



BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SECTOR UPDATE – JUNE 2010

SECTOR OVERVIEW

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)—a key component of program learning and reporting—covers a range of data collection, assessment, and evaluation activities, as well as curricula for capacity building, data analysis, and reporting related to USAID/OFDA program activities and policies. USAID/OFDA partners continue to build a knowledge base of both methods and data for improved programming.

The monitoring component of M&E is important for both program and grant management and also provides information for reporting on program objectives and benchmarks. The evaluation component of M&E covers outcomes and impact evaluations, sector assessments, documentation of lessons learned, and focused research or field study projects. Although reporting is a key component, M&E primarily serves as a way to systematically identify program objectives and the logic or pathway to achieving them, monitor progress toward achieving objectives, assess whether the activities resulted in outcomes, and document learning for future programming.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE PROGRAM LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

USAID has developed numerous initiatives to support the continued development of effective M&E, including improved reporting, accountability, and program learning. USAID/OFDA now has a full-time Evaluation and Reporting Coordinator who participates in the USAID-wide Evaluation Interest Group, an informal group composed of M&E specialists from bureaus and offices within USAID. In addition, USAID has established the Office of Learning Evaluation and Research within the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning, to oversee research and evaluation activities across the agency. Increased interest in accountability and program reporting is found throughout all levels of USAID and across the U.S. Government. USAID/OFDA and its partners are increasingly expected to display good funding stewardship and to demonstrate that program achievements continue to save lives, alleviate human suffering, reduce the economic and social impact of disasters, and “do no harm” to vulnerable populations in the process.

USAID/OFDA PRIORITIES AND REPORTING GUIDANCE

One of USAID/OFDA’s priorities in the program area *Program Design and Learning* is to provide guidance on improved monitoring for reporting. Toward this end, USAID/OFDA is currently developing additional tools and guidance for monitoring and reporting. Another key priority is the identification of feasible learning opportunities through focused evaluation, assessment, and applied research activities that promote capacity building in data collection, study design, analysis, and learning.

In 2011, USAID/OFDA plans to finalize and disseminate reporting guidance, including indicator reference sheets, for standard USAID/OFDA reporting indicators. In addition to contributing to the utility of standard reporting, USAID/OFDA will continue to explore robust indicators that tell the story of the office’s humanitarian assistance achievements in saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the economic and social impact of disasters.

USAID/OFDA CONTACT

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