



MEASURE Evaluation is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Carolina Population Center at University of North Carolina in partnership with Futures Group, John Snow Inc., Macro International Inc., Management Sciences for Health and Tulane University

October 21, 2011

Dear Colleague:

USAID's MEASURE Evaluation Project is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the Virtual Leadership Development Program (VLDP) for data producers and data users in health teams that desire to strengthen their use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) information to improve HIV/AIDS, FP/RH, and infectious disease programs in Anglophone countries. Funded by USAID, the main goal of the VLDP for teams meeting this description is to empower those involved in the collection, analysis, and use of health data, at all levels of an organization, to successfully address data use challenges that are identified by the teams themselves at the beginning of the program.

The VLDP is for teams composed of both data producers and data users in both public and private sector organizations. The goal of the program is to strengthen individual and team leadership and management practices with a focus on the use of data to improve data-informed decision-making and ultimately health outcomes. Experience delivering the VLDP in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia has shown that participation in this leadership program strengthens individual leadership skills, improves team integration and performance, and improves team work climate as well as the achievement of results.

The VLDP is a thirteen-week Internet-based leadership development program hosted on the VLDP website of the MEASURE Evaluation project's partner Management Sciences for Health (MSH). A highly interactive learning program, the VLDP consists of seven learning modules, a supplementary participant workbook, and expert virtual facilitation from experienced leadership, data use and organizational development specialists. In order to have an opportunity to practice the leadership and management principles and tools offered in the program, participating teams will identify key challenges to increasing the demand for and use of data and begin to address these challenges with the continual support, feedback, and guidance of the facilitators and M&E experts. **This VLDP M&E will launch on January 30 and conclude on May 4, 2012. The deadline for applications is December 2, 2011.**

The VLDP requires participating teams to:

- Complete the Data Use for Program Managers: An eLearning Course before the launch of the program
- Work together as a team throughout the duration of the VLDP.
- Conduct **face-to-face** team meetings at least once every module (2-3 hours for each meeting).
- Produce demonstrable organizational or program results as an outcome of their participation in this VLDP.
- Document increases in demand for and/or use of data within their organization.
- Work on improving leadership skills, individually and as a team.
- Invest an average of **4 to 6 hours per week per individual** participant to complete individual and team assignments.
- Submit all program assignments in a timely manner, including the team action plan.



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- Participate actively in all aspects of the VLDP (individual work, team meetings, and in the virtual conversations with the other participating teams).
- Participate using the website.

In return, participating teams will benefit in the following ways:

- Learn insights, models, and practical tools and techniques for teams and participants to meet and overcome challenges in order to achieve results. These tools can also be shared with others in the organization and become a standard for leadership learning.
- Apply tools and approaches to strengthening demand for and use of data, and institutionalize the use of these tools within their teams and organizations.
- Receive facilitator support in the development of a team action plan that addresses a real challenge to using data.
- Learn and complete a process to apply when addressing future challenges.

The VLDP enrolls teams, not individuals. Team size may vary between 4 and 10 people, all of whom should be **located in the same place, preferably in the same building.** Teams should be able to meet face-to-face for several hours at least once during each of the seven modules. **The program is designed for teams that consistently work together on a routine basis on a common objective or goal and that can strictly commit to the program requirements listed in the attached application.**

This VLDP is being offered free of charge to qualified teams. All qualified applications will be considered, with applications from public sector health agencies and local NGOs especially encouraged.

The cost of this program is being supported by USAID.

In order to enroll, please e-mail or fax the completed application to Management Sciences for Health (MSH) at VLDPMandE8@msh.org or fax number +1.617.250.9090 on or before December 2, 2011. We cannot guarantee acceptance in the program after this date. Applications will be reviewed and selected participants notified in late December 2011.

This announcement is not only intended to inform you of the program, but also to ask for referrals of candidates. There may be promising teams working in M&E in these health programs that would be able to increase their contribution to this field in your country by enhancing their leadership and data use skills through this program. We would appreciate it if you would forward this application to potential applicants.



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For more information, please contact the VLDP M&E team at VLDPMandE8@msh.org. Additionally, you can contact Scott McKeown (+1.919.949.3379) or Nicole Justice (+1.919.240.7647).

We hope to have a team from your organization participating!

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason B. Smith".

Jason B. Smith
Deputy Director CB/DDU/KM
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Team Name:

Member	Surname	First name	E-mail address	Position	Sex (M/F)	Cell phone #
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

Does your team meet the following team requirements? (Please check all applicable items):

- Able to identify a "real life" data use challenge which strengthened leadership and management skills could help to successfully address
- Involved in the collection, analysis, and use of health data for HIV/AIDS, FP/RH or Infectious Disease programs
- Housed in the same location and works together on a regular and on-going basis
- Able to physically meet every other week over 13 weeks
- Able to individually dedicate 4 to 6 hours of time to the program per week over 13 weeks
- Participants can read and write English
- Participants can commit to active participation in all aspects of the program as well as completion of assignments, including the initiation of team action plan implementation

Does your team meet the following technical requirements? (Please check all applicable items):

- Reliable access to a computer and the internet
- Minimum 56.6Kb/s modem connection speed
- Internet Explorer 5.1 or higher



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Please complete and return this application to VLDPME8@msh.org by December 2, 2011. You will receive a written confirmation once your application is received and teams will be notified of acceptance into the program by late December 2011.