

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity of County Health Management Teams at the Sub-national Level



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BACKGROUND

In Kenya, the provision of primary health care is now the responsibility of county governments, following the new constitutional dispensation adopted in 2010. The County Health Management Team (CHMT) is tasked with the responsibility for planning, directing, and overseeing the agenda for health at the subnational level, including monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The CHMTs, however, lack the ability to identify and respond to M&E information needs due to weak organizational capacity and poor data use practices.

The MEASURE Evaluation PIMA project is working with targeted counties to address these challenges with a focus on key three areas:

1. Developing and strengthening organizational capacity
2. Promoting data demand and use practices
3. Developing M&E capacity at the organizational and individual level

KEY ACTIVITIES

Priority activities for the strengthening of M&E capacity at the county level are fourfold:

Mapping the needs of county health departments: We work closely with the CHMTs in target counties to identify priorities and solutions through a participatory baseline assessment. The assessments further help us to establish baseline values for purposes of project monitoring.

Promoting collaboration and partnership: Our package of support involves promoting collaborative partnerships to leverage resources for M&E in the county and support establishment of stakeholder forums to drive the M&E agenda in the county. In addition we help the CHMTs to develop necessary policies, strategies, and plans to support M&E functions for a better health system.



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Using data for decision making: We work closely with the target CHMTs to develop and promote data use practices in key M&E functions, including planning, data quality practices, and information sharing.

Integrating leadership skills: We focus on M&E capacity development by supporting the CHMT leadership to develop competencies for leading M&E functions at the county level.

MEASURE Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA) works closely with implementing partners in target counties to create synergies and leverage resources to achieve planned targets. The work at the sub-national level is spearheaded by our regional M&E associates (RMEAs), which are co-located with the department of health in target counties in order to improve presence and deliver technical assistance to the CHMT on a continual basis.

Besides strengthening the M&E capacity of the CHMTs, MEval-PIMA works with target counties to strengthen three priority programs:

- Referral Systems Strengthening (RSS)
- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (CRVSS)
- Community Health Information System (CHIS)

Together, support to the CHMTs and these systems is aimed at strengthening the capacity of health workers at the sub-national level to collect and use data related to the promotion of primary health care.

KEY PARTNERS

Through our capacity building activities, we work with a number of stakeholders:

At the county level, we work with the **Community Health Management Team**, which is a smaller unit that now has the duties of various departments of the Ministry of Health. This team is critical for the practice of M&E and for working together on planned interventions. We also work with the County Executive Committees and the County Assembly members, which represent the political wing of the county's administration structure.

MEASURE Evaluation PIMA also works with other **local and international partners** to implement projects at the community level. MEval-PIMA is a program mandated to provide technical assistance— not service delivery—so we work with various partners in counties. We also assist by providing the software that makes their work on the ground easier.

For more information, see:

www.measureevaluation.org or

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/countries/kenya>

