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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 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:
  o Ensure that program activities are implemented as planned
  o Identify problems as they arise so that they can be addressed
  o 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