Report on the Sub – Regional Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago – Aug 2010

Establishing Standardized Data Collection Systems for NGOs

Esther Best – Manager

National Drug Council

Background

} Recognition of the following on NGO's

} Need to collect data from the NGO's for the NDIS

} Need to enhance:

  ◦ The integrity of the data is being collected and improve the data sources.

} Approval granted by the NDC to host a national workshop

} During discussions with CARICOM, interest expressed in supporting participation of other member states – through the 9th EDF

Goal

Assist NGO's to:

◦ Collect data in a standardized format to meet their various reporting requirements

◦ Facilitate the submission of data on a structured basis to the relevant Drug Information Systems in countries.

◦ Discuss the long term goal – The contribution of data from treatment and rehabilitation centres, to a regional data base.

Participation

There were 35 participants which included:

- Representatives from 7 countries.
  Staff of 19 local and regional Non Governmental Organizations

- CARICOM and

- CICAD

Methodology

} Presentations
  - Drug Information Networks
  - Data collection system in Barbados
  - Data on the OASIS Drop in Centre
  - Analysis of data and its usefulness

} Group Work
 Participants worked on the following:
  ◦ Review of the Data collection form developed by the EULAC project
  ◦ Key terms and Definitions, and
  ◦ Implementation Plan

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Issues Discussed

} The implications of data for policy and practice

} Data collection should be feasible, cost effective and integrated as a routine activity

} Use of Indicators – Must address core data sets and be manageable.

} Data should be based on scientific principles to ensure reliability and validity

} Standardization of – Definitions, scope of collection, and the reporting period

Issues Cont'd

} Pre- existing data collection systems should be utilized where available.

} Agencies without data collection systems should be assisted in development of a template.

} Client confidentiality must be maintained – Use of unique identifiers

} Methods should be adapted to each country's needs

} The data variable fields should include (Client, Drug use and Treatment)

Challenges Identified

} There is no clear understanding or consensus on the definition of an institution which is a 'treatment center'.

} This has implications for the data to be collected

} This needs to be resolved during the planning stages of the information system.

} Whichever definition is adopted should meet regional and international criteria.

Areas For Further Development

} Agencies and policy makers are to be sensitized on the DIN in all countries

} Identification of a Coordinating Agency (Drug Council) to:

- Review data submitted for clarity and reliability
- Assess each agency prior to establishing a network
- Establish and maintain contact with agencies to promote co-operation and assistance

Agreed Next Steps

} National Drug Councils to be sent the report on the outcomes of the meeting

} Standardized forms to be re-worked with a view to facilitating implementation within 6 months

} CICAD to undertake the review of the forms and circulate to agencies

} National Drug Councils and CARICOM to provide support to NGO's

Current Status

} CICAD sought funding for a pilot project

} Discussions were held on undertaking a further training workshop for NGO's

} Pilot project to be undertaken in the Caribbean

} CICAD to update this meeting on next activities

Thank You