



ActivityInfo

Participatory M&E from Theory to Practice

Integrating Participation in the Design of M&E Systems

Starting shortly, please wait!

Presenter



Zeila Lauletta

M&E Implementation Specialist

Presented by the ActivityInfo Team

All in one information management software for humanitarian and development operations.

- Track activities, outcomes
- Beneficiary management
- Surveys
- Work offline/online

ActivityInfo

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ActivityInfo

Information management software for the social sector

Everything you need for your data collection and reporting needs. No-code relational database builder. Integrated analysis tools and advanced user management capabilities.

ActivityInfo is perfect for

- Case Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Humanitarian coordination
- Cash & Voucher Assistance

Our key features

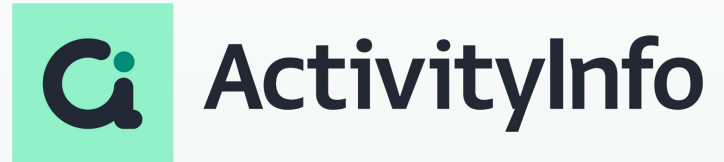
- Mobile data collection
- Data entry
- Data management
- Analysis & visualization

BeDataDriven Mission



Provide the UN and NGOs with a standard, easy-to-use and comprehensive data management platform so that as many organizations as possible can become data-driven to achieve better outcomes for rights holders worldwide.

BeDataDriven pursues this mission by building and helping organizations implement ActivityInfo.

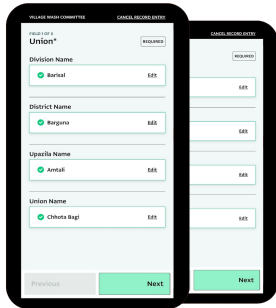


ActivityInfo

An end-to-end solution for M&E data management

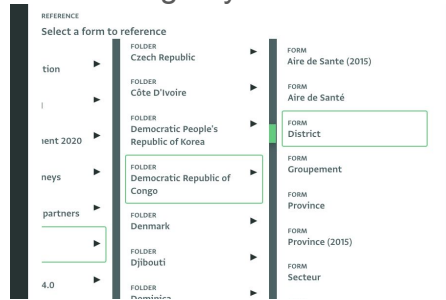
Data collection

Easily collect the data you need from anywhere



Data management

Organize your information according to your workflow

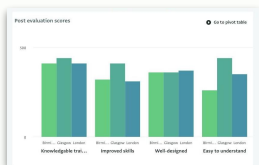


Data analysis

Generate actionable insights in real-time



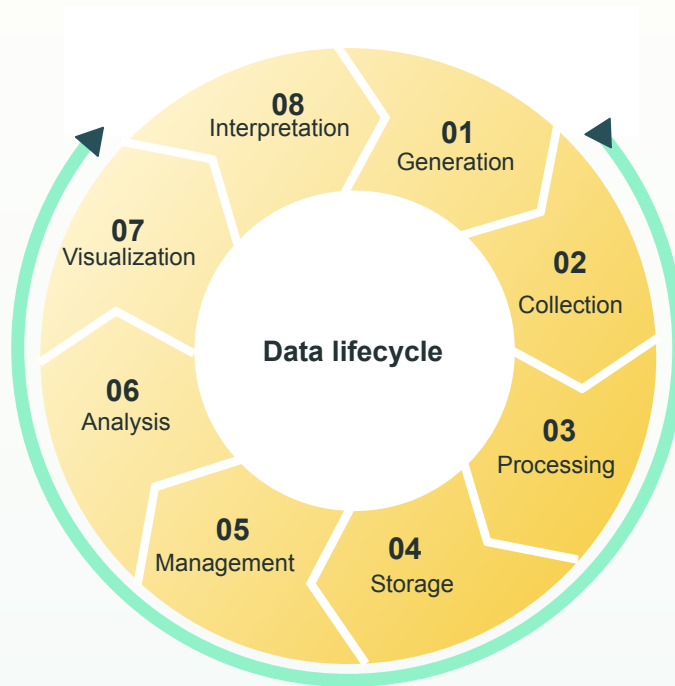
ActivityInfo is your **integrated** solution for managing your data across the data lifecycle.



Logframe 2020

Indicator	Northwest F.O.	Southwest F.O.
Number of families who benefited from 1st	22338	22288
Number of members who benefited from 1st	63447	17828
Number of men who benefited from 1st	6417	17617
Number of 1st sites	16	13
Number of assessments	8	13
Number of 1st business	17	17

- Reference folder
- Beneficiary outreach
- Inventory of qualitative material
- Post training evaluation survey



Date of reporting

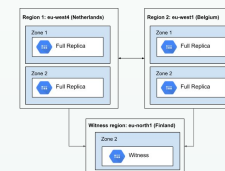
Province

Theme of assistance

households participating

```

IF(AGE < 18, 5, 0)
+ IF(AGE > 65, 3, 0)
  IF(GENDER.Female, 5, 0)
+ IF(DISABLED.Temporarily, 3, 0)
+ IF(DISABLED.Permanently, 5, 0)
+ IF(INV.CHILDREN > 10, 10, 0)
    
```



ActivityInfo

ActivityInfo Users



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat



Self-paced course



Self-paced course

Designing Information Management Systems with ActivityInfo

- ✓ 10 in-depth modules
- ✓ Certificate of Completion
- ✓ Free of charge

Register now



Eliza Avgeropoulou,
Senior M&E Implementation
Specialist- ActivityInfo

Outline

- Recap from Part 1
- Participation across the M&E cycle
 - Co-designing outcomes and indicators
 - Participatory data collection approaches
 - Participatory analysis
 - Informing decisions and improvements
- Embedding participation in M&E systems
- Navigating trade-offs and challenges

Participation: from principles to practice

Participation is about
power and
decision-making

Rights holders as
decision-makers, not just
data sources

Participation must
influence outcomes

From WHY
participation matters

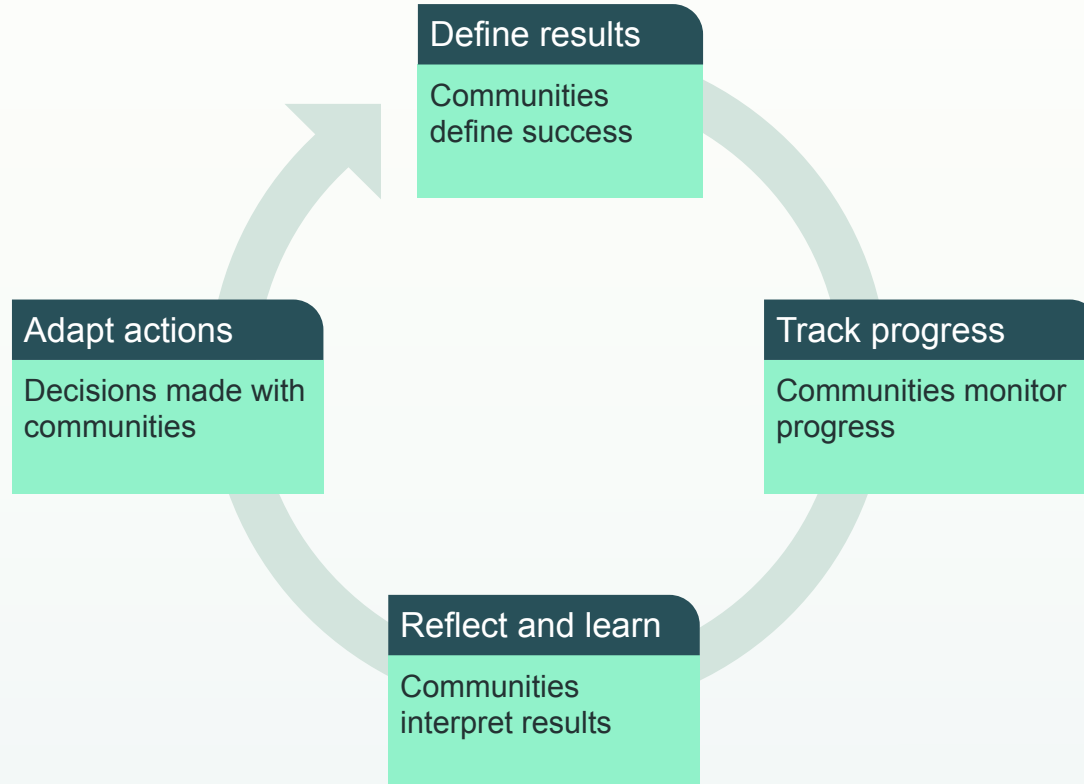


to HOW we design
for it



Participation across the M&E cycle

Centering communities across the M&E cycle



Case study: Community-led nutrition program

A rural nutrition program aims to improve food security and child nutrition in a marginalized community.



Indicators defined by NGO/donor

Data collected through household surveys

Findings analyzed internally

Limited community ownership

Participation across the M&E cycle



Define results

Co-designing what success looks like

Start with community definitions of change



Move beyond technical indicators



Capture lived experience and priorities



Method: Community outcome workshops

01 Prepare

Number of months households can access and consume preferred foods

02 Discuss priorities

03 Define outcomes

04 Define indicators

05 Validate

Track progress



Tracking what matters over time

Community-led data collection

Simple, regular tracking

Combines data + stories



Method: Community monitoring

01 Prepare

02 Train

03 Collect data

04 Record

05 Check & support

Month	Accessed preferred foods?
January	Yes
February	Yes
March	No

Reflect and learn

Making sense of the data

Go beyond numbers



Involve communities in interpretation



Identify underlying causes



Method: Validation & sense-making workshops

01 Prepare

02 Present

03 Interpret

04 Validate

05 Document & agree

Only 4–5 months of
access

Adapt actions

Closing the loop

Data → discussion →
decisions

Participation informs
action

Feedback shared back



Method: Joint decision-making

01 Prepare

02 Revisit insights

03 Prioritize

04 Decide

05 Plan & feedback

Target support during
low-access months



Embedding participation in M&E systems

From participatory M&E cycle to participatory M&E system

What happens



What enables it

Participatory M&E Cycle

- Define
- Collect
- Analyze
- Adapt

Participatory M&E System

- Roles (who does what)
- Tools (data systems)
- Budget (resources to do it)
- Routines (learning & feedback)

What needs to change in M&E systems

System Component	Typical Setup	Participatory Shift
Budgets	No allocation for participation	Dedicated resources for engagement
Roles	M&E = data, programs = people	M&E includes facilitation & engagement
Data systems	Track indicators only	Track participation & feedback
Workflows	Reporting cycles	Reflection + feedback loops
Accountability	Upward (donors)	Also downward (communities)

What this looks like in practice

Indicator: Number of months households can access preferred foods



Budget allocated for community workshops & monitoring



Community members trained as data collectors



Data system captures monthly tracking



Regular community review meetings



Adjustments made based on seasonal gaps

Poll Time



Designing participatory M&E systems with digital tools

Design for participation

Support different roles

Capture and track data over time

Enable reflection and use

ActivityInfo Demo



Navigating tensions in participatory M&E systems

Navigating tensions in participatory M&E systems

Participation vs speed



Design realistic workflows and prioritize key participation moments

Community priorities vs donor requirements



Combine participatory and technical indicators in your system

Inclusion vs feasibility



Define roles and structure participation across the process

Data ownership vs control



Set clear rules for data access, use, and safeguarding

Key takeaways

Participation must be designed into systems, not just methods.

What you measure, and who defines it, shapes decisions.

Participation adds value when it influences decisions, not just data.

M&E systems must support feedback, learning, and accountability.

There is no perfect model. only better choices in context.

Questions?

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