Situation room approach to strengthen data-driven decision making to accelerate HIV epidemic control in Nigeria

Evans Onudara, Nelson Ngusha, Otse Ogorrari, Dauda Sulaiman Dauda, Jenny Mwanza, Jenifer Chapman, Pascal Mwele

Data for Implementation (Data.FI), Nigeria, Palladium

**Activity IMPACT, CONTINUED**

- **Evidence**: Through the situation room approach, the Akwa Ibom State SMOH and other stakeholders have been able to monitor the increase in the number of patients receiving ART services, with 41,367 clients on ART by June 2020 and 89,421 in March 2021.

- **Challenges**: We faced a number of challenges during implementation:
  - Early in the implementation of the situation room methodology, Data.FI noted that the SMOH did not yet have the requisite skills to implement a robust situation room methodology. To address this, Data.FI supported the development of an integrated approach to managing the emergency operations centers in Nigeria, which involved the SMOH and other stakeholders to create a situation room methodology that included the steps, terms of reference, legal framework, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, and advocacy and financial frameworks.
  - Data.FI supported the development of a situation room approach to improve the quality and reliability of data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach included the use of automated data collection tools and the implementation of root-cause analysis and accountability tracking tools.

- **Lessons Learned**: Incorporating a participatory situation room approach for stakeholder engagement has yielded a number of lessons learned:
  - Anticipated outcomes and risks are revisited and reviewed, and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and input on the situation room methodology.
  - Participation in regular situation room meetings helps to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the latest developments and can provide input on policy and program decisions.
  - Regular feedback and evaluation of the situation room meetings help to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the methodology is being used effectively.

**Facilitators**

- The SMOH has created a dedicated team to coordinate and implement the situation room methodology.
- Data.FI has provided technical assistance and guidance to help the SMOH develop the situation room methodology.
- Other key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, have provided support and guidance to help the SMOH implement the situation room methodology.

- **Activity IMPACT**: The success of the situation room approach in Akwa Ibom State has led to the expansion of the situation room methodology to other states in Nigeria, with the aim of improving data quality and reliability in the HIV program.

- **Activity IMPACT**: The situation room approach has enabled the SMOH to better monitor and manage the HIV epidemic in Nigeria, leading to an increase in the number of patients receiving ART services. Between June 2020 and March 2021, the number of patients on ART increased from 41,367 to 89,421.

- **Activity IMPACT**: The situation room approach has also improved data quality and reliability. The use of automated data collection tools and root-cause analysis and accountability tracking tools have led to a reduction in data errors and an increase in data accuracy.

- **Evidence**: Through the situation room approach, the Akwa Ibom State SMOH and other stakeholders have been able to monitor the increase in the number of patients receiving ART services, with 41,367 clients on ART by June 2020 and 89,421 in March 2021.

- **Challenges**: We faced a number of challenges during implementation:
  - Early in the implementation of the situation room methodology, Data.FI noted that the SMOH did not yet have the requisite skills to implement a robust situation room methodology. To address this, Data.FI supported the development of an integrated approach to managing the emergency operations centers in Nigeria, which involved the SMOH and other stakeholders to create a situation room methodology that included the steps, terms of reference, legal framework, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, and advocacy and financial frameworks.
  - Data.FI supported the development of a situation room approach to improve the quality and reliability of data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach included the use of automated data collection tools and the implementation of root-cause analysis and accountability tracking tools.

- **Lessons Learned**: Incorporating a participatory situation room approach for stakeholder engagement has yielded a number of lessons learned:
  - Anticipated outcomes and risks are revisited and reviewed, and stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide feedback and input on the situation room methodology.
  - Participation in regular situation room meetings helps to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the latest developments and can provide input on policy and program decisions.
  - Regular feedback and evaluation of the situation room meetings help to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the methodology is being used effectively.