

PMME UCDG Programme Management,
Monitoring and Evaluation Office

BEYOND IMPLEMENTATION:

WHY MONITORING & EVALUATION IS IMPORTANT?

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INTRODUCTION

Monitoring and evaluating helps to determine the most effective and efficient use of resources. There must be a way to draw objective judgments about whether or not a programme has been an accomplishment. It is important to use monitoring and evaluation to show that a programme's efforts have had an impact on the expected outcomes and that they have been implemented successfully. For programme directors and implementers to make well-informed choices about how to carry out their tasks and allocate their budgets, they must have access to this data. In order to properly monitor and evaluate a project, it is essential to collect data. It can be used to follow the development of a project, identify patterns, and demonstrate results for evaluation and monitoring purposes. Researchers must exactly prepare and be well-versed in a variety of monitoring and evaluation methodologies that can be used to various projects, programs, and policies. There are numerous ways to gather data for project monitoring and evaluation, and there is no single approach can be used to collect all the data possible.

Keeping a close watch on the progress of a programme and making management decisions based on that information is what we mean when we say we are monitoring it. Typically, monitoring focuses on processes, such as when and where activities occur, who provides those activities, and how many people or entities they reach. A programme's progress is constantly monitored after it has begun and during the course of the its lifecycle. Process, performance, or formative evaluations are all different types of evaluations that occur at different times in the programme's life cycle. To put it simply, evaluation is the systematic examination of a programme's theory's effectiveness. The goal of evaluation is to determine whether or not goals have been met by reviewing the results chain (which includes activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts), processes, contextual factors, and causality. The goal of evaluation is to identify an interventions' relevance, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, and long-term sustainability, as well as their contributions to achieving the overall goal. It is essential that an evaluation provides factual, verifiable, and actionable information. An evaluation's findings, recommendations, and lessons learnt should be included in future programme decision-making processes and theory.



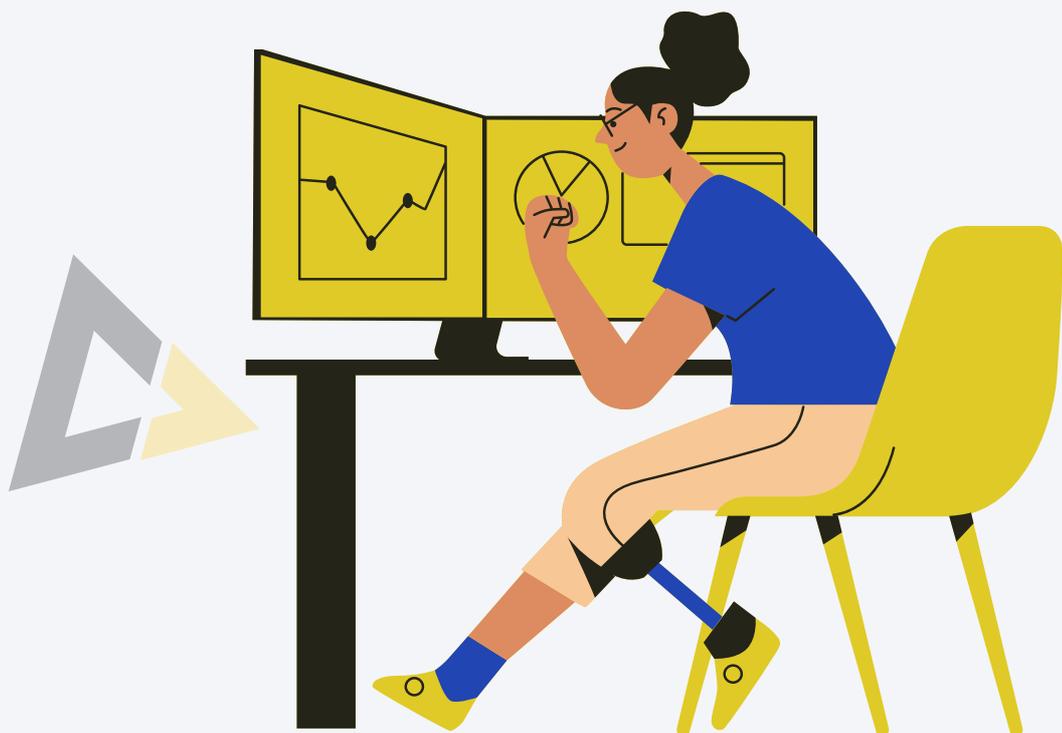
IMPORTANCE OF DATA PRESENTATION ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

A lack of data and information will have a negative impact on the quality and breadth of the monitoring and assessment duties.

For a variety of reasons, data may be lacking in quality or completeness:

- The data are gathered at the inappropriate time, for example, after the activity has ended,
- The collection of data necessitates considerable work, especially if the key individuals have changed connections or employment, as is common over time, and
- Premature or postponed collection of data or information increases the risk of inaccurate interpretation.

It is critical to set up a Monitoring & Evaluation system that collects the correct data at the correct time and does it efficiently. Both at the partnership and project levels, data should be gathered. To be clear, a monitoring and evaluation system does not validate the logic of the intervention; it just represents it. To avoid assessment fatigue, data and information should be retrieved individually using distinct templates and procedures. To this end, it would be advantageous to build an integrated data collection system for all joint projects.



IMPORTANCE OF DATA VISUALISATION IN MONITORING & EVALUATION.

Monitoring and evaluation is all about using evidence to improve practice or to put it differently, using theory to test and build theory. Capturing your data into charts and graphics that explain what the data is displaying is called data visualisation. If you do this correctly, you can tell a compelling story that your audience will remember and understand rather than being lost in a lot of numbers and correlations that end up being confusing. You must know exactly which visualisation to employ when dealing with groups of people and when engaging stakeholders in a project where participation is critical. Dashboards, images, stories, graphical representations, and conceptualisations all tell a story about the data. Whether you are trying to obtain the support of a key person or communicate your narrative to a funder, being able to visually portray information in the form of charts, maps, and diagrams is crucial.

TYPES OF RESEARCH

There are two traditional main types of research which is quantitative and qualitative research. While quantitative research focuses on numbers, qualitative research focuses on words and their meanings. Both are necessary for a range of various types of information to be acquired. In quantitative research, data and graphs are used to convey findings. It is used to verify or disprove assumptions and beliefs. Qualitative research is described using words. Concepts, thoughts, and memories can all benefit from this method of analysis. Research of this kind allows you to gain in-depth knowledge on areas that are not well understood.

Regardless of whether your data is quantitative or qualitative, you will want to know which form of data visualization software is most suited to your dataset. With design and creative tools, you may easily combine many representations into the format.



Here are some examples of applications one may use:

Piktochart

Piktochart is a tool that makes it simple to generate charts and other visual representations of data. This is especially handy when you need to reduce lengthy reports into high impact, visual presentations for audiences short on time.

Venngage

Venngage is an excellent infographic tool if you want to use images and diagrams to convey the significance of your work.

Tableau

Tableau is a great tool for simple statistical correlations as your data becomes more complicated. Without a degree in statistics, you can perform some simple statistical analysis on quantitative data with tableau!

Power BI

While Excel is a great place to start, Power BI may be the best option for you if you're a little more experienced with coding. Power BI has the advantage of being a Microsoft product, which makes it easy to integrate. The ability to do your study on a computer provides greater data security.

R

It is possible to utilize complex statistical approaches to analyze the attribution of your work if you have data for control groups and you're aiming to present your findings in the best possible way. Because R is free to use and there is a wealth of online tutorials, it is perhaps the most accessible statistical software. If you don't know how to conduct a proper statistical test, you may choose to outsource it to a specialist. Your programme will benefit much from a true statistical correlation, even if it is expensive, because it will prove that your efforts are making a real difference in the lives of those you serve.



QUALITATIVE DATA VISUALISATION

Here are some examples of applications one may use:

ATLAS.ti

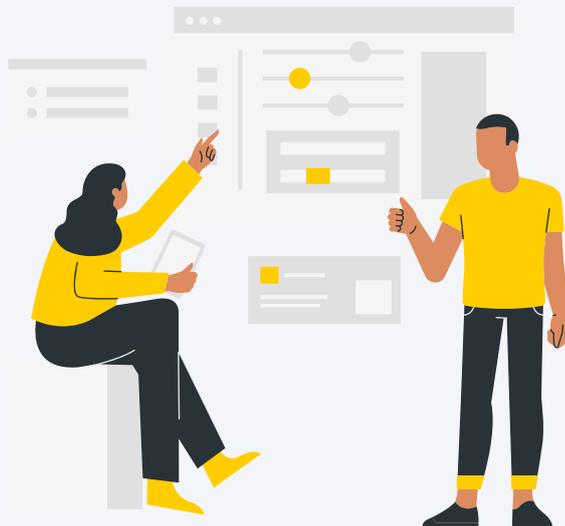
A wonderful tool for analyzing text, graphics, audio, and visual data is ATLAS.ti, which is available for free. An analytic structure can be built quickly and easily using the platform's simple analytic tools, which have low coding requirements. ATLAS.ti's ability to process a wide range of material makes it stand out. Online face-to-face training is also available through the website.

Provalis

Provalis' Wordstat is a useful tool for simple text analysis, while being more of a text mining tool. This may be the ideal option if you have a large number of long-text comments and want to focus on a few key ideas. A 14-day free trial is also available, so you can fully evaluate the software before making a purchase.

Timeglider

For creating project timelines or timelines, Timeglider is a useful tool. With this tool, it's easy to show how different aspects of the project have interacted with one another during the course of a strategic evaluation.



Conclusion

M&E improves accountability and transparency, enables organisations to detect problems earlier, ensures that resources are used efficiently, empowers organisations in learning from their mistakes, enhances decision-making, assist organisations in remaining organised, aids organisations in replicating the most successful projects and programmes, encourages innovation, and encourages a diversity of viewpoints.