

Introducing Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E)

Rabat, Morocco
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Objectives

- Understand why engaging and listening to your beneficiary community is important.
- Learn how to develop and implement a participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) strategy.

Exercise

5.1–Involving Beneficiaries

What are the Core Principles of PM&E?

- Consider primary stakeholders as active participants – not objects or mere sources of information
- Build the capacity of local people to analyze, reflect and take action
- Foster joint learning of stakeholders at various levels
- Fuel commitment to taking corrective action(s)

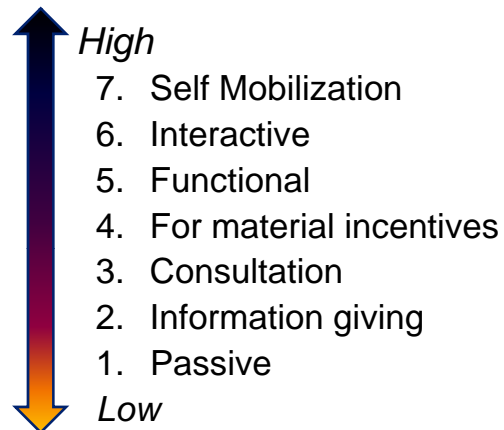
Exercise 5.1 – Involving Beneficiaries

Objective: Learn about examples of PM&E

Tasks:

1. With your organization, discuss the way(s) you have involved and/or encouraged beneficiaries/stakeholders to participate in your M&E activities.
2. Please write each approach on a separate sticky note. Post on your flip chart.
3. Discuss the level of how ‘participatory’ each of these approaches is.
4. Be prepared to present several approaches to the plenary.

Levels of Beneficiary/Stakeholder Participation in M&E Activities



What is Participatory Monitoring?

Involves local beneficiaries in measuring, recording, collecting, processing and communicating information

What is Participatory Evaluation?

Involves local beneficiaries in analyzing data to assist your NGO in decision-making

- *May mean adjusting and redefining project or program objectives, revising implementation and/or re-allocating resources.*

Why is PM&E Important?

- Acknowledges that people in beneficiary communities are the ones who know the most about the challenges in their lives.
- Strengthens the ability of people and local organizations to analyze, plan, consider changes, make decisions and act.
- Strengthens relations between your organization and the community and creates trust.

Why is PM&E Important?

- Increases the technical and administrative capacities of all involved.
- Yields data that are useful and gives everyone involved a sense of ownership of the results.

Conventional M&E vs PM&E

Conventional M&E

- Involves internal or external experts who measure performance against pre-set indicators, using standardized procedures and tools

Participatory M&E

- Engages key project stakeholders more actively in assessing the progress of their project and, in particular, the achievement of results

What are Challenges to Doing PM&E?

Ensuring

- participants/beneficiaries are involved in a meaningful way
- enough incentives so that participants/beneficiaries' time and effort are worth it
- sufficient commitment, budget, planning and time for PM&E activities allotted

Other Challenges...

- Too much faith in numeric (quantitative) indicators, not enough in complementary qualitative data
- Lack of trust, confidence and familiarity with PM&E approaches
- Unclear responsibilities, objectives, timeline
- Plans that are too detailed, not very realistic or practical

What Works?

- Tailoring the PM&E approach to match the situation and culture
- Clearly defining responsibilities, resources, plans and timeline
- Working with participants to set priorities and choose the focus of their monitoring activities
- Providing real benefits and incentives for participants/stakeholders

Steps in a PM&E Process...

- Recruit participants
- Review project/program objectives
- Plan what to measure and how
- Identify measurements to assess results or show extent of progress achieved

Steps in the PM&E Process...

- Develop measurement indicators
- Collect data at regular intervals
- Organize and analyze data
- Report on findings to beneficiaries, communities, governments, donors, etc.
- Make decisions, adjustments as necessary

Role of NGO Staff

- Show rather than tell
- Guide rather than impose
- Collaborate rather than dictate
- Listen rather than lecture
- Interact rather than control

Questions and Comments

