

Evaluation and Monitoring of Community

Evaluation and Monitoring of Community Health Programs

1. Introduction

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are systematic processes for tracking and judging the performance of health programs.
- They ensure accountability, learning, and improvement of community health activities.

2. Key Concepts

- **Monitoring:** routine, ongoing collection of data to track progress against plans.
- **Evaluation:** periodic assessment of a program's relevance, effectiveness, and impact.
- **Indicators:** measurable signs used to assess progress, such as coverage rates.

3. Types of Evaluation

- Formative evaluation guides program design before and during early implementation.
- Process evaluation examines whether activities are carried out as planned.
- Outcome and impact evaluation measure short-term results and long-term changes.

4. Methods and Tools

- Data sources include registers, surveys, interviews, and observation.
- Logical frameworks link inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact.

5. Use of Findings

- Results inform decisions on continuing, adjusting, or scaling up programs.
- Sharing findings with the community promotes transparency and ownership.

6. Summary

- M&E provides evidence on whether community health programs achieve their goals.
- Clear indicators and reliable data are essential for credible evaluation.