

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SUCCESS STORY: UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (UYDEL)

A lot of Improvement has been realized in the UYDEL Monitoring & Evaluation system with the support of CSF/MEA. Before the implementation of the HIV prevention, care and support Project for CSWs and street and slum young people in Kampala and Mukono Monitoring and Evaluation was not a component that was taken seriously by UYDEL. We had a rough idea of what Monitoring and Evaluation was but this was mainly part of the responsibilities of the Project Coordinators who were in charge of also handling the technical issues of programming in the organization and this was quite overwhelming for them. With the guidance of CSF/MEA, UYDEL has been able to set up and build the capacity of the UYDEL Monitoring and Evaluation Department.

We have been able to capture more relevant and accurate data, in regard to the services offered to a particular beneficiary, the actual parish and Sub County of residence of the beneficiary, the first day of contact and each client is given a specific unique ID number per quarter thus reducing incidences of double counting because every client is registered once and the various services he or she benefits from are just ticked and explained in the technical part of the reports.

We have also been able to use the analyzed data to make meaningful evidence-based recommendations to the project staff, beneficiaries, communities, management and other stakeholders in regard to the program design and implementation. We have been able to identify and incorporate key action points into the project design and implementation. For example, we are able to use the data collected to analyze gender related issues that have helped improve the project design and implementation. From the data collected at the UYDEL drop-in centre in Mukono, it was noted that the boys were not coming to access services or participate in the centre activities. When the 2 boys at the centre were asked why the others were not coming for services at the centre, they informed the staff that, most of the boys want to acquire skills in motor bike mechanics and electronics and yet the centre only offers tailoring and hairdressing skills which are viewed by most of the boys as feminine skills. Therefore, with this information, UYDEL plans to set up electronics and the motorbike classes, and foot ball sessions with HIV prevention messages and themes for debate at the UYDEL drop-in centre in Mukono. And it is hoped that this will lead to an increase in the number of boys participating in the Programme at the UYDEL drop-in centre in Mukono. The data collected has also been used to inform UYDEL intervention for young people on issues concerning gender based sexual violence, and child labor and exploitation.

UYDEL has also been able to use the data generated by the project to get more information and a clear understanding on;

- The categories and characteristics of the project beneficiaries (High risk groups) - it has been noted from the project data that, most of the direct project beneficiaries are: early school drop outs with limited survival skills; some are teenage mothers; majority use drugs and alcohol; some are commercial sex workers; and others have been trafficked from other areas to towns

for employment and instead end up in commercial sex and exploitative labor, all of which expose them to HIV infection.

- The geographical location, characteristics and family setting, communities and environments where the young people stay. Information from the home visits done shows that many of the young people stay in slum areas with poor housing and sleeping conditions for example in one family visited, 20 people were living in a two roomed house in Bwaise and this is further aggravated with poor drainage systems.

All the above, have helped UYDEL design and redirect interventions focused on the issues within the communities and around the young people that make them engage in risky activities and behaviors like commercial sex work and exploitative labor that make them vulnerable and in turn expose them to HIV infections. The Street Smart Behavioral Change module together with the vocational skills training intervention has enabled UYDEL equip the street and slum young people with livelihood and life skills to enable them cope with situations and attain the required skills and competences to enable them survive positively in today's competitive market without engaging in risky behaviors and activities that expose them to HIV infection.

UYDEL has also been able to use this data to inform its advocacy strategies on; Alcohol, drug and substance abuse prevention, Child Trafficking, Child sacrifice and Adolescent Reproductive Health, which are some of the risk factors and medium through which young people living in the streets and slum areas can get infected with HIV

The data captured has also enabled the organization's Project Coordinators and other stake holders with whom we share the data to identify more area that need intervention other than HIV prevention like Alcohol, drug and substance abuse prevention among the young people which may contribute to their vulnerability.

With the guidance of the Monitoring and Evaluation Agency, UYDEL developed a Data flow chart, which enabled us to clearly indicate the flow of data among the stake holders, identify the key stakeholders in the project design, implementation and monitoring, and thus helping to improve on the accessibility to data since it clearly stipulates who gives what kind information to who. We have also been able to capture and write good success stories with the success story guidelines that were provided to UYDEL by the CSF/MEA.

However, despite the above success, the UYDEL Monitoring and Evaluation still needs a lot of technical support and guidance especially in regard to building capacity of UYDEL staff in terms of knowledge and skills since it is still in its infancy stages of development.

UYDEL attributes all the successes attained in this department to CSF/MEA and we are grateful for the continuous and unconditional support they have provided.