



Strengthening M&E Systems of the National AIDS Programs



M&E Training in Kyrgyzstan (Photo: CAPACITY/KG Office)

A Functional Monitoring and Evaluation System is key for effective implementation of for the National AIDS Program

As there are numerous national and international stakeholders working in HIV/AIDS in the Central Asian countries it is essential that each country follows the Three Ones Principles approved internationally in 2004. The Central Asian countries established National AIDS Coordinating Committees (NACC), which coordinate the National programs and have adopted single National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plans. At the same time the efforts at building a single monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems were lagging behind.

- Although each country had developed an initial list of national indicators, they did not have a national M&E plan outlining mechanisms of data collection, entry, analysis and dissemination.
- The newly developed National Strategic Plans required updates to the existing indicators.
- Countries continued to submit all their national reports to UNGASS in hard form (on paper) in spite of the UNAIDS CRIS systems were installed and several staff were trained in most of the countries.
- The majority of data for reporting on national indicators were collected through the sentinel surveillance and were not compared to the program monitoring data.
- NACCs have limited or no staff responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the National AIDS programs.

An integral part of the CAPACITY Project is to provide technical assistance to establishing and strengthening a single national M&E system integrated into the national AIDS framework. The CAPACITY activities in this area include strengthening the capacity of the NACC through training, creation of technical guidelines and secondment of M&E specialists to the NACCs. As a result of this support, a comprehensive M&E system with guidelines for national indicators and a data flow mechanism have been developed. CAPACITY also supported the development and strengthening of the National Technical M&E Working Groups introduction of the Unified Identifier Code (UIC) to be used by the HIV-prevention projects targeting vulnerable populations. The use of the UIC will enable programs and countries to better evaluate their coverage results and will facilitate effective management of resources. CAPACITY is working with UNAIDS, CDC, and the World Bank/DFID-funded CAAP Project) to improve the quality of appropriate data received from sentinel surveillance for the national M&E system. CAPACITY is also cooperating with the DFID-funded CARHAP Project, the Global Fund, UNDP, and CAAP Project in trainings of national Teams on M&E.

CAPACITY is cooperating with other stakeholders to gain their agreement on improvement of accountability and transparency by using standardized data collection protocols and improving dissemination of data and information.

