

Evaluation and Monitoring of Community

Evaluation and Monitoring of Community Health Programs

1. Introduction

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are systematic processes that track program progress and judge its effects.
- They ensure accountability, guide improvement, and demonstrate value to funders and communities.

2. Monitoring vs Evaluation

- **Monitoring:** continuous, routine collection of data on program activities and outputs.
- **Evaluation:** periodic assessment of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact.
- Monitoring asks "are we on track?"; evaluation asks "did it work and why?".

3. Indicators

- **Process indicators:** measure activities delivered, such as number of clinics held.
- **Outcome indicators:** measure changes in knowledge, behaviour, or health status.
- Good indicators are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

4. Methods and Tools

- Quantitative tools include surveys, registers, and routine health records.
- Qualitative tools include interviews, focus groups, and observation.

5. Using Results

- Findings inform decisions to scale up, modify, or stop activities.
- Feedback should be shared with communities and stakeholders to promote learning.

6. Summary

- M&E turns program data into actionable evidence.
- Combining process and outcome measures gives a complete picture of performance.