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Calendar:

"HIV Estimates and Projections" Regional Training Workshops:

- 18–20 March: Johannesburg South Africa (Region: East & Central Africa)
- 23–25 March: Johannesburg, South Africa (Region: Southern Africa)
- 22–24 April: Bangkok, Thailand (Region: East Asia and Pacific, WPRO)
- 27–29 April: Bangkok, Thailand (Region: South-East Asia, SEARO)

Other upcoming events:

- 2–5 March: New Strategies in HIV Surveillance in Resource-Constrained Settings II (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 30 March–3 April: Perspectives on Impact Evaluation: Approaches to Assessing Development Effectiveness (Cairo, Egypt)
- 31 March: Release of the UNGASS Reporting Guidelines for 2010 (worldwide)
- 31 March–4 April: 4th Southern Africa AIDS Conference: Scaling Up For Success (Durban, South Africa)

Foreword by Paul de Lay

UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, a.i.



and evaluation—a tribute to all of you.

The newly appointed UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibé, has decided to make universal access the corporate priority for UNAIDS—inspiring and driving joint action and standing by those in need of HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support. Putting science and data to work and assisting countries to translate strategic data into evidence-informed policies and action plays a key role in making universal access a reality. We need to concentrate our energies where progress is lagging and to address financial social, political, legal and structural barriers that now limit the effectiveness of the response.

This first issue of the UNAIDS M&E Digest represents just how far we have come in the world of monitoring

This requires harmonized monitoring and evaluation approaches to generate reliable and timely information on the epidemic and the response. Our focus has to be on driving evidence-informed action towards results and accountability for results across partners and stakeholders at all levels. And monitoring and evaluation is of crucial importance to support countries in their move towards universal access. The era of performance-based management and increasing accountability continues to evolve, and the critical need for believable, timely and useful data will only grow.

I look forward to future issues and hope that this newsletter can serve as a “reader-friendly” forum for updates, discussions, debates and just general information about the whereabouts and accomplishments of friends and colleagues.

Editorial

Welcome to this inaugural issue of the M&E Digest!



networks around the world in the past few years. UNAIDS is keen to help play its role in facilitating positive communication and knowledge sharing among UNAIDS professionals and our partners at global, regional, and local levels.

There has been an explosion in the amount of M&E activities, products, demands, and

With our new Executive Director, Michel Sidibé, focusing UNAIDS' efforts on universal access—getting prevention, treatment and care to all in need—and holding us all accountable, M&E activities are playing a critical role in this global mission.

With “our eyes focused clearly on the ball” that is helping countries reach universal access by 2010 and the MDG by 2015, we are sharing the information, tools and news that we feel will help us all achieve our collective goal.

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Editorial *Continued from page 1*

We view this communication challenge as a two-way street and will be increasingly relying on our colleagues in the field to share information and progress towards this goal.

2008 was an incredible year for progress in the field of M&E. In this issue you will find articles on major projects that came to fruition, including the Bangkok M&E Advisers Global

Retreat and Training event, the launch of CRIS 3, the M&E web portal and new MERG products, as well as articles on exciting work, such as in Mozambique, Zambia and in the Caribbean. It also features updates from partners and from the cosponsors on their activities.

I hope that you find this issue both informative and inspiring. I invite you

to share your experience and stories with us for inclusion in upcoming issues and look forward to hearing from you on how the M&E Digest can best serve your needs.

Deborah Rugg
Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation
Division (UNAIDS)

Feature story

Reflections from Bangkok

Amid protests, changing UN security phases and travel authorization delays, more than 150 participants arrived in Bangkok, Thailand for the UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Advisers Global Retreat and Training event, held from 5-17 October. For the first time in the history of M&E training activities, more than 70 national M&E officers participated in a global training event, where they had the opportunity to interact with other national counterparts from around the world.

Since the launch of the UNAIDS M&E Adviser Programme in 2004, M&E advisers and focal points have been placed in more than 60 countries and regional offices to provide ongoing support to build national M&E capacity. UNAIDS advisers work with national counterparts in AIDS programmes to develop and maintain comprehensive national HIV M&E systems and to

facilitate the improved coordination of all stake-holders in support of the “Three Ones” principles.

The intensive two-week event focused on developing key M&E technical skills, as well as basic managerial skills and competencies to improve job performance. The training included presentations on the status of global, regional and country-level M&E work, and training sessions in the form of plenary presentations followed by small group work (by region) with specific learning objectives. Each country team was involved in action planning, which drew on lessons learned from the training sessions and focused on follow-up steps at the country level.

Key messages from the Bangkok training event:

- There is a need to catalyse national evaluation and research agendas.
- Only evaluation studies will provide

the necessary information to get us effectively on the path to meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

- We must strategize on how to better support evaluation and research, while continuing to strengthen data quality in country monitoring and reporting systems.
- We must shift the mindset to programme improvement, in addition to accountability.
- But... UNGASS and The Global Fund are still the best catalysts we have ever had for advancing and maintaining M&E momentum at the country level. We must keep this going and shift seamlessly from reporting on UNGASS and universal access to reporting on the Millennium Development Goals.

For additional information contact: guwanij@unaids.org.

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UNGASS reporting: monitoring progress towards universal access

A lot of progress to report: UNGASS 2008

Every two years, in compliance with the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, countries report to UNAIDS on the progress they have made in the response to the epidemic.

In 2008, countries and individuals showed extraordinary commitment to the reporting process. Government officials and civil society representatives sometimes braved difficult circumstances, such as post-election rioting in Kenya and temperatures of -40 degrees Celsius in unheated government offices in Tajikistan, in order to meet the 31 January reporting deadline. As of 7 March 2008, 147 out of 192 countries had submitted their reports—a large increase from the 115 countries (out of a 189) in 2006.

Reports were submitted for 100% of the Caribbean, 95% of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 95% of Latin America and 94% of sub-Saharan Africa. However, by the same date only 50% of North America, 53% of Western and Central Europe, and 50% of North Africa and the Middle East had submitted their reports. East Asia reporting stood at 60% and Oceania at 57%.

The 2008 UNGASS reporting process showed many improvements in terms of the quality of data, civil society

participation, the number of reports, and data analysis capacities. A range of measures took place to achieve this. Joint UN teams worked closely together to resolve discrepancies in data, and UNAIDS engaged a consortium of civil society organizations to support the civil society contribution to national reporting. The UNAIDS Secretariat also organized regional workshops for government M&E officers and provided 25 expert consultants to travel to countries to assist them in their reporting process.

“The approach to the 2008 reporting process was unprecedented in terms of its coordination and participation and the results speak for themselves,” said UNAIDS Chief of Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Dr Deborah Rugg. “Governments, civil society, UNAIDS cosponsors and the Secretariat all pulled together in a concerted way to ensure that the country reports were more comprehensive than ever. It is a credit to the commitment of all involved and an expression of the exceptional response that is required by this epidemic.” More than 700 civil society organizations participated in the 2008 reporting round.

The UNGASS indicators will be used to monitor progress towards achieving universal access and meeting the Millennium Development Goal of

arresting and halting the spread of HIV by 2015. The data also formed the basis of the UN Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly in June 2008, as well as the 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic.

Click to read the [2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic](#) (also available in French, Spanish, and Russian). Printed copies can be ordered by contacting: distribution@unaids.org.

2009 key dates for the 2010 reporting:

- **31 March 2009:** Universal Access in the Health Sector progress reports due; UNGASS Guidelines for 2010 reporting released
 - **April and June 2009:** National technical working group consultations on preparing for UNGASS reporting: roles, responsibilities, indicators to be reported and potential data sources
 - **July to October 2009:** Training on UNGASS reporting during regional M and E meetings
 - **August 2009:** UNGASS reporting website launched
 - **September to December 2009:** National survey data collation and report drafting
- More information on the 2010 round of UNGASS reporting will be shared in subsequent issues of the Digest.

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Global news

Incorporating operational research into Global Fund grant proposals

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a financial instrument that has a mandate to raise and disburse substantial new funds in order to achieve sustained impact on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. It has become the main source of funding to fight the three diseases, with approved funding to date of US\$ 11.4 billion for 550 programmes in 136 countries.

The Global Fund recognizes the need to foster links between science, policy and implementation, so that research becomes an integral part of all programmes. In its past seven funding rounds, The Global Fund has funded operational research within the grants it

supports. Operational research encompasses any research that produces practical knowledge (evidence, findings, information) that can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to improve the quality and performance of their programmes. Countries receiving Global Fund grants are encouraged to spend 5%-10% of their grant budget on monitoring and evaluation, which could include operational research. The percentage of grants approved with an operational research component increased from 19% during funding rounds 1-5, to 58% in round 7. On average, approximately US\$ 400 000 was requested for operational research per proposal, accounting for 3%-4% of

the total requested budget. There are two ways to request specific operations research funding for grants:

1. Develop and submit an operational research proposal within a new Global Fund grant application. A voluntary checklist is available to assist applicants.
2. Collaborate with the respective CCMs and country Fund Portfolio Managers and redirect funds to operational research within an existing grant, if the need for operational research arises midway through a grant cycle.

For additional further information contact: OR@theglobalfund.org.

Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG)

MERG reviews progress, prepares for 2009—has most productive year yet

The UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) was established in 1998 to advise UNAIDS on M&E. MERG brings together the UNAIDS Secretariat, cosponsors, donors, NGOs and technical experts in the field of M&E.

The 12th Annual MERG Meeting was held in Lugano, Switzerland, from 17-20 November 2008. The four-day MERG session was attended by 48 MERG members and invited experts from 25 other organizations.

The meeting focused on technical discussions of the products of the four Technical Working Groups (TWGs), new work to be conducted in 2009 and updates on key M&E guidance/tools and initiatives. The agenda also included a review of normative guidance for the development of indicators in priority areas, upcoming revisions to the Demographic and Health Survey questionnaire, and M&E priorities for The Global Fund and PEPFAR II.

Participants noted that significant successes had been achieved in the development of quality MERG products, wider support for operations research and evaluation, and in monitoring the quality of services, interlinked patient monitoring and the strengthening of M&E systems.

The MERG Executive Council meeting took place immediately after the MERG meeting. Its main purpose was to agree on mechanisms for the finalization, dissemination and implementation of MERG products.

MERG recommendations for 2009:

- The Indicator Development and Revision TWG and the M&E Capacity-building TWG are to revise all products by the end of February 2009, based on MERG comments.
- Essential revisions should be made to the Indicator Registry so that it can be launched to the general public in the first quarter of 2009.
- There was agreement that UNGASS indicators will remain basically the same for 2009 reporting in March 2010. After the 2010 report all UNGASS indicators

will be up for review by the MERG at its annual meeting in November 2010.

- The M&E Capacity-building TWG and the Prevention Evaluation TWG completed work in 2008 and will therefore be dissolved.
- There was overall agreement to continue the Indicator Development and Revision TWG and the M&E of Prevention Programmes for Most-at-risk Populations TWG. The TWGs are to develop a 2009 workplan by the end of January 2009.
- There was overall agreement on the need for a “think tank” on evaluation methods and designs for HIV prevention interventions.

For additional information contact:

kiwangoe@unaids.org.

**New for 2009: 15 products produced by the MERG Technical Working Groups**

Every year, the UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) appoints ad hoc Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to address specific M&E issues that require global solutions. The working groups, which are made up of recognized technical experts, are led by a chair nominated from MERG. At the 12th Annual MERG Meeting held in November, the 2008 working groups presented 15 products developed in the following four areas:

Indicator development and revision:

Indicator standards: Operational guidelines • An updated version of the Online Registry of AIDS Indicators.

M&E capacity building: 12 Components M&E system strengthening tool • Guidelines for the 12 components M&E system strengthening Tool • Guidance on HIV monitoring and evaluation capacity building • Planning tool for developing an M&E-related digital library • Inventory of electronic HIV and M&E resources • Terms of reference for an Electronic M&E Resource User Support Officer • Proposed text for Wikipedia entries • Documentation criteria for HIV M&E resources.

M&E of HIV prevention programmes for most-at-risk populations: Terms of reference for the provision of a technical assistance pilot • Strategic planning for

monitoring and evaluation of HIV prevention programmes targeting most-at-risk populations (final report of country workshops) • Report of existing materials relating to M&E operational guidelines for activities among most-at-risk populations (outline of operational guidelines) • Issue paper on definitions for most-at-risk populations.

Prevention evaluation: Standards for developing terms of reference - the evaluation framework.

The new products will be made available on the MERG website in March 2009. For additional information contact: kiwangoe@unaids.org

CRIS 3

UNAIDS introduces new generation of County Response Information System

At the UNAIDS M&E Advisers Global Retreat and Training in Bangkok in October 2008, the M&E professionals were given the opportunity to preview the third generation of the Country Response Information System (CRIS3). The final product and technical assistance will be made available to countries during the first quarter of 2009. CRIS3 is a sophisticated and modifiable tool that can accommodate different needs to monitor responses to HIV. In line with the “Three Ones” principles, specifically “one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system”, CRIS3 has the functionality to house national data on the HIV response.

Key functionalities of CRIS3:

- Contains UNGASS data from earlier reporting years
- “Monitoring plan” concept:
 - Allows the setting up of national M&E reporting
 - Enhanced programme monitoring and linking indicators with projects

- National and sub-national monitoring plans
- Roll-up of financial and indicator data
- Stand-alone or web-based solution
- Indicator database can be used with the Indicator Registry
- Data exchange with other system tools, such as the Indicator Registry and Global Response Database

How countries use CRIS3 determines the type and extent of technical assistance and set-up support required (see table below).

Technical assistance will be provided for the roll-out of CRIS3 in 2009, as follows:

- **January-December:** Online learning tools, CRIS3 web installations and user support
- **March-May:** Regional training session for consultants and first phase countries
- **March-December:** Technical assistance through UNAIDS/CMS and regional consultants

For additional information contact erkkolat@unaids.org or cookem@unaids.org.

Use	Assistance required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNGASS data management and analysis (basic use) ▪ National M&E reporting (universal access and national indicators) ▪ National M&E reporting and programmatic data management (projects and/or indicators) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None; basic user training on CRIS3 is enough (online option) ▪ Limited; requires configuration of CRIS3 to meet M&E reporting needs (consultancy) ▪ Advanced TA; requires assessment of national M&E structure and how reporting lines are set up

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Regional M&E news corner

Multi-agency regional meetings return in 2009

Following the 2008 MERG Annual Meeting’s unanimous call to revitalize multi-agency regional meetings, two multi-agency regional meetings are now in the works for 2009.

Multi-agency regional meetings bring together bilateral and multilateral M&E advisers (country-based), national M&E counterparts, regional advisers and other experts.

The main goals of the meetings are to promote coherence at the regional and country levels, share experiences and strengthen networks, provide feedback to headquarters and review work related to M&E systems. The meetings also work to resolve any problems or bottlenecks encountered at the country and regional levels. While details of the events have yet to be finalized, it is anticipated that the meetings will be

held in the Caribbean and Asia Pacific regions between September and November 2009. Information will be posted on the events calendar of the [Global HIV M&E Information portal](#).

For additional information contact: guwanij@unaids.org.

New M&E network formed in the Caribbean

One of the major outcomes of the M&E Advisers Global Retreat and Training event held in October was an agreement to establish a Caribbean M&E Officer Network. As there is a clear need for an M&E network to further develop capacity at the national level, this initiative is an important effort to support and strengthen partnerships for effective M&E systems in the region.

The network will start with 16 countries and will likely increase its numbers as it develops.

The Caribbean team, which consisted of M&E professionals from 12 countries and the Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC), also contributed to the training workshop through a presentation by Dr. Ansari Ameen (CHRC M&E Specialist) and the facilitation of a brainstorming

session by Ms. Elizabeth Lloyd (CHRC Senior M&E Officer).

Other members of the Caribbean team focused on specialized sessions aimed at further developing their M&E skills, as well as action planning and hands-on training sessions on the CRIS software.

For additional information contact: chrceu@trinidad.net.

Update from the Eastern and Southern Africa region

The region has experienced something of a movement in the area of monitoring and evaluation in the past three years, which has resulted in a number of positive spin-offs in overall programming at the country level. The region now boasts a total of 14 country-based UNAIDS M&E advisers, who are supporting national AIDS authorities to design and implement national M&E systems.

The regional support team has regularly conducted assessments to gauge country-level progress regarding the 12 components of national HIV M&E

systems and has responded to requests to support studies in other countries. So far, six countries have conducted “know your epidemic assessments” to ascertain the main sources of HIV infections and a further six countries have conducted national AIDS spending assessments (NASA). A few countries (6 of 20) have established an evaluation and research agenda to ascertain the adequacy of their programmes’ scale and determine whether interventions are making a difference.

Countries have used the findings of the “know your epidemic studies” to

inform reviews of their national strategic frameworks, the allocation of resources and decisions to conduct in-depth analysis of potential drivers. While the NASA showed that a few countries are currently spending substantial amounts on prevention, from the regional support team’s perspective there is a need for countries to make major shifts in their budget allocations and expenditures towards this area.

For additional information contact: nzimam@unaid.org.

Stories from the field

Catalysing a national evaluation agenda in Mozambique

The scientific community in Mozambique, led by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National AIDS Council and members of the Technical Research and Evaluation Working Group, organized a national HIV evaluation and research workshop from 10-11 April 2008. Its purpose was to harmonize efforts to develop a national HIV evaluation and research agenda. The workshop was supported by UNAIDS, Danida and Irish Aid. The national workshop convened 136 stakeholders to discuss gaps in HIV knowledge and to establish

evaluation priorities for 2008 and 2009.

Participants identified several evaluation and research needs for the five priority areas outlined in the national strategic AIDS plan: prevention, advocacy, stigma and discrimination, treatment and care, and mitigation. It was noted that some areas, particularly discrimination and stigma, have almost no ongoing evaluation and research activities.



For additional information contact: kiwangoe@unaid.org.

Strengthening the role of civil society in M&E: A look at Zambia’s MESSY group

Civil society organizations and cooperating partners have been a leading force in the response to HIV in Zambia. As pioneers in providing long-term care and support, they have initiated numerous services and programmes with little or no government support. The Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Support System (MESSY) is a civil society M&E Technical Working Group established to support and strengthen civil society’s contribution to the national multi-sectoral AIDS response. MESSY’s members come from more than 30 civil society and cooperating partner organizations. The group has

met monthly over the last four years and has strong working relations with the National M&E Technical Working group.

One of MESSY’s important accomplishments has been the efforts made by civil society organizations and cooperating partners to harmonize and align their M&E systems and processes with Zambia’s National HIV M&E Plan. MESSY has also strongly supported the decentralization of M&E capacity at the provincial and district levels.

The success of MESSY has been instrumental in increasing M&E commitment and leadership among civil

society at all levels to ensure inclusive, multi-sectoral and sustainable AIDS responses. Through its work, MESSY has also strengthened the M&E capacity of civil society and community-based organizations to meaningfully engage in AIDS responses. In civil society and other non-state partners this has included enhanced M&E human resources and systems capacities, which have allowed them to better monitor and evaluate comprehensive AIDS responses.

For additional information contact: pchitengi@nacsec.org.zm

Cosponsors' corner

2009 joint global reporting on the health sector response to HIV

Each year WHO and UNICEF collect health service statistics related to the HIV response. To minimize reporting burden and reduce data discrepancies, these processes have now been integrated into a single Joint Reporting Tool on the Health Sector Response to HIV.

The data collected will be used for a report on progress in scaling up the

health sector response towards universal access, including HIV services for women and children.

Regional offices will be relied on to coordinate data collection and validation, in collaboration with national counterparts and partner agencies. It is recommended that data be cross validated by governments and partners by 31 March and submitted by 1 April.

Regional offices should transmit the final reporting forms to headquarters by 15 April. The report will be shared with regional offices for feedback before publication.

For additional information on the data collection and reporting process contact:
WHO: hivstrategicinfo@who.int
UNICEF: mjashi@unicef.org
UNAIDS: warnersmithm@unaids.org

'Twelve components going intersectoral'

Although the organising framework for HIV M&E systems - the 12 components - was developed and endorsed with HIV M&E systems in mind, the same organising framework can, and has been, used by the World Bank/GAMET team in assessing and strengthening the M&E systems of other sectors, such as health and agriculture. GAMET has also

developed a series of self-study learning materials around the 12 components that is not specific to HIV alone. The materials are intended to help governments align the different sectoral M&E systems that all contribute to measuring the results of the country's national development and poverty reduction agenda. By making the 12

components accessible to other sectors in government, we move one step closer to seamless inter-sectoral collaboration, harmonisation and alignment of M&E systems.

For additional information contact Jody Zall Kusek: jkusek@worldbank.org.

Syntheses on regional epidemics to be completed

In partnership with UNAIDS and WHO, the World Bank's Global HIV/AIDS Programme (GHAP) is completing several major syntheses on regional epidemics, response and policy. These studies build upon the recently completed South Asia synthesis, which provides an analytic foundation for the World Bank's lending and policy work in this region. A synthesis of the entire Caribbean region will soon be completed, while the first major epidemic synthesis for the Middle East region is in draft form. The completed West Africa synthesis is already available through the [UNAIDS website](http://www.unaids.org).

Studies in four countries in East and Southern Africa

In partnership with UNAIDS, GAMET has supported four countries in East and Southern Africa to undertake studies to better understand their country's HIV epidemic, HIV prevention response and funding allocations. This has led countries to identify how to improve their HIV prevention responses and yielded other tangible results, such as an increasing emphasis on older couples in many prevention policies. Future research around multiple and (sometimes) concurrent partnerships will also flow from this work. For more information contact Marelize Gorgens: mgorgens@worldbank.org.

Measuring the impact of PMTCT programmes

Experts gathered at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, USA) on 12-13 February to discuss ways to address the urgent need to systematically estimate the impact of different programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). The meeting gathered comprehensive information on past and present research, and discussed the most effective ways to develop and design an approach that can be implemented widely in resource-limited countries. More details will be shared in the next M&E Digest. For more information contact Priscilla Akwara: pakwara@unicef.org.

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M&E electronic resources

An overview of country fact sheets

Country fact sheets, available on the UNAIDS website, contain the data available for the 2003, 2005 and 2007 UNGASS reporting rounds. All UN Member States have a dedicated country fact sheet, which gives an overall picture of the country's response to the HIV

epidemic. The fact sheets cover a wide range of topics, including prevention, treatment, testing, impact, knowledge and behaviour. The data shown in the country fact sheets are extracted in real time from the Global Response Database managed by UNAIDS. Data are presented in the

form of charts that group comparable indicators in a time-series format and allow for comparison over a period of years.

Country Fact Sheets
<http://cfs.unaids.org>

New global portal provides “one-stop” access to M&E resources

The new Global HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Information portal is now up and running. The portal aims to be the definitive online gateway to HIV M&E resources and houses best practices, toolkits, a calendar of conferences and training opportunities, and a compendium of HIV M&E resources in a digital library. The portal allows users to:

- search for M&E information on the basis of their preferences and filter information by agency, topic, guidelines only and other options;
- read M&E-specific news from sources throughout the world (including newsletters, automatic

alerts and social bookmarking features) and receive information and updates on events through RSS feeds;

- search a range of sites for M&E-specific content, including the digital library and M&E-related sites on the Internet;
- collaborate online with other M&E professionals through discussion boards and the portal’s team sites, where groups working in a particular area can share information.

The portal is a medium for M&E professionals to not only gain exposure

to new M&E information, but to also market their work to the larger M&E community. New and updated content will be regularly posted to the site, and many international agencies are coordinating their activities to ensure that the latest resources are available through the portal.

To request additional information or to submit a question or comment, please e-mail: admin@globalhivmeinfo.org.

Global HIV M&E Information portal
www.globalhivmeinfo.org

Other news

New Staff

Alex Rusita to Barbados



Alex Rusita from Uganda has joined UNAIDS as the M&E Advisor for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. He has a BSc in Applied Chemistry and an MBA.

Alex comes to UNAIDS from UNDP Somalia, where he was the M&E Adviser. He has also served in different capacities related to development in a number of other countries, including South Africa, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. In his spare time Alex enjoys music from all over the world and playing tennis.

Otilia St. Charles to Guyana



Otilia St. Charles is originally from Somerville, Massachusetts in the United States. She is a doctoral candidate at Boston University's School of Public

Health and has worked in domestic and international public health and development for over 13 years. Most recently, she served as the M&E Officer for the United States Government (CDC and USAID) for PEPFAR in Haiti. She is currently working in Georgetown, Guyana as the UNAIDS M&E Adviser.

Tell us your story

Have an experience to share? The M&E Digest wants to hear your story. In every issue we will profile a personal experience related to M&E in the field.

Articles should be a maximum of 250 words and describe an experience that others can learn from. If you would like to submit a picture to accompany your story, please send it in the highest resolution available.

For more information or to submit a personal story contact James Guwani: guwanij@unids.org.

About this newsletter

The M&E Digest is the quarterly newsletter of the UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Division. It is disseminated as a pdf-file by email and in a limited number of hardcopies.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for upcoming issues, please send an email to digest@unids.org.

Suggestions and Feedback

The M&E Digest wants to hear from you! Please send any enquiries and feedback to James Guwani: guwanij@unids.org.

Luisa Frescura to HQ



Luisa Frescura is originally from Toronto, Canada, and joined UNAIDS EVA Division in December 2008 as a data coordinator / analyst.

Luisa was involved in the management and analysis of UNGASS data for the 2008 Global Report and will continue in this role for the next round of reporting. Luisa holds an MSc in Demography and Health and has previously worked in the field of HIV research in her home country, with a focus on inequalities in access to care and treatment.

Lucy Braun to HQ



Lucy Braun joined the UNAIDS EVA Division in Geneva as the new Global Report Coordinator on 15 December. She will be coordinating a number of publications,

including the yearly Secretary-General’s Report and the biannual Global Report. Prior to joining UNAIDS, Lucy worked as a Knowledge Acquisition Specialist at the Children and AIDS Section at UNICEF in New York since 2004. She also gained substantive private sector experience in public relations and marketing prior to starting in the UN system.