Alexandra Hernandez
International Alert

Yahoska Berrios
Conciliation Resources

Andres Schädel
Berghof Foundation

Dané Smith
MEDRC

Esme Markham
MEDRC

Webinar Brief

Bringing together practitioners in the field, this discussion presents insights on monitoring, evaluation and learning with a particular focus on conflict and peacebuilding related programs.

Highlights and Key Takeaways

- There is no one-size-fits-all approach to effective monitoring and evaluation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding programming. It is important to apply different approaches that are proportionate to team capacity and resources.
- Although different programs may monitor and evaluate conflict resolution and peacebuilding program impacts differently, there are common challenges shared.
- There is a demand for a stronger knowledge and resource pool to be developed on MEL in peacebuilding.
- A systems approach to setting up monitoring and evaluation processes has been helpful in advancing adaptive management in non-linear programming spaces.
- In some instances, outcome harvesting has been helpful in designing cross-organizational M&E processes that recognize and account for unexpected changes, unforeseeable actors and varying factors.
- In adopting an outcome harvesting approach, it is important to focus on how a program contributes instead of looking at how it attributes.
- The challenges of outcome harvesting include that it is costly, time intensive and retrospective.
- Processes of reflection, retrospective analysis and cross-organizational learning are important and should feedback into the broader applied approaches and processes.
- Decentralized approaches to monitoring and evaluation are helpful to adaptive management across programs but requires that all program teams are familiar with and trained in the relevant approaches and processes.
- Digital tools stand to contribute a great deal to monitoring and evaluation processes in conflict areas. An example of this is the use of ArcGIS Story Maps by Berghof Foundation.
- There is benefit to using peer-review methods to evaluating program impact.
- The issue of reverse engineering files in attempt to meet donor requirements is a real risk that needs to be mitigated.
- Monitoring and evaluation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding programming requires teams to move beyond traditional approaches to MEL and implement methods that are flexible and that can be adapted in complex and often volatile environments.

Sources for Further Insights

- Watch the webinar recording here.
- For more information on outcome harvesting, refer here.
- For more information on monitoring, process design and cross-collaboration in mediation programs, refer here.
- For more information on rigorous impact evaluation, refer here and here.
- To stay up-to-date with MEDRC's Stabilization Mechanism Project and upcoming webinars, refer here.