we are asking for your technical assistance in order for us to make use of DQA tools."

Sergio Lins, MEASURE Evaluation's country focal person for Mozambique, and Maria Joao Nazareth saw this as an excellent opportunity to expand the use of the RDQA tool in Zimbabwe; so they proposed carrying out RDQA training activities to build the capacity of NAC and partners in using a common approach for assessing



and improving data quality. This proposal was very well received, and they travelled to Zimbabwe in April 2011 to run two workshops. The RDQA workshops took place in Harare on April 20–21 and April 26–27. The curricula addressed the following sessions on data quality:

- Data quality concepts
- RDQA tool methodology
- Sampling process
- The 3 models of RDQA tool (how to use the tool)
- RDQA tool (how to interpret the results)
- Data flow discussion
- Field visit (application exercise)
- Plenary to discuss field tool application

For every session, the facilitators promoted indoor and outdoor exercises and group discussions. It's very important to note that results related to the field exercise were not valid for decision making, just for learning process. At the end of the second workshop, the first and second groups were joined to present and discuss how the tool could be useful for enhancing the data quality on the M&E system as well as to share the experience in using the tool in the field.



MEASURE Evaluation is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under terms of Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement GHA-A-00-08-00003-00 and implemented by the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in partnership with Futures Group International, ICF Macro, John Snow, Inc., Management Sciences for Health and Tulane University. MEASURE Evaluation is the USAID Global Health Bureau's primary vehicle for supporting improvements in monitoring and evaluation in population, health and nutrition worldwide. The information provided in this fact sheet is not official U.S. government information and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. government. FS-11-44 (05/26/11).

A total of 56 participants, mostly M&E officers or database officers, attended the workshops. They came from NAC and various partners, including Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, John Snow, Inc., PSI, UNAIDS, UNDP, USAID, World Education, Inc., and Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Lins and Nazareth developed a short evaluation form for the workshop to solicit feedback from the participants regarding the usefulness of the methodology and workshop content presented. Participants were asked to rate 10 questions about the workshop on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Questions were:

1. Clarity of objectives.
2. Value of presentations in meeting participant's needs.
3. Timeliness of the information presented.
4. Clarity of the information presented.
5. Usefulness of handouts and CD.
6. Value of exercise sessions.
7. Active involvement of participants.

8. Participant's learning experience.
9. Knowledge of the facilitators.
10. Overall rating of the workshop.

Approximately 80% of the participants completed the evaluation. The mean overall rating of the workshops was 4.4. The clarity of objectives, the value of the presentations in meeting their needs and the knowledge of the facilitators had a mean score of 4.5, which was excellent. The lowest mean score was related to the timeliness of the information presented (4.2). The highest mean score was given for usefulness of the handouts and CD which included all data quality files and extra bibliography (4.8). At the end participants were extremely stimulated and thankful with the workshop.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sergio Lins at sergio_lins@jsi.com

Maria Joao Nazareth at mjnazareth@jsi.org.mz