



MEASURE Evaluation Podcast Transcript

I would say the work that we do, MEASURE Evaluation as a whole, is important because we're able to provide countries with reliable information so that they can make good health programming decisions for the country. My name is Khou Xiong. I am a research associate at UNC.

More personally, I feel like, you know, sometimes it's difficult to feel like the specific things that I'm working on is making a difference. You know, it just takes so much time for the data to be trickled down or for you to see any kind of impact – see any kind of difference, but you hope that it is, and you know, every now and then you get to see clients or facilities where the actual research does make a difference in their life.

I think, you know, one of the rewarding things is seeing the data that you have been a part of or that you've helped to produce be used by governments – be used nationally and even subnationally – to make some programming decisions. I'm thinking specifically about some work that I did in Jamaica, through MEASURE Evaluation, where we tried to implement an HIV health component into their monitoring system, and they were excited about it.

I think in a world where, you know, if MEASURE Evaluation were to achieve their goals, we would have, in very general terms, you know, reduced HIV or eradicated diseases generally, improved health, people have access to health services, the government knows what their health burdens are and know how to address them properly, the general population understand how their own behaviours are contributing to health issues that they may be experiencing and can make appropriate changes to improve their own health and then the health of their family members or friends, neighbours, loved ones.

I have seen somewhat of a shift where the governments are asking for specific data, and they're wanting to discuss the information with us and be a part of the actual planning of studies or programs from the very beginning.