Practitioners' Notes on Monitoring and Results Measurement

Alexandra Miehlbradt and Hans Posthumus recently conducted a training workshop with advanced practitioners in results measurement. Based on the presentations and discussions, they developed five Practitioners' Notes. Each Note outlines key challenges and provides solutions and tips from the field.

1 Gathering Information from Businesses

Private sector development programs often find it challenging to gather information from businesses on operations and performance. Businesses do not always provide this information either because they are not willing, or they are not able to. It is important see the issues from a business's perspective, to determine what information a program really needs and to decide what is realistic to ask a business for. This Practitioners' Note outlines tips on how to start off on the right foot with businesses and how to address challenges in information gathering that arise during implementation.

2 Using Technology in Monitoring and Results Measurement

Collecting, storing, analysing and presenting results measurement information can be time consuming, costly and error-prone. New hardware and software solutions are helping practitioners to save time and money, improve accuracy and present information more effectively to aid in decision-making. This Practitioners' Note profiles three types of tools: device-based data collection, on-line questionnaires and analysis software products. It outlines the pros and cons of each and provides tips from practitioners who have used them.

3 Monitoring

Monitoring is a critical function to inform program improvements in interventions and strategies. However, programs often do not pay enough attention to ensure that staff are monitoring effectively and efficiently. This Practitioners' Note outlines tips to help programs implement good monitoring practices, ensuring it adds value for managers and helps to avoid common pitfalls. It also addresses issues in outsourcing monitoring and co-facilitators' monitoring.

4 Using Multipliers to Estimate Impact

Multipliers can be a cost-effective tool to estimate broader impacts such as employment creation. Programs need to validate existing multipliers or need to develop their own sector and context specific multipliers. This Practitioners' Note aims to assist programs to assess when multipliers may be appropriate to use, how to use existing multipliers and how to develop multipliers. This Practitioners' Note focuses on the decision-making process; for the more technical aspects, reference is made to other publications and case studies.

5 Assessing Systemic Change (coming soon)

Assessing systemic change is challenging because there are many dimensions to the changes, they happen at different levels and mostly occur beyond program partners in the wider 'system'. The state of the practice around assessment of systemic change is evolving. This Practitioners' Note describes how practitioners are outlining systemic change pathways, using information on systemic changes in program management, identifying and assessing systemic changes and analysing the causes of changes. It highlights new developments and where more experimentation is needed.

The Practitioners' Notes on Monitoring and Results Measurement are available on the DCED website at: https://www.enterprise-development.org/measuring-results-the-dced-standard/implementing-the-dced-standard/.

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