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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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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 indicators
 - 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-maleficance**: 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