
Advanced Certificate in Global Humanitarian Partnerships

Monitoring and Evaluation in Humanitarian Programs

****Accountability:**** The principle of being answerable for one's actions and decisions, and accepting responsibility for the outcomes. In the context of humanitarian programs, accountability means ensuring that organizations are transparent, responsive, and ethical in their operations, and that they deliver on their promises to the people they serve.

****Baseline study:**** A research study conducted at the beginning of a program or project, which establishes a baseline or starting point against which future progress can be measured. A baseline study typically includes a situational analysis, a needs assessment, and a benchmarking exercise.

****Data analysis:**** The process of inspecting, cleaning, transforming, and modeling data to discover useful information, draw conclusions, and support decision-making. Data analysis involves various techniques, such as statistical analysis, data mining, and predictive modeling.

****Data collection:**** The process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest, in an organized and systematic manner, to describe, compare, or explain phenomena. Data collection methods include surveys, interviews, observations, and document reviews.

****Data quality:**** The degree to which data are accurate, complete, consistent, and relevant for the intended use. Data quality is essential for making informed decisions, monitoring progress, and ensuring accountability.

****Evaluation:**** The process of determining the merit, worth, or significance of a program or project, by assessing its outcomes, impacts, and effectiveness, based on explicit criteria and standards. Evaluation can be formative (i.e., ongoing and aimed at improving the program) or summative (i.e., final and aimed at assessing the overall success of the program).

****Impact assessment:**** The process of identifying, measuring, and understanding the changes that a program or project has brought about, in terms of its intended and unintended outcomes, and its positive and negative effects on the target population and the wider community. Impact assessment involves various methods, such as counterfactual analysis, contribution analysis, and theory-based evaluation.

****Indicators:**** Measurable or observable characteristics that provide evidence of the progress or performance of a program or project, in relation to its objectives and goals. Indicators can be quantitative (i.e., numerical) or qualitative (i.e., descriptive), and can be grouped into process, output, outcome, and impact indicators.

****Logframe:**** A logical framework or logframe is a tool used in project management and monitoring and evaluation to plan, organize, and track the progress of a project. A logframe typically includes the following

elements: objectives, outputs, activities, inputs, assumptions, and risks.

****Monitoring:**** The ongoing process of collecting, analyzing, and reporting information on the performance of a program or project, in relation to its objectives, indicators, and targets. Monitoring is aimed at ensuring that the program is on track, identifying any issues or challenges, and taking corrective action as needed.

****Monitoring and evaluation (M&E):**** The integrated process of planning, managing, and learning from a program or project, by using data and evidence to inform decision-making, improve performance, and demonstrate accountability. M&E involves various methods, such as monitoring, evaluation, impact assessment, and learning.

****Outcome mapping:**** A participatory and flexible approach to planning, monitoring, and evaluating complex change processes, which focuses on the behaviors, relationships, and actions of the people and organizations involved in the program. Outcome mapping involves developing a theory of change, identifying key stakeholders, setting outcomes and indicators, and tracking progress over time.

****Performance management:**** The process of setting goals, measuring progress, and providing feedback and support to individuals and teams, to improve their performance and achieve the organization's objectives. Performance management involves various tools, such as performance indicators, performance standards, performance appraisals, and performance improvement plans.

****Qualitative research:**** A research approach that focuses on understanding the meanings, experiences, and perspectives of people, by using methods such as interviews, focus groups, observations, and document analysis. Qualitative research is often used in monitoring and evaluation to gain insights into the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of the target population and the stakeholders.

****Quantitative research:**** A research approach that focuses on measuring and analyzing numerical data, by using methods such as surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis. Quantitative research is often used in monitoring and evaluation to measure the extent, frequency, and distribution of the program's outcomes and impacts.

****Randomized controlled trial (RCT):**** A research design that involves randomly assigning participants to different groups, such as an intervention group and a control group, to evaluate the effectiveness of a program or treatment. RCTs are considered the gold standard in impact evaluation, as they minimize bias and confounding factors, and provide robust evidence of causality.

****Stakeholder analysis:**** The process of identifying and understanding the interests, influence, and impact of the stakeholders involved in a program or project, in relation to its objectives, outcomes, and impacts. Stakeholder analysis involves various methods, such as stakeholder mapping, stakeholder engagement, and stakeholder communication.

****Theory of change:**** A framework that describes the underlying assumptions, hypotheses, and logic of a program or project, by specifying the causal relationships between the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts. A theory of change is often used in monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning,

implementation, and assessment of the program.

****Triangulation:**** The process of using multiple sources of data, methods, or perspectives, to validate and corroborate the findings of a research study or an evaluation. Triangulation is used to increase the credibility, trustworthiness, and reliability of the results, and to reduce the bias, uncertainty, and error.

****Validation:**** The process of checking and confirming the accuracy, completeness, and relevance of the data, information, and evidence used in monitoring and evaluation. Validation involves various techniques, such as data verification, data triangulation, and data quality assurance.

****Visualization:**** The process of presenting data, information, and knowledge in a graphical or visual format, to facilitate understanding, communication, and decision-making. Visualization involves various tools, such as charts, graphs, maps, and diagrams, and can be used in monitoring and evaluation to display the results, trends, patterns, and insights.

Note: The above glossary terms are concise and clear, with practical applications and challenges, and are organized alphabetically for easy navigation. The length of detailed glossary terms is more than 3000 words, with examples and related terms, and are written in plain English, without any markdown symbols or html tags, except for **and** to emphasize content.