

**Monitoring & Evaluating Local Capacity Building Approaches in  
Development Projects  
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**Summary:** Local capacity building activities and tools must be tailored to the specific organization, country, sector, and activity. As local organizations engage more with USAID, monitoring and evaluation capacity building should be implemented as a key component of local capacity development and must have a larger role in the training. It's important to recognize the differences in monitoring and evaluation capacity building with other types of capacity building activities.

**Highlights:**

- Monitoring and evaluation capacity building of local organizations should be based on the needs in each country and include the creation of communities of practice and networks in each country.
- It's important to evaluate programs after a sufficient amount time to see impact. The specific timing depends on the individual project, but should be no less than 12 months.
- When working on capacity development, performance could initially decrease as organizations improve internal systems. Plans and tools need to be multi-dimensional to allow for this development.
- Capacity building is an on-going process and local organizations learn M&E through practice.
- The key to capacity building is how to achieve better development results by working through local systems
- All programs should have a built-in assessment plan and use results to improve implementation
- Local organizations must have adequate capacity building and training as a mechanism for sustainability

**Synthesis and Reflection:**

The session discussion addressed the need for more international collaboration for capacity building and the need to look at how to achieve better development results working through local systems. While there are key skills needed to effectively implement M&E, one objective in developing local capacity should be to build M&E communities of practice and networks in every country. These networks would reinforce capacity building efforts and allow experts in each country to address unique, local challenges.

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