

Data Use and Management: Using Evidence to Improve Programs, Dates: 5-8 September 2011

Venue: BRTI Seminar Room, 4th Floor NICOZ Diamond Building, S. Machel/Park St., Harare

The Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) in collaboration with Collaborating Centre for Operational Research and Evaluation (CCORE) are pleased to announce the *"Data Use and Management: Using Evidence to Improve Programs" Training Course*.

Course Aim

The *"Data Use and Management: Using Evidence to Improve Programs"* Training course is designed to offer a hands-on training for professionals, specifically **Health Information Officers and/or Data Managers** in the health and social sectors to build their skills in data management and use in an operational research context, with the goal of using data as evidence from which to improve programming. The fundamental aim of this training course is to build capacity for quality operational research in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa.

Course Objectives

- Develop increased understanding of the value and uses of data and operational research.
- Improve ability to synthesize existing information and develop targeted study questions.
- Build data analysis and management skills to enhance the use of data in an everyday setting towards program improvement.

Course Outline

Section	Objectives	Topics Covered
Pre-Module Introduction	• Introduce the purpose of the training module and explain the logistics of the course.	• Course logistics • Course design/module sections • Course objectives
Introduction	• Understand the value of data collection and analysis in an operational research context.	• Introduction to Operational Research (OR) • Explore using data to improve programs • Discuss previous experiences with data use.
Data Types and Sources	• Identify different types of data, and how this data can potentially be acquired.	• Discuss different types of data and what kinds of questions they can be used to answer. • Explore from where data can be acquired.
Learning from Existing Data	• Gain awareness of existing data sources, and how to access them. • Discern when using existing data is sufficient, and when collecting new data is necessitated.	• Discuss already available data sources. • Case Study 1: Learning from Existing Data (Zimbabwe 2009 Measles Outbreak) • Explore the pros and cons of using existing data versus collecting new data.
Problem Identification and Definition	• Develop methodology for appropriately identifying the problem and deriving a research question to target investigation of the problem.	• Explore the problem-solving process and the steps in identifying the issue at hand. • Case Study 2: Problem Identification and Definition • Review the aspects of developing strong study aims and objectives.
Data Management and Analysis	• Explore options for managing data to ensure efficient use and upkeep.	• Survey options for surveying and managing data. • Discuss quality management of collected data, including identification of challenges in the data

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	- Develop skills required for basic data analyses using Excel. - Develop skills required for basic analysis of qualitative data	including identification of challenges in the data management process.
Communicating Findings	Identify appropriate approaches for communicating findings to stakeholders.	- Discuss the differing reporting needs of different stakeholders. - Activity: Targeting your Audience - Explore the wide range of options in data visualization, including use of charts, maps, and other graphics.
Wrap-Up	Review lessons covered in the module	

COURSE FEES: Participants will not be expected to pay any course fees. Fifteen (15) fellowships are available to the selected participants and these will cover their registration **fees, course fees, course materials, tea and lunch for the 4 days**. For out of Harare Participants- accommodation with partial board will be provided at a local hotel and a small allowance to cover incidentals. *Due to the limited budget, participants are responsible for their own transport costs to and from the course venue.*

ELIGIBILITY & TEACHING METHODOLOGY: The training course is planned for 15 Health Information Officers and/or Data Managers (from both the Civil service and NGOs) whose abilities in this field could be enhanced through such training. It is a four-day interactive training that targets at improving the skill sets so that they can better address the data use, management and analysis needs in their positions and in their organizations. The course stresses a hands-on approach, with extensive use of case studies and group activities involving computers to ensure that participants are actively engaged. This is an elementary-level course which assumes previous but limited exposure to data use and management. *Participants with their own laptops are preferred.*
An advanced-level course is planned for the future.

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15 places are available and these will be allocated to eligible applicants on a first-come-first-served basis.

For further information, please contact:

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