

Title: Beyond Donor Reporting: The Global AIDS System for Evaluation and Reporting (GLASER)

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Issues: Implementing organizations supported through The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) report data on core indicators to both donors and ministries of health (MOHs). The collection, storage and reporting of data can be difficult, resulting in challenges with data timeliness and accuracy. Moreover, the extensive time spent collecting and reporting data often leaves less available time for facility staff to use data for program improvement. Therefore, database applications that identify data quality issues and generate dynamic reports that enable data use are necessary.

Description: In 2007, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) developed the Global AIDS System for Evaluation and Reporting (GLASER), a web-based application, which stores data from over 5,500 sites in the 16 countries where EGPAF supports PMTCT and HIV care and treatment programs. The development of GLASER was initially driven by the need to centrally store and report data on core indicators that were already being collected through national reporting systems. Taking into account conditions such as unstable electricity and poor internet connection, GLASER allows users to enter data into offline Excel forms that can be uploaded into the system when internet becomes available. The data entry process is accompanied by GLASER's automated data quality checks to ensure accuracy and consistency of data. The data is stored in a Microsoft SQL Server database, allowing for easy generation of multi-purpose reports.

Lessons Learned: While the initial development of GLASER served the purpose of reporting routinely collected monitoring data to donors and MOHs, EGPAF has found that GLASER's flexible infrastructure has enabled country programs to improve data quality and generate reports with more useful data. For example, by allowing countries to add or modify indicators inputted into GLASER, country programs are now able to store indicators that are most relevant to the needs of MOH and local partners. Reports in GLASER can also be tailored to allow for country-specific calculations and can be used to flag sites for quality improvement interventions by filtering sites that fail to meet thresholds for select metrics, ultimately improving national programs. Furthermore, GLASER's compatibility with generic reporting tools allows for the generation of reports containing any combination of charts, maps, and graphs which can be delivered to health facilities for identification of program best practices and challenges.

Next steps: Moving forward, GLASER will be enhanced to allow country programs to collect, store, and report a wider range of data, to include information that will allow EGPAF to gauge project performance against targets and store data on other program areas related to HIV (e.g.,

nutrition, TB/HIV, etc.). GLASER will also incorporate country-specific data quality checks, enabling staff to target sections of the data entry process that are particularly prone to error and improve the quality of the data reported to MOH and donors. In addition, GLASER will be enhanced to generate quarterly site-level reports, including charts marking trends in key indicators over time that can be shared with facility-level staff each quarter, enabling service providers to better utilize their monitoring data.