**Food Security & Nutrition Network**

**Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force Meeting**

**July 2011**

**Meeting date:**

US based members: 6th of July

Field based members: 7th of July

**Participants:**

Makonnen Raphael (Save the Children)

Chung Lai (IRD)

Harry “Hap” Carr (CRS)

Nestor Mogollen (ADRA)

Ediner Ogwangi (Land O’Lakes)

Pamela Velez-Vega (FANTA 2/AED)

Donard Nyirenda (World Vision, Haiti)

Faly Rabetaliana (Land O Lakes, Madagascar)

Arif Rashid (TOPS/ TANGO International)

Thank you all for your active participation.

**FSN Network Technical Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique**

* TOPS Program is organizing a food security and nutrition network technical knowledge sharing meeting in Mozambique. The meeting is scheduled to be held from 19th to 23rd of September. The first two days will be devoted to training on key technical areas while the knowledge sharing and networking events will take place on the following three days.
* PVO representatives and Food for Peace Officers from the region will be attending the technical meeting. It is an opportunity to share promising practices, tools and methods, as well as networking with PVOs and FFP. TOPS will sponsor 50 members to attend the meeting.
* The Task Force members are asked to forward a list of promising practices, tools, and methods that they like to share in Maputo and also forward their topic of interest for the training session.

**Beneficiary Tracking System**

All of the members expressed their interest to learn more about beneficiary tracking systems. Members acknowledged that lack of an efficient and cost effective tracking system has been resulting double or triple counting of beneficiaries. Beneficiary tracking is particularly challenging when either the same member participate in multiple project activities or multiple members from the same household participate in different project activities under different strategic objectives.

Save the Children Country Offices in a couple of countries developed systems using cell phones or smart phones. CRS has hired a consultant to review the existing system and develop an organization wide system to track beneficiary households. TOPS will try to identify existing promising practices and will try to make a presentation in Maputo.

Task Force members reiterated that cost effectiveness of the system should be a critical factor in developing such a system.

FFP has standards on how to count beneficiaries. Pamela will share the methodology with the group.

**Impact Evaluation Conference in Cuernavaca**

Harry “Hap” Car from CRS and Arif Rashid from TOPS attended the international conference on Impact Evaluation. Following are the highlights from Hap’s presentation.

* 3ie was set up 5 years ago to help have Impact Evaluations be treated as a public good
  + Conference was about what was done since then and the extend it feeds into decision making
  + Slides are available on the website, and Arif will send out the ones to which he attended [note: Please send Arif an email if you want them]
* Most people from the panel were academics, with a very small PVO presence in general
  + Hap was struck by the disconnect of the academic community in wanting more methods, but not thinking about the costs
* There was push on using mixed methods for impact evaluations
* According to World Bank estimates, an impact evaluation costs approximately $1 million.
  + One of the key message was not every projects need an impact evaluation, and if you are not doing impact evaluation, please do not call it an impact evaluation;
  + Impact evaluations should be conducted by independent evaluators while it is critical that they participate in the project design so they can randomly assign control and treatment areas.

**Comments on Draft Baseline and End-line Indicators**

* Deadline for comments on the FFPIB is July 20, 2011
* FtF and FFP are aligning their indicators, so FFP is doing a review of their Baseline and Final Evaluation indicators
* Annual Monitoring indicators are similar to the “F” indicators, which are currently being reviewed by USAID. So these are on hold
* Not all indicators are applicable to all programs. If the project/program interventions match with the indicator, the program/project has to report on them.
  + i.e. if you do not have a WatSan component, you do not need to measure those indicators
  + These indicators will be used by FFP to report to Congress

**Comments**

* + The members are not sure whether indicator 1 and 2 are highly correlated? If they are, then are they not telling the same information?
  + The task force members expressed their concern about asking the two questions (question to gather information for indicators 1 and 5) in the same survey. Many believe that they will not be able to bring out the difference if any, in dietary diversity of the household members and dietary diversity of woman at reproductive age if they are asked in the same survey. For example if the respondent is the wife of the household head (which is often the case), the survey would ask her *“Now I would like to ask you about the types of foods that* ***you*** *or* ***anyone else*** *in your household ate yesterday during the day and at night”*. Again to collect information for indicator number 5, the woman will be asked *“Now I would like to ask* ***you*** *about the types of foods that you ate yesterday during the day and at night.”*
  + The agriculture indicators are weak. The objectives are not clear. The indicator related to fertilizer and irrigation are context specific. If the purpose of this FFPIB is to aid FFP to tell its story to congress, then more standardized indicators are needed which can be aggregated at the higher level.
  + Productivity is not listed. It is hard to measure and unreliable however it is an important indicator and many Title II projects are trying to increase productivity.
  + Income is complicated to measure. It is difficult to collect income data. An asset index could be used as proxy. Perhaps we want to focus on the percent of improved assets for the most poor.
  + Increased access to credit does not necessarily mean that farmers are doing better. This indicator needs to be revisited. Instead of credit, savings could be used as an indicator. Perhaps have indicators for credit and savings, and should choose as appropriate. The Task Force members wanted to check with the micro-finance specialist and forward their comments to Pamela.

**M&E Training in Monrovia, Liberia**

The training is scheduled from 08 to 12 August. The training will cover the following key topics:

* M&E Plan
* Creating simple database
* Database management
* Qualitative methods and tools in monitoring, and
* Qualitative analysis

There are three MYAPs in Liberia and Sierra Leone. NGOs that implement MYAP and or implemented MYAP in the recent past are eligible to nominate staff to participate in the training.