

Myth Buster Answer Sheet

| SN | Myth | Response |
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| 1 | Monitoring and Evaluation is a neutral profession and therefore evaluators should never take into account political considerations. | False. Monitoring and Evaluation is by nature political because the evidence or statement generated about programmes enter the political space because programmes are political creatures |
| 2. | The primary objective of M&E is to supply information to the external stakeholders so as to maintain the legitimacy of the programmes. | True. M&E performs inward and outward facing functions meant to improve the design, operation and legitimacy of programmes. |
| 3. | The M&E framework is set at the beginning of the project and allows you to learn at the end of the project. | False. It allows learning throughout the project. |
| 4. | An M&E system is useless if the collected data is not used for decision-making. | True. Outcome of M&E is only realised when the information collected is used to make decisions. |
| 5. | A well-designed monitoring system can solve problems. | False. A monitoring system does not solve problems by itself because it is a tool. So if it not utilised then it is not helpful. |
| 6. | M&E is only about the impact of programmes on the beneficiaries. | False. M&E play multipurpose roles such as inward and outward functions, which go beyond the impact on beneficiaries. M&E also looks at other aspects like efficiency |
| 7. | It is possible to quantify the actual impact of a given social protection programme to the welfare of beneficiaries even when at any given time are other programmes reaching the same beneficiaries. | True. Impact evaluation methods, such as RCTs, enable attributing observed changes to a given SP intervention, and not to other factors, variables or programmes. Controlling for potential “confounders” is critical for any impact evaluation. |
| 8. | When demand for M&E information is low, you can use negative incentive tools to increase the uptake of data by users. | True. Incentives whether positive or negative can help catalyse the uptake of data. |
| 9. | M&E is a cost. | False. M&E is an investment because if well used, the information generated by M&E will result in better policy outcomes and go beyond the cost incurred in setting and implementing M&E. |
| 10. | Implementation of M&E is meant to fulfil funding obligations to the funders (e.g. Ministry of Finance and donors). | False. M&E serves both internal and external functions. It is also an integral part of the programme implementation and ‘internal’ improvement. |
| 11. | A reliable monitoring system must be very comprehensive in terms of statistics and reports. | False. You can have a simple monitoring system that gives you what you want and enable you to make decisions |
| 12. | Programme staff are better placed to undertake an evaluation. | False. It depends on the type of staff and the situation. Usually they may lack the expertise and may lack independence and autonomy which could undermine the findings |

