

The growing trend towards the use of participatory approaches, decentralization and devolution, and increased capacity of Non-Government Organizations and community based organizations as actors in the development process require new forms of oversight. Practices in Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) activities that respond to these emerging trends unfortunately, were not able to keep up with the empowerment and learning needs of development actors. M&E activities have been focused mainly on measurements, are externally driven and oriented to the needs of the donors and policy makers rather than the local stakeholders. They were conducted mainly for the purpose of making judgments rather than learning and empowerment. These and other limitations of conventional M&E have often been cited in literature¹.

Studies have shown that enhanced participation of community partners and other important project stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation helps improve their understanding of the development process. Increased capacity in monitoring and evaluation contributes to self-reliance in the overall project implementation, ensures better sustainability of project activities and leads to better project results. Listening to and learning from program/project beneficiaries and other stakeholders are critical to the process of improving project design and making implementation more responsive to ground realities.

"Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) involved the stakeholders in a collaborative framework for measuring, recording, collecting and processing communication information for use in problem-solving and decision-making"². Project partners are able to identify corrective actions immediately during project implementation.

Course description

This course is intended to broaden participants' understanding of PM&E as a support to program/project management at different levels. PMEL is a tool for strengthening participation, enhancing local

TRAINING SCHEDULE

April 16 – 27, 2012



capacity, and increasing local people's confidence and control over development decisions and processes. The course examines PM&E concepts and principles equipping participants with the skills on how to use methods, tools and techniques which have been tested and used in the field. Drawing from a range of significant experiences, the course also highlights key elements that enrich the application and maintenance of PM&E systems.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, participants will have:

1. articulated the rationale for the applications of PM&E within the context of the paradigm shifts in development work;
2. identified various elements that constitute the application of PM&E;
3. reflected on the practical application of PM&E within the context of their own organization, program or projects, and
4. identified ways to improve on their current practices in monitoring and evaluation.

¹ Marisol Estrella and John Gaventa. "Who Counts Reality? Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation: A Literature Review." IDS Working Paper No. 70; August 1998. Institute of Development Studies, UK, 1998.

² IFAD, ANGOC and IIRR. 2001. "Innovative Experiences in the Use of Participatory Monitoring Tools in Enhancing Ownership and Sustainability: A Resource Book on Participation."

Content

The course has four modules:

Module 1: *Situational analysis* – provides participants the opportunity to share experiences in monitoring and evaluation of their projects/programs. This provides a shared understanding of the various program/project contexts represented in the course.

Module 2: *Designing and Facilitating the PM&E Process* – focuses on the PM&E processes and details the requirements in designing and implementing PM&E. It emphasizes the facilitative role of the development worker in the entire process and outlines the necessary attitudes, skills and tools to make PM&E possible.

Module 3: *Strengthening Systems for PM&E* – describes elements that support the establishment and maintenance of PM&E in the context of development organizations. This module discusses the important factors in the implementation of PM&E and the key strategies that enable organizations to sustain, institutionalize and expand PM&E practices.

Module 4: *Action planning* – provides participants the opportunity to reflect on, synthesize and apply their learning from the course through developing an action plan.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Highly participatory methods (simulation exercises, focus group discussions, workshops, role play, video showing, case stories, games, field practicum, etc.)
- Participants are active resource persons, facilitators and learners
- Field practicum for hands-on practice in facilitating PM & E
- Action plan

Learning methods

The course will use participatory methods to stimulate learning and facilitate discussions and sharing processes. Case analysis, fieldwork, and workshops will be the main learning methodologies.

Who should attend

The course is intended for planning, monitoring and evaluation officers, program officers, project managers, research/action research officers, trainer/extension workers, community animators/facilitators and advocacy workers, with at least two years direct experience in either planning, implementing or managing monitoring and evaluation activities.

When and where

The two-week course will be held at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course.

IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 50-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories. It also has recreational facilities and nature trails.

Course Fees and Related Terms

The course fee of USD1500 includes course-related materials, field and agency visits, airport transfers, food for the duration of the course and a weekend excursion. Participants will pay USD850 per person for double room occupancy and board for the duration of the course. Single room occupancy is available for an additional cost. The food includes three full meals and two coffee breaks. The fees do not include all international and local airfares, laundry, and incidental expenses. A minimum pocket allowance of USD100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses. Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies. IIRR reserves the right to cancel the course one month before its schedule if the required quorum is not met. This will be immediately conveyed to the applicants. Course fees will be refunded in full.

How and when to Apply?

For more information and to receive an application form, contact:

Dulce Dominguez, Training Assistant

Email: dulce.dominguez@iirr.org

Deadline for application: March 16, 2012

Deadline for payment: March 30, 2012

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