

Rationale and Key Aspects of Monitoring Change in Accountability Processes

Why Monitor Change?

Why monitoring?

- Monitoring keeps the finger on the “pulse” on your accountability intervention
- It provides a means of finding out the manner in which the Accountability work is being put in action
- The process is concerned with collecting feedback on how the accountability work is imparting change in the implementation of dev’t interventions of interest

What is Monitoring?

- Monitoring is a routine and systematic collection and recording of information concerning a Programme, for the purpose of determining its progress against its present plans.
- In other words: It's a process of finding out whether a programme is heading in the right direction or not. If not, then corrective measures be sought

Key Question

What *exactly* are the relevant state actors meant to be doing – and to what standard?

What are Indicators?

Indicators.....

- instruments that we can use to monitor whether commitments and standards have been met.
- They aim to show what happens in reality when commitments and standards are being implemented.

Indicators as Traffic Lights!

- Indicators should caution us when what is happening in reality is not in line with agreed commitments and standards
- Indicators can reveal when there are some deviations from agreed commitments and standards
- Good indicators will confirm when real events are in line with agreed commitments and standards

A Quilt of Indicators

- Indicators come in many shapes and sizes. They can be identified and formulated in different ways by different stakeholders.

Quantitative or qualitative.

An indicator that counts the number of patients visiting a given hospital is quantitative.

An indicator that aims to capture peoples' perceptions of health services is qualitative.

Direct or indirect.

Child mortality rate can be seen as a direct measure of the number of children under five who die.

It can also be taken as an indirect indicator of child poverty.

Aggregated or disaggregated

A single measure of 500 patients is an aggregated figure.

This total figure could be disaggregated (broken down) according to given criteria, for example 185 men, 200 women and 65 boys and 50 girls.

Indicator quality

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Achievable**
- **Relevant**
- **Time-Bound**

Planning for accountability work

- **Activities:** These are the day to day actions undertaken by members of an organization or group. They are specific deeds, actions, functions, or sphere of accountability action.
- **Input:** These are the resources which go into an organization or programme in order to produce the desired results. Inputs allow us to achieve the desired outputs, which lead to outcomes, hence, the ultimate benefits to the target group

Outputs

- These are the works generated by the accountability work
- These are usually the tangible results of the major processes of the group's accountability work
- Outputs can be used as indicators of success. Unless outputs are directly associated with achieving benefits, they may end up to be poor indicators of success. For example, a college may be producing many Trainees but only a few may be fully trained

Outcomes

- Outcomes are the expected (even unexpected) changes or impacts that may result from accountability interventions
- Can be: **Short term, Intermediate and Long term**

They can also be referred to as benefits that come about as a result of activities.

Impact

- Impact is the final or ultimate result i.e the long term outcome
- Although the terms impact and outcome are used interchangeably, impact refers to any outcome that answers the question. “what difference does it make?”

Deducing Indicators for accountability work

In order to be able to monitor accountability work, there is need to fully understand the following:

- The Obligations of the Duty Bearers
- Commitments
- Standards
- Indicators then should be set against these parameters

Group Exercise

- Budget
- Code of Conduct
- Regulations

Thank You

Monitoring accountability
processes:

The root of and route to
Accountability