

# Introducing Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E)

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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)

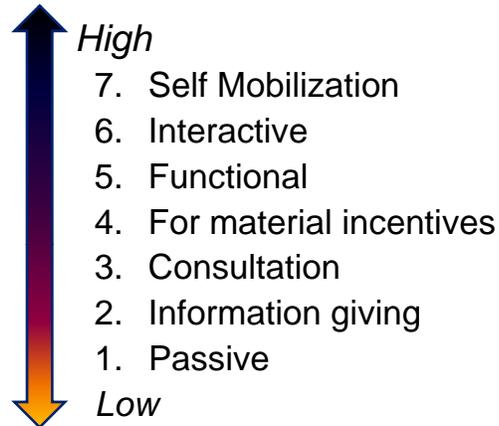
## Exercise 5.1 – Involving Beneficiaries

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

