

Meeting Summary for Strategic Review Meeting

December 14, 2023

Present were:

Online:

Mr. Joan Tallada
Ms. Nasola Thompson
Ms. Oneisha Pinock
Mrs. Kandasi Walton- Levermore
Ms. Gloria Meredith
Dr. Alisha Robb-Allen

In person

Mr. Ivan Cruickshank
Ms. Yolanda Paul
Dr. Nicola Skyers
Mr. Gregory Thomas
Ms. Serene Joseph
Mr. Richard Amenyah
Ms. Rushell Bryce
Mrs. Amoy Douse-Mullings
Ms. Sannia Laing
Dr. Sharlene Jarrett
Mr. Charlton McFarlane
Mr. Yohann White
Ms. Althea Spence
Mr. Jumoke Patrick
Ms. Jade Williams
Ms. Nickiesha Barnes
Ms. Renee Johnson
Mr. Yohance Rodriquez
Mrs. Claudette-Pios
Ms. Audrey Brown
Mr. Haneef Wilson
Ms. Tiffany Butterfield
Mr. Jevon Hamilton
Mrs. Rahanah Khan-Francis

Summary

Data Representation and Collection Concerns

During the meeting, concerns were raised about the representation of specific risk groups in the data and the data collection process. Mr. Tallada acknowledged the importance of delving deeper into these issues but expressed uncertainty about the adequacy of the current data tools to provide the necessary information. Mr. White emphasized the need for improved reporting from both the private and public sectors. Additionally, he suggested exploring collaboration with larger associations, such as the Medical Association of Jamaica, for enhanced participation and insights.

Global Fund Essential Data Table

Mrs. Khan-Francis led a discussion on the validation process of data received from Global Fund for years 1-3. She emphasized the identification of gaps and the subsequent adjustments made during the validation. The team also addressed challenges related to obtaining macroeconomic and health systems data for specific indicators, stressing the significance of comprehending and effectively managing reported data.

Mrs. Khan-Francis delved into the discussion of surveillance and testing, particularly within health clinics, emphasizing the requirement for clear language and precise data interpretation. The team highlighted the significance of utilizing data from STI clinics nationwide to aptly represent the epidemic's behavior.

A focus was placed on the escalating trend of newly diagnosed cases among young people, with the consultant emphasizing the necessity of investigating and responding to such trends and having the data to corroborate these claims.

Targets and Progress in Healthcare Programs

Mrs. Khan-Francis provided insights into the country's 90-90-90 strategy aligned with the National Strategic Plan (NSP) to achieve these goals by 2025. The underlying assumptions include a projected decline in new HIV infections from 1500 in 2020 to 400 in 2030, a reduction in deaths from 800 in 2021 to 100 in 2030, and an average annual migration rate of 5% for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) from Jamaica.

Key points covered:

1. **Global Target Plan and Domestic Resources:**
 - Discussion on the global target plan to be covered by domestic resources.
 - Joan emphasized the need to set realistic targets and verify achievable program outcomes.
2. **Program Reach Targets:**
 - Review of the program's reach targets for the past two years.
 - Discussion on the estimated global target plan to be covered by domestic resources over the next three years.

3. **Study Progress and Targets:**

- Mrs. Khan-Francis detailed the progress and targets of an ongoing study.
- Adjustment of local targets based on migration rates and the establishment of a 35% PrEP coverage target by 2027.

4. **Emphasis on Sustainability and Country Ownership:**

- The team underscored the importance of sustainability and country ownership in all programmatic endeavors.

The comprehensive discussion highlighted the strategic alignment with national and global targets, emphasizing the need for realistic goal-setting and sustainability measures.

Domestic Perspective on Funding Landscape Development

The team engaged in a comprehensive discussion of the next section of a presentation from a domestic perspective, specifically targeting the resolution of gaps identified in prior discussions. Mr. McFarlane led the presentation on the development of the funding landscape for 2025-2027, shedding light on financing gaps and specifying the required support.

Key points included:

1. **Funding Landscape Development:**

- Identification of a funding gap ranging from 45 to 60% of the required amount.
- Emphasis on the necessity for historical data from 2019 onwards for reliable projections.

2. **Budget Credibility and Expenditure Feedback:**

- Questioning the credibility of a specific budget figure.
- Soliciting feedback on the issue of expenditure.

3. **Treatment, Care, and Support Budget:**

- Discussion of the budget for treatment, care, and support.
- Expressing concern about the disparity in projected costs between 2025 and 2024.
- Urging the team to review the data.

4. **Alignment of Costs and NASA Tool Usage:**

- Discussion on aligning costs across various applications.
- Utilization of the NASA tool for cost estimation.

The team clarified that the figures presented encompassed both recurrence and capital budget figures, utilizing the average yearly exchange rate for the US conversion. Further collaboration and review were encouraged to ensure accuracy and alignment.

Global Fund Priority Areas Identification

The Prevention Committee discussed the identification of priority areas for the Global Fund. Various data sources were utilized, including epidemiological data and research materials, to determine these priority areas. The committee representatives also highlighted the common drivers for the epidemic, the specific challenges faced by different populations, and the emerging issues due to COVID-19.

Strategic Approach to Infection Prevention

They emphasized the need for a strategic approach to address hotspots and a clear connection between the source of infection and the prevention strategy. They also stressed the importance of data-driven decision making, validating data to justify an adoption program, and considering different perspectives. The team discussed the potential of involving universities in their initiative and the necessity of a robust monitoring and evaluation strategy. The conversation concluded with the need for a national focus on prevention strategies and the importance of clear communication about their strategy.

Next steps

- Investigate the source of the mother-to-child transmission rate discrepancy and update the data accordingly.
- Revise the global target plan to be covered by domestic resources, external partner support, and the gap that the Global Fund is projected to cover.
- Revise the funding landscape table with updated exchange rates and government revenues data.
- Gather information on UN partner funding from 2019 onwards to project more accurately.
- Seek guidance on the credibility of the ROP budget figures.
- Use the apportionment based on the last completed NASA tool to estimate the total cost for governance. Also, look at the new NASA when it becomes available for a more up-to-date figure.
- Review and improve the monitoring and evaluation strategy to ensure adequate data collection and evidence support for recommendations and requests.
- Consider targeted interventions in areas with concentrated epidemics based on existing data.
- Closely examine the elements of the program stage and their specific interventions.