

Highlights from the 5th IACD Sub Sahara Africa Webinar
Date: Wednesday, 11th November 2020 at 11:00am EAT.
Topic: Participatory Evaluation of Community Development Projects
Presenter: Joshua Makau Nzoka - IACD and ACDP-K member.

Attended by 36 participants

From Kenya - Joshua Makau, Muthoni Kang'ara, Sylvia Muthoni, Charity Kiilu, Haway Adan, Obed Gitonga, Milkah Mutuku, Linda Waweru, Benard Kiplangat, Stellah Kilonzi, Lydia Masai, Leah Githinji, Francis Mwangi, Stellah Masese, and Daniel Muia; Nikkismilak (USA/Kenya); Roger Green (London), Mirco Cordeiro (UK/ Mozambique) De Wet Schutte (South Africa); Addirahman Mohamoud (Somaliland); Bereket Roba (South Korea/Ethiopia); Ferdousi akter (Bangladesh); Anthony Miller, Philippe Chaize, and Dominique (CBM); Maureen, Dayan, Sambuli, Genson, Benjamin Morogo, Mokin Ptang'uny; Rose, Pa Njie, Alew William, Bukania, and Meredith (IACD).

Conceptual definitions

Community Development is basically a strategy or an approach that brings about change through initiation of projects that are responsive to community needs. Projects are undertaken to achieve a desired community goal. Evaluation is the analysis of completed goals, objectives, and activities to determine whether the project has produced desired results, benefits or change. While participation is taking part in a joint activity either through sharing different experiences, challenges and knowledge with one another, listening, learning, asking questions and showing respect for all persons involved in the project.

Participatory evaluation of community projects is done through involvement of stakeholders, who define the evaluation objective, methodology, collect and interpret data in order to make recommendations on the effectiveness, relevance, impact and cost.

Who implements community projects- Government, non -Governmental Organizations (NGOS), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or Self Help Groups (SHGs). Stakeholders - always cut across but can mainly be categorized as beneficiaries, and (dis)beneficiaries.

Who undertakes participatory evaluation- all stakeholders - program managers, supervisors, funders, external evaluators and community/beneficiaries.

Steps involved-There are key steps involved that fall in seven phases- Phase I -preplanning meetings, Phase II- evaluation planning workshop, Phase III- fieldwork (preparation, data collection and analysis), Phase IV- workshop to formulate lessons learned , Phase V- summary of evaluation results, Phase VI- development of an action plan, Phase VII- finalization, dissemination of evaluation report.

Why is participatory evaluation important? – so as to empower local people, community members are involved, being able to point out own indicators of success, use of simple methods. Ultimately there is ownership of process. Power relations are intermediated.

Challenges - resources, time, skills and knowledge and power plays.

Significance of participatory evaluation - accountability, objectivity, community ownership, and capacity building.

Date of next webinar – 9th December 2020 at 11.00am Nairobi Time