Welcome to the Feed the Future Performance Monitoring Course

Dear Course Participant,

Welcome to Feed the Future’s course on performance monitoring. Monitoring, learning and adapting activities-based evidence moves us forward in our goal to reduce hunger, poverty and under-nutrition. To that end, this course will prepare you to:

- Meet the requirements for reporting performance such that program activities and outcomes to the Feed the Future Results Framework.
- Use performance monitoring as a means for strategic adaptive management of Feed the Future activities.

Over the next five days, you will build your skills and knowledge to:

- Develop a theory of change and a results framework for your FTF activities
- Select require if applicable indicators for your activity results framework
- Create custom indicators
- Define beneficiaries, baselines and targets
- Collect performance monitoring data
- Verify performance monitoring data
- Report and use performance monitoring data
- Submit open data

To achieve these outcomes, we have just a few guidelines for all course participants to follow:

- Listen, inquire and share
- Respect and value different ideas and options
- Create a safe space
- Challenge yourself
- Support each other

The course was developed by the Feed the Future Monitoring and Evaluation team. If you have any questions about monitoring and evaluating Feed the Future activities, do not hesitate to ask any Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team member. We are proud to be your partners in the important work you do in the field.

Sincerely,

Anne Swindale, Course Owner
Senior Program Advisor
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Feed the Future, USAID

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Technical Advisor
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Feed the Future, USAID
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SESSION 7:
Verifying Performance Monitoring Data
**Five USAID Data Quality Standards**

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<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Validity</strong></td>
<td>The data measure what they are intended to measure.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reliability</strong></td>
<td>The data are measured and collected consistently; definitions and methodologies are the same over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Precision</strong></td>
<td>The data have sufficient detail; in this case the “accuracy” of the data refers to the fineness of measurement units</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Timeliness</strong></td>
<td>Data are current and information is available on time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integrity</strong></td>
<td>Data is protected from deliberate bias or manipulation for political or personal reasons.</td>
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Precise, but not valid
Valid, but not precise
Neither valid or precise
Valid and precise
Identify the Data Quality Issues in Each Scenario

Scenario #1: Helping Farmers NGO in measuring Value of Incremental Sales. When drawing a sample, they decide to capture farmers not directly benefitting from the Feed the Future intervention.
- What data quality issue(s) should you be concerned about?
- In what circumstances would it be appropriate to sample farmers not directly benefitting from the intervention?

Scenario #2: Helping Farmers NGO is measuring # of farmers and others applying improved technologies, but the data does not provide any information by technology type.
- What data quality issue(s) should you be concerned about?

Scenario #3: Helping Farmers NGO is working in the chickpea value chain, which has two agricultural seasons in the fiscal year. When collecting information on Gross Margin, they survey farmers asking about one agricultural season.
- What data quality issue(s) should you be concerned about?

Scenario #4: Helping Farmers NGO is working in the chickpea value chain, which has two agricultural seasons in the fiscal year. When collecting information on Gross Margin, they survey farmers asking about one agricultural season.
- What data quality issue(s) should you be concerned about?
**Scenario #5:** Helping Farmers NGO conducted trainings in XYZ district and has submitted the training sign-in sheets as verification. When reviewing them, however, you notice that most of the signatures seem too similar.

- What data quality issue(s) should you be concerned about?

**Scenario #6:** Helping Farmers NGO hired a third party contractor to collect baseline data for # of hectares under improved technology, and is now preparing to collect annual monitoring data.

- Assuming that Helping Farmers NGO will no longer collect hectare information with the same third party at baseline, what data quality issue(s) would you be concerned about?
**Data Quality Assessments**

**Notes:**
- A DQA focuses on applying the data quality standards and examining the systems and approaches for collecting data to determine whether they are likely to produce high quality data over time.
- If the data quality standards are met and the data collection methodology is well designed, then it is likely that good quality data will result.
- DQAs are done at the indicator-level but are dependent on data collected at the activity-level!

**DQA Options**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informal Option</th>
<th>Semi-formal Option</th>
<th>Formal Option</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conducted internally by the AO team</td>
<td>Draws on management and M&amp;E expertise</td>
<td>Driven by broader programmatic needs, as warranted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing (driven by emerging and specific issues)</td>
<td>Periodic &amp; systematic</td>
<td>More dependent on external technical expertise and/or specific types of data expertise</td>
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<tr>
<td>More dependent on the AO team and individual expertise of program</td>
<td>Facilitated and coordinated by the M&amp;E expert, but AO team members are participants</td>
<td>Product: Either a Data Quality Assessment report or addressed as a part of another report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducted by the program manager</td>
<td>Product: Data Quality Assessment Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Product: Documented in memos, notes in the PMP</td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the Feed the Future Performance Monitoring Course, contact: Anne Swindale (aswindale@usaid.org) or Salik Farooqi (sfarooqi@usaid.gov)

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