

M&E of PHN Programs

MEASURE Evaluation provides regional training workshops to meet a great need in developing countries for professionals with M&E skills

Demand for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) skills is particularly acute in government agencies and local nongovernmental organizations that implement population, health, and nutrition (PHN) programs. Unfortunately, there are very few places in developing countries where professionals can seek training to increase their M&E skills.

One of MEASURE Evaluation's capacity-building activities is aimed at establishing partnerships in developing countries with selected universities and training/research centers to offer M&E training programs and related activities. In order to build the capacity of professionals, MEASURE Evaluation and its institutional training partners offer three-week non-degree courses that provide training in the design and implementation of M&E systems that coordinate the collection of information necessary to inform decisions related to PHN programming. Planning for and effectively communicating strategic information are integral components of the course modules.

To deliver these workshops, MEASURE Evaluation relies on partnerships with training institutions, including Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, Centre Africain Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) in Senegal, and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in India.

M&E skills are crucial to the successful design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of PHN programs. To provide accessible, short-term, state-of-the-art training in M&E to professionals worldwide, MEASURE Evaluation offers these periodic short-term non-degree training courses that cover core concepts, tools, techniques, and practical applications in M&E of reproductive health, maternal and child health, nutri-



tion, and HIV/AIDS programs. In workshops held in Africa, malaria and tuberculosis programs are also covered. Workshops are held in Ethiopia, Senegal, and India. In previous years, workshops have been offered in Thailand, Mexico, and Uganda.

WORKSHOP CONTENT

These courses include strategic information; program-design frameworks; data systems and indicators; impact evaluation designs; building performance M&E plans; data-collection methods; utilization and feedback of M&E results; M&E of maternal health, child health, reproductive health/family planning; sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS and nutrition programs; and data dissemination and information use.

Sessions on computer software (e.g. SPSS and PowerPoint) are available for participants who are in need. Hands-on experience in designing M&E plans is offered through in-class exercises and small group work throughout the workshop. Participant groups present the results of their projects during the final day of the workshop.



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Summary of M&E of PHN Regional Workshop Participation, 1997-2008

Region/Location	No. of Workshops	No. of Applicants	No. of Participants	No. of Countries Represented	No. of MEASURE Evaluation-funded Participants
Asia/Thailand	7	525	218	17	29
Francophone Africa/Senegal	10	419	305	21	8
Anglophone Africa/Ethiopia	4	281	100	18	16
LAC/Mexico	1	60	22	10	9
Anglophone Africa/Uganda	4	245	105	17	33
United States	4	138	138	35	44
Total	30	1668	888	71	139

These workshops also provide a fieldwork component that involves visiting health facilities and/or NGOs implementing health programs.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of these workshops are:

- to understand the basic concepts and practical approaches for performance M&E;
- to learn tools and techniques used to monitor and evaluate PHN programs; and
- to gain hands-on experience in designing M&E plans.

Planned Workshops for 2009:

- Asia, at PHFI, India, late 2009/early 2010
- Anglophone Africa, at Addis Ababa University, July/August 2009

COMMENTS FROM RECENT PARTICIPANTS

"The knowledge and information/materials acquired greatly contributed to participating in the development and finalization of the Uganda national OVC Indicators as a lead person and also as a key person in the development of the OVC Quality Standards that is strongly linked to M&E. I also used the knowledge to write a simple Guide for M&E of OVC programs at

community level."

— AAU workshop participant (Ethiopia, August 2006)

"Let us say that after this workshop, I became more confident in making a follow-up evaluation. I would say that the workshop detailed the scientific concepts very clearly, e.g. the fundamentals of follow-up evaluation. By using them, it is easier to explain the bonds which bind the activities to the objectives while documenting intermediate results."

— CESAG workshop participant (Senegal, June 2006)

"The knowledge gained at the workshop, the subsequent review of the literature and visits to the website of measures have enabled me to make a leap in quality in monitoring and evaluation projects. Within my organization, I have succeeded in integrating a team of M&E to which I have been training and replicating some of the contents received at the workshop."

— INSP workshop participant (Mexico, November 2007)

ONLINE

Visit www.cpc.unc.edu/measure or contact the training officer at measure_training@unc.edu.