

Program Implementation Brief: Jamaica

In 2010, the USAID Mission in Jamaica requested that MEASURE Evaluation provide technical assistance to the National HIV/STI Program (NHP) to support the goals of the National HIV M&E Plan (2007–2012). Specifically, MEASURE Evaluation was tasked with:

1. strengthening the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of most-at-risk populations (MARPs);
2. building the M&E capacity of program implementers to monitor the implementation of their activities; evaluate processes, outputs and outcomes; and use existing data for program decisions; and
3. strengthening the existing M&E systems, specifically the analysis of treatment data and facilitate the prioritization of research questions.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS

- The MARPs surveys (among sex workers [SW], men who have sex with men [MSM], and populations with high levels of concurrent sexual partnerships) repeated prior surveys conducted in Jamaica. These surveys, as outlined in the National M&E Plan (2007–2012), are scheduled to be conducted every two years. Features of the surveys include sample sizes large enough to capture behavior change; questions that assess exposure to HIV prevention programs and messages; questions to obtain data for use in estimation of size of most at risk populations; and questions compatible with national household surveys to allow comparison with general population surveys.

Started in September 2010, by December 2011 the survey targeting MSM had recruited and collected data and specimens from 451 men and the survey targeting SW and patrons of sites where people go to meet sex partners had recruited 1,100 men and women.

- In October 2010, 154 persons participated in M&E workshops for stakeholders that builds on previous efforts to institutionalize the operations of the M&E system to ensure high-quality data. These data are to be reported consistently to NHP in the Ministry of Health and the Environment (MOH) and are to be used to advance the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS.
- In April 2011, 61 stakeholders were trained in outcome and impact evaluation methodologies to increase the capacity of M&E supervisors to assess the data they collect

and plan for evaluation activities that will assist them in program decision making.

- In July 2011, 43 M&E stakeholders gathered to review the HIV M&E plan and develop the new M&E Plan (2012–2017). MEASURE Evaluation guided the workshop, using the 12 components organizing framework for a fully functioning M&E system. This consultation included feedback from stakeholders on achievements of the current HIV M&E plan and areas that need more focus. The draft of the HIV M&E plan was shared with stakeholders on August 29, 2011, at a meeting of the Jamaica Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG).
- Dr. Sharlene Jarrett, senior director for M&E for NHP, conducted a study visit to MEASURE Evaluation's U.S. office in Chapel Hill, NC, from October 31 to November 4, 2011. One of the key activities was to work with a MEASURE Evaluation biostatistician to conduct secondary analysis from three treatment sites in Jamaica. From this work, a protocol for analyzing data from the remaining sites was developed; implementation will begin in 2012.

NEXT STEPS

- **February 6–8, 2012:** Leadership and Data Use Workshop in Montego Bay. The purpose of this workshop is to build an understanding and appreciation of the need for M&E by the NHP's M&E Unit and MOH regional HIV program supervisors. This workshop will begin the process whereby M&E staff are able to lead M&E practices. Issues such as the value of the data they collect, aggregate, report and use; and leadership to provide direction for M&E efforts will be discussed.
- **March 2012:** The final revisions of the draft HIV M&E Plan (2012–2017) will be completed by March 2012. Revisions have been on-going since August 2010.
- **April 2012 (to be confirmed):** A meeting of the MARP Technical Working Group of the Jamaica MERG is planned for April 2012. This meeting will review the findings from the MARP studies, discuss the implications of the findings, review existing HIV prevention approaches and recommend improvements to current approaches and new approaches (if necessary) to working with the MARP population in Jamaica.



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