

Track Category: Operational and Implementation Research, D11 - Methods to improve strategic information and data collection to monitor and evaluate prevention, care and treatment programmes

Title: Improving HIV/AIDS program performance through systematic and routine data analysis in the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) - supported Tanzania Program

Authors: Ivan Teri, Doris Lutkam, Mary Morris, Marta Moroni and Jeroen Van't Pad Bosch

Country: Tanzania

Background: Since 2004, EGPAF's Tanzania program has supported the Ministry of Health in 1,062 facilities, testing and counseling 1.37 million women, and providing HIV care and treatment (C&T) to 138,534 and 68,996 patients, respectively. As HIV/AIDS service coverage is quickly rising, assessing quality of care is crucial, hence the program introduced a novel data analysis week (DAW) in March 2010 - a dedicated systematic quality assessment of routinely collected data.

Method: Following quarterly donor reporting, data is analyzed by technical staff in all offices. The data review integrates all service areas of PMTCT, Early Infant Diagnosis, and C&T. Levels of analysis include facility, district, regional and national trends in performance over time. Quarterly data analysis reports are prepared by the Strategic Information Team. Staff collectively identify strengths and gaps, provide feedback to service providers and stakeholders, collaboratively develop and initiate improvement plans and activities. Progress is continuously documented and reviewed.

Results: Six months following the introduction of DAW (from March to September 2010), improvements in service delivery were observed. The percentage of partners tested increased (12% to 26%), infants enrolled onto care increased (59% to 75%), and infants initiating ART increased (38% to 72%). The DAW increased staff data use, identification of gaps, and prioritization of interventions, providing a platform for evidence-based decision-making.

Conclusion: Systematic data analysis enhances the ability and efficiency of program staff and service providers to align their performance to achieve national targets and improve service provision.

Figure 1: Progress on HIV/AIDS care service delivery indicators.

