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Monitoring and evaluating FGM/C abandonment programs

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MONITORING AND EVALUATING FGM/C ABANDONMENT PROGRAMS

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Inter-African Committee (IAC)
International Conference to end FGM
Background

- Lack quality M&E given:
  - limited management information systems of FGM/C interventions
  - Fragmented documentation of feasible & effective policies and programs

- Need to improve national and global understanding of program implementation
  - Relevant indictors
  - Measurement and evaluation for documenting and reporting on FGM/C activities
So... why should we undertake monitoring and evaluation?

- Monitoring
  To assess the process and progress of program implementation

- Evaluation
  To assess the effect or impact of a program
Role of monitoring in FGM/C projects

- Did a program **do** what it was expected to do?

- Routine **documentation and reporting** of program activities and products to:
  - Ensure that program **activities** are implemented as planned
  - Identify problems as they arise so that they can be addressed
  - Make sure resources are being used within budget (and for target population)
Role of evaluation in FGM/C projects

- Evaluations can be useful for both fine-tuning innovative programs and for assessing impact of established programs.

- Evaluation addresses the following questions:
  - Were the program activities carried out as planned?
  - What outcomes are observed?
  - Does the program achieve the types of changes proposed in its objectives? How much change occurred?
  - To what extent is the program responsible for the observed changes? Can improved outcomes be attributed to program efforts?
  - Did the target population benefit from program and at what cost?
Challenges associated with M&E

• Hard to separate contribution of multiple strategies
• Lack of investment in rigorous evaluation
  □ limited evidence of effectiveness
• Non-standardized definitions and indicators
• Enhancing comparability of data
• Climate of urgency around results but behavior change is long-term
• Sensitive nature of the information
• Changing nature hard to measure and interpret
• Ethical and methodological issues
Evaluation issues to consider

1. Impact on who?
   - Participants in project activities
   - Those influenced by project activities
   - Those more indirectly influenced

2. Measuring impact – which indicators and validity?
   - Statistical evidence for changes in FGM/C behaviors and prevalence
   - Use of DHS / MICS data?
   - Surveys of sample populations
Evaluation issues to consider

3. Other influences on these changes?
   • Use "experimental" evaluation design to control for other influences (include control/comparison group)
   • Identify and document other anti-FGM/C activities within and near project sites
   • Review history of anti-FGM/C activities in project sites

4. Measuring unplanned impacts?
   • Fully understand how interventions can influence peoples lives beyond FGM/C
   • Ask project staff to document all events as they occur
   • Include qualitative research during endline to assess retrospectively how and why these changes happened
   • Report these outcomes with other results, whether positive or negative
Evaluation issues to consider

5. Sampling for evaluations
   • Use an appropriate sampling plan.....
     - For describing prevalence (e.g. baseline)
     - For assessing impact of an intervention
   • Sample separately for each sub-group assessed
   • Use random not purposive sampling if possible

6. Ethical considerations
   • Beneficence: maximise potential benefits for individuals and society
   • Non-malfeasance: minimize any potential harms to individuals and society
   • Respect for autonomy: respect rights of individuals and groups to make decisions for themselves, and protect persons with diminished autonomy (e.g. children)
   • Justice: treat all subjects equally
Thank you