

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON PRIMARY PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MONITORING AND EVALUATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

GOOD PRACTICE STATEMENTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA



**World Health
Organisation**

**Mental Health And Substance Dependence
Noncommunicable Diseases And Mental Health
Geneva**



**UNITED NATIONS
*Office on Drugs and Crime***

**Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation Unit
Division For Operations And Analysis
Vienna**

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Introduction

The representatives of the local partners of the UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse working in the South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia met to share their experiences on monitoring and evaluating substance abuse prevention in Bagamoyo, Tanzania from 10 to 12 November 2003. The statements contained in this document were identified by the participants as best describing their own experience in different aspects of monitoring and evaluating substance abuse prevention. The following participated.

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Monitoring

Organizations will be more effective in monitoring substance abuse prevention activities if they:

1. Use the free time of the target group (e.g. during holidays or weekends for pupils), by keeping track of the school calendar/ timetable and by involving the intended target group members in the planning of the monitoring.
2. Keep time effectively (e.g. starting and finishing on time) by encouraging the target group to be on time through meetings and discussions and respecting time themselves.
3. Give regular feedback to relevant stakeholders (e.g. to the principal facilitators and participants) as this sustains relationships with them. This could be done through meetings, focus groups discussions and reports.
4. Create and/or maintain relationships/ partnerships with communities. For example, it becomes easy to recruit volunteers from the community if you have a relationship with them. This could be done by involving them in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project and by emphasizing the purpose and scope of the project.
5. Stick to the budgeted activities as doing activities outside of the budget would derail your plans.

Indicators

In assessing whether we had achieved the following objectives, we found the following indicators useful because they are easily measurable or observable.

To provide shelter, education, vocational skills, job opportunities

- No. of young people trained, tested, employed

To provide opportunities to spend free time in a fun, constructive and challenging way

- No. of sports clubs
- No. of young people attending games
- No. of sporting activities organized

- No. of volunteers involved in the organization of activities

To raise awareness on the problem of substance abuse in the community

- No. of young people asking for counseling services
- No. of referrals made

To provide information

- No. of printed materials distributed
- No. of young people reached
- Knowledge levels
- No of programs aired/ shown

To strengthen personal and social skills

- Assertiveness
- Self confidence
- Participation
- Self esteem
- Improved school performance

Evaluation

Organizations will be more effective in evaluating the impact of substance abuse prevention activities if they:

1. Understand the community profile (culture, attitudes, practices, local politics, and economic status) through community foray and participant observation.
2. Involve a variety of stakeholders from existing structures (e.g. youth groups) through institutional visits.
3. Develop and maintain a mutual and consistent relationship among partners through continuous feedback, experience sharing, adherence to planned activities, and, continuous interaction.
4. Ensure that evaluation instruments are user friendly (e.g. user friendly questionnaires, focus group discussions, use of appropriate language) through collective planning.
5. Involve the community in the evaluation process (e.g. with regard to the evaluation schedule) through planning meeting.

Using the results of monitoring and evaluation

Organizations will be more effective in using the results of the monitoring and evaluation of their substance abuse prevention activities if they:

1. Seek to improve quality of life and integrate with other programs.
2. Make projects credible to stakeholders by publishing results.
3. Share results to influence policy makers, donors & community resources.
4. Give relevant feedback (i.e. not necessarily all of the information to everyone) to community and other stakeholders for accountability, ownership and mobilizing.
5. Present results in a way that can motivate project staff, i.e. emphasizing the positive results.
6. Analyze the results of monitoring to improve program implementation
7. Make the motivation of project staff an integral aim of all stages of project.
8. Look at results as a projection to future development.