

**IICD FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD AT UGANDA MARTYRS
UNIVERSITY NKOZI, 22ND APRIL 2006**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Opening remarks

The meeting was opened by Chris Kasangaki. In his opening speech, Chris said that the session should help the participants to improve their work. He reiterated that the day was dedicated to discussing M&E and that it should be regarded as a process for learning rather than fault finding.

1.2 Expectations

The session on expectations sought for participant's expectations with the view to achieving the best from the ensuing presentations and the workshop. The following were participants' expectations:



- To know what M&E means
- How often?
- Achievements of M&E so far
- What happened to the previous M&E results
- How UCE evaluation was done
- How can we apply M&E to our projects
- Useful lessons to learn from previous M&E results
- How can we improve on our weaknesses
- What is the role of the partners
- How to understand better how the M&E exercise benefits
- Understand the M&E results and learn from them
- The relevance of the M&E to the project Node
- Rural economic impact of the project

After participants had presented their expectations, Nele, went ahead to clarify on them, highlighting the areas that would be covered within the scope of her presentation. She promised to answer most of the issues raised in the expectations.

2.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN UGANDA – AN OVERVIEW by Nele Blommestein

In her introductory remarks, she informed participants that of all the four countries she is working with, her favorite team is the Ugandan team whom she has found most interesting to work with.

Question

How can we use M&E and not wait for the team to come in?

Nele informed participants that in the future, each project will be evaluated separately and results discussed before the Node meeting. Participants were urged to implement the projects based on the indicators that were developed in the initial project design and that monitoring should be carried out from time to time. Participants at the project level, were also urged to use the results of the previous M&E to improve their work, rather than wait for the project node meetings where M&E is discussed.

Nele further emphasized the need for project teams to do own monitoring through quarterly reports, which contain financial data and indicators. Arjan reportedly looks at day to day data, procurement, etc. The M&E team on the other hand looks at each project each and satisfaction from end-users – project users. Nele noted that in the long run, projects will be tasked to do their own M&E using the online tool for their own use. This she observed requires projects to think about doing their own M&E and decide how often they would like to do it, whether, yearly, etc.

Question:

If there is an M&E team, why does the project Node have to come together in a meeting to discuss the results? It appears like the project node is part of the M&E team.

Clarification was made as follows: The Project Node is not part of the M&E team. The M&E team is charged with the responsibility of collecting and analyzing data which is then presented to the Project Team for discussion during the Focus Group Meetings. The actual understanding of the M&E results takes place during the Node meetings.

Question

Why were the previous M&E partners changed?

Nele clarified why the previous M&E partner had to be changed. She informed participants that the person who was undertaking the M&E support left the organization that was contracted to provide M&E support. She informed the meeting that although the

person was willing to be part of the IICD family, she was no longer working with the said organisation .

She went on to introduce the new M&E partners as follows:

1. Jannet Opio and Alfred Kurong from Aclaim Africa
 - *Responsible for quantitative data collection*
 - *Responsible for statistical analysis*
2. Chris Kasangaki from Project Node
 - *Responsible for qualitative Focus Group sessions*
 - *Responsible for report writing*

Presentation: M&E in Uganda – an overview, Nele Blommestein (IICD)

The presentation highlighted the M&E history in Uganda since 2003 which took place in the following places: 2003, Makerere University; November 2004, TTP and June 2005 TTP. She reported that in 2006, focus will be on education projects, good governance and health. She presented to the participants the highlights of the upcoming matters as follows:

1. Data collection coming up, Education projects: Kyambogo, NTC's, Good-governance projects: DistrictNets, MTTI and Health projects: UCMB, Martyrs University
2. Focus Group meetings
 - *As part of the Project Node meetings, every quarter*
 - *A different sector every time*

She informed the meeting about data so far or to be collected in the various sectors as indicated below:

- Good governance project 2004
- Education 2004
- Capacity Development 2002-5
- Projects in formulation and implementation (several times)
- Information Networks members (Dec 2005)
- Livelihoods projects (End 2005/early 2006)

M&E was described as a system for improving the methods, approaches and results of own projects and activities. She also informed participants that in 2005, the M&E partners had a meeting in the Netherlands and came up with the following vision which is going to become a slogan for the project:

“Promoting a learning spirit”

On the methodology of the M&E, she noted that it is an integrated approach involving collection of qualitative data – questionnaires which helps to identify common problems

at programme and sector level. It also involves quantitative data which is presented during the Focus Group Meetings involving in depth discussion about common problems and looking for solutions together. She emphasized that this is now done on a quarterly basis in Uganda.

She concluded her presentation by describing how the online database works and how questionnaires can be downloaded and printed and filled out rather than waiting for the M&E partners.

3.0 RESULTS LIVELIHOOD ANALYSIS INCLUDING EAOSS, NDERE TROUPE, UCE, UIRI, UICT

3.1 Background

The results of the above projects were presented by Chris Kasangaki, one of the M&E partners. The total sample of respondents was drawn from the project areas that have benefited from the livelihood programmes.

He was disappointed to note that the data was not as impressive as had been expected. At least each project was expected to submit 50 questionnaires, but this did not happen. The biggest sample however of close to 100 was from URRI. He hoped that in the next months ahead, there will be more data collected.

3.2 Organisation and project

In total there were 295 respondents. The biggest number of respondents was from UIRI (32.1%), followed by UCE and UICT (23%, 20.9%) In terms of organisations, Kayunga Cooperative Enterprise Ltd and Kabale Trinity College had the largest numbers of (13.5%) and (10.1%) respectively.

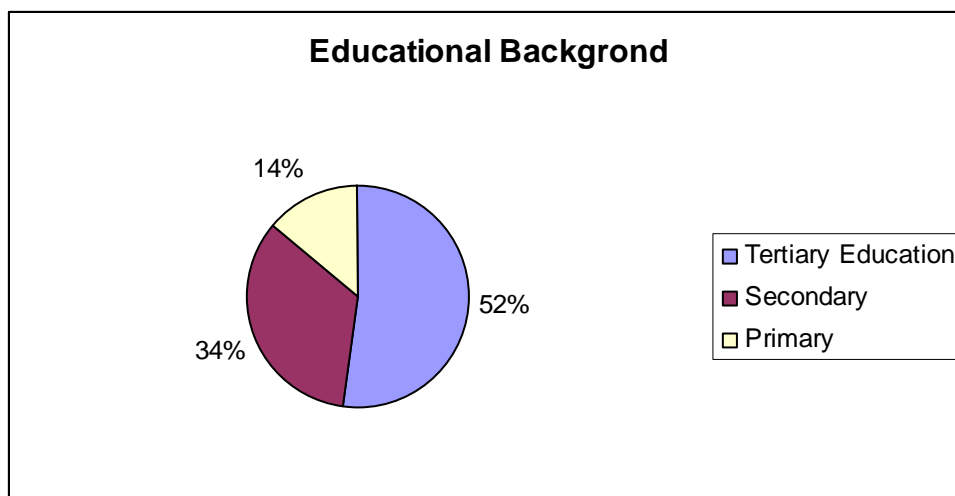
The sample shows that there are more students 49% between the ages of 20-30 compared to other people. This according to the presenter says something about who we targeted. In terms of gender, the participation of female (37%) was lower than that of male (63%). Participants were of the opinion that female participation is low because the projects do not necessarily focus on gender.

3.3 Location of respondents

The locations are respondents were as follows: (EACOSS; 77% capital; 23% district town; 0% rural); (Ndere Troupe: 0% capital; 27% district town; 73% rural); (UCE: 0% capital; 6% district town; 94% rural); (UICT: 0% capital; 19% district town; 81% rural) and (UIRI:1% capital; 92% district town; 7% rural)

3.4 Educational background

On the educational levels, most respondents (52%) had gone through tertiary education, with a reasonable number (34%) going up to secondary. The chart below shows the educational distribution of the respondents.



3.5 Type of information used by respondents

The analysis shows good distribution of information usage as seen below.

- 52% use electronic information,
- 73% use oral information,
- 67% use written information

3.6 Achievement of goals

Sixty eight percent (68%) of the respondents achieved their goals. Key achievements were; learning modern methods of farming from ARRIN, competence in the use of computer and its accessories, access to information, knowledge on cultural aspects like drama, communication and market information.

Those who did not achieve their goals said this was due to among others, lack of time for those who are students, lack of adequate information and few training centres

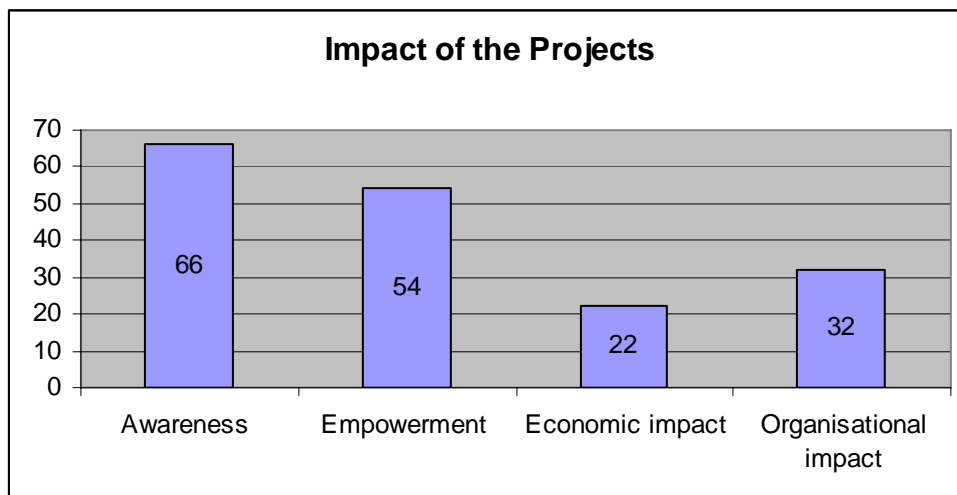
3.7 Satisfaction with services

More people were satisfied with the quality of the service, with the lowest satisfaction level being the website. Generally speaking, respondents were also satisfied with the training, the cost of the service and technical support. The results are weaker in the rural areas.

The timing of information was identified as one of the areas for improvement. The inadequacy of the websites was cited as the main reason why there were less satisfaction rating for the website. The facilities to enable people access the websites were also few in rural areas.

3.8 Impact of the projects

The impact of the projects is higher in terms of awareness raising (66%) and empowerment (54%). Organizational impact (34%) and economic impact (22%) are lower. However, it was observed that there was a lot more economic impact in the rural areas.



4.0 GROUP DISCUSSION – EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

In five working groups, participants were divided to discuss ways of improving economic impact in the projects. Each group was asked to present one point.

DISCUSSION THEME 1: GROUP DISCUSSIONS - HOW TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

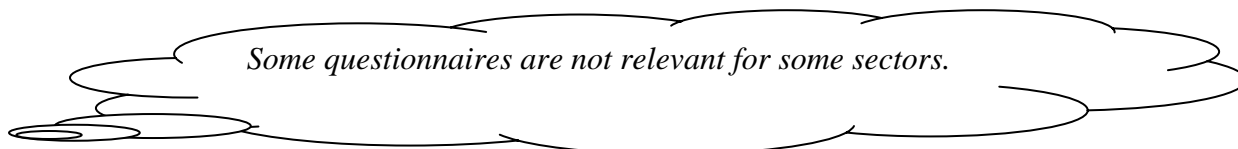
What can be done to improve economic impact (5) things? Economic impact focuses on the end users.

Concrete suggestions to improve economic impact arising from the focus group discussions were presented in the plenary.

Group No	Idea generated	Comments from the plenary/proposed activities
Group 1	<p>Increase awareness through sensitisation of the end users of the project about project services, activities and how they impact their livelihoods</p> <p>The benefits</p> <p>Their role</p> <p>Modified to: Increase awareness about benefits of project services</p>	<p>Need to make the idea more active. For instance can we produce brochures and distribute around.</p> <p>Maybe the people do not understand the services of the project which can lead to economic empowerment.</p> <p>The increase in awareness about benefits of project services</p> <p>Maybe the sampling ought to be changed. For instance use stratified</p>

Group No	Idea generated	Comments from the plenary/proposed activities
		sampling. It was timely to do the evaluation. The results are okay, what needs to be done is to discuss how to improve on the economic impact.
Group 2	Improve information flow through training/capacity building and strengthening partnerships	
Group 3	Understand the project objectives in order to make respondents understand the questionnaire	The idea assumption is that people do not fully understand the questionnaire. The problem is not on the results, but they do not understand the questionnaire and have therefore completed it wrongly. Further explanation the questionnaire, might get us more positive impact.
Group 4	Internal follow-up	
Group 5	Prove relevant, timely information to their right target group	

Questions



Clarification: From the discussions emerging, it appeared that some people thought that the questionnaires. It was however, clarified that the questionnaires are specific to each sector.

5.0 ISSUES RAISED THAT NEED TO BE CLARIFIED

- **How do we measure economic impact of our projects?**

Livelihood project is largely focusing on economic impact and thus economic impact is more emphasized in this sector. Each sector has got different emphasis and statements in the questionnaire are changed to fit the sector.

- **From what period is the statistic derived?**

Participants were informed that the analysis presented for the discussions were derived from the start of the project. They were also informed that each period, the sectors would be evaluated and the results compared with the previous evaluations.

Participants were further told that the economic impact of 22% was from a representative sample and comprised what was taken from the people who responded positively. It was stressed that the 22% represent only positive feedback, while the other 78% were mid-way or others negative on the impact of the livelihood project on their lives. Participants were encouraged to focus on the positive results of 22% and rather think about how to improve on the economic impact in the future.

4.2 DISCUSSION THEME 2: GENDER

The second working group discussions focused on answering the question, **“Why are there more men than women?”**

Participants were taken through an exercise to try and answer this question. To do this, participants were divided into two groups (men and women). They were asked to sit in a circle, with women in the inner circle while the men stayed in the outer circle. Each woman in the circle was asked to provide one reason for the above question, ensuring each time that the response was different from other persons. The men were then asked to take their turn and give possible responses to the above.

	Women	Men
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlucky • Busy • Badly off • Less empowered • Culture • Upbringing • Not aware • Mother • Inferiority • Domestic • Time • Keeping home • Fear for responsibility • Not a leader • Bringing up children • Not allowed • Not involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquid • Assertive • Education • Vulnerable • Culture • Less informed • Importance • Superior • Mindset • Domestic • More opportunities • Stronger • Produce kids • Focus • Determination • Focus • Less interest • Perception • Achievers • Science • Nature • Not involved • Inheritance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not interested • Policy ICT • Fearless • Hardworking • Awareness • Weak • Recipients • Property • Intuitive • Domestic work • Religion • Married • Society • Head families • Focused • Less empowered
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Most outstanding issues that kept being repeated as noted by both groups are highlighted below.

Women	Men
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population distribution • Culture • Education • Property • Superiors • Focused • Religion • Workload • Producing children • Subordinates • Lack of awareness • No interest • Nature • Mindset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Inferiority complex • Education • Mothers • Fear • Upbringing • Not allowed • Culture • Men are hard working • Property

Participants were then asked this question: **“What can I do to change/ create a balance Think of your self as if you are a woman (to men). If I were a woman what would I do?”**

They had the following to say among others:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination • Change my mindset • Become involved • Cooperate • Assertive • Network • Convince • Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate • Get training • Aim higher • Mobilise • Create awareness • Participate in politics • Attitude • Show importance |
|---|---|

- Change culture
- Discourage confrontation
- Child spacing
- Share responsibilities
- What did you hear
- Child spacing
- Emancipation
- Start business
- Forget culture
- Change culture
- Get involved
- Change mindset
- Network
- Share responsibility
- Join associations

4.3 WRAP-UP

To wrap up the session, participants concluded that

Lady's turn – what would I do to reduce the imbalance? Imagine you are a man, what would you do to bring about balance in gender?

- Be cooperative
- Association
- Encourage and esteem
- Give chance
- Equal opportunities
- Awareness
- Training
- Discuss
- Encourage
- Women emancipation
- Break culture
- Encourage
- Keep boy and girl child
- Create more awareness
- Attend seminars
- Help with responsibilities at home
- Make one of the girls an heir
- Sensitize the man about women
- Share ideas with my wife
- Empower the girl child
- Education
- Work together
- Sensitize men
- Break the cultural trend
- Cooperation
- Organize my home
- Training

General Feedback

Participants shared the opinion that men consider women as property. This came out from both men and women during the exercise. The feedback shows that cultural barriers and attitude are some of the reasons for gender imbalance. Men also need to be sensitized about the involvement of women.

6.0 NEXT STEPS IN THE M&E PROGRAM, Jannet Opio, Aclaim Africa Ltd

Jannet briefly shared with participants the next steps for M&E. She informed participants that the next months (May – July) will be dedicated to collecting data in preparation for the next Focus Group Meeting which will take place in August (25th - 26th). Participants were urged to cooperate with the M&E partners to enable collection of adequate data to facilitate timely analysis of the results. Preliminary results will be sent to participants before the quarterly meetings.

7.0 MEETING EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

- The meetings should take place within 1.5 days
- Projects should know that they will always be busy – what we need to appreciate is the project objectives. We should not focus on the time
- The meeting place was far and a lot of time was wasted in traveling and the timetable not adhered to. Nkozi was selected as the venue for April meeting because they are the champions of Open Source Software which was the theme of the workshop.
- Can we consider making the meeting on Week days rather than Weekends. People coming from upcountry feel their whole weekend is wasted in travel.
- M&E results should be dispatched/mailed earlier for people to read and internalize. This might shorten the meeting time.
- The list of participants should be sent to all participants to enable sharing of information, etc.
- In future, the meetings should begin on Thursday and finish on Friday afternoons.

The next node meeting will take place from the 26th - 27th August 2006 at the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB)

8.0 ANNEXES

1. Program
2. List of participants
3. Presentations

Annex 1: Program

Annex 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SN	Name of participant	Project	Organisation and contact address
1.	Kereson Katongole	Improve Competence for SMEs using ICTs	Mubende Light SS ICT centre Mob: 077 2689038 Tel/fax0464 4614 Katongole@yahoo.co.uk
2.	Sylvester Timbisiimrwa	District Net	Mbarara District Loal Gov't 077 269002 Timbisiimirwa_sylvester@yahoo.ug.ug
3.	Douglas Otim	District Net	Lira District 077 2657543 douglasotim@yahoo.co.uk
4.	Maudah Katambuka	Improve Competence for Rural Small Scale Enterprises using ICTs	Kabale training College 078 2551016 Katamaudah@yahoo.com
5.	Natalie Kimbugwe		I-Network 075 2614048 kimbugwe@i-net.or.ug
6.	Sheila Mirembe	Improve Competence of Rural SMEs through ICT	UIRI 078 2365634/041 286124 mirembesh@yahoo.com
7.	Robert K Lutaya	EACOSS	075 2808889/041 223802 Robert@eacoss.org
8.	Joseph Mwanja	IFMN/ICTPF	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry 071 2653764/041 314268 josephmwanja@yahoo.co.uk /JMwanja@mtti.go.org
9.	Samuel W Bingi	ICT Maintenance Facility for Rural Uganda	UTC Bushenyi 077 2978764 samuelbingi@hotmail.com
10.	John Bosco Luyinda	ICT Maintenance Facility for Rural Uganda	UTC Masaka 078 2533707/0481 20308 luyindajohnbosco@yahoo.com
11.	Jacinta Ayo	ARRIN Tororo	Ndere 077 2655247/045 45170 Jacinta.othieno@yahoo.co.uk
12.	Sarah Komuhangi	Rural Information System to Support Commodity Exchange	Sheema ACE 078 2902780 komuhasa@yahoo.co.uk
13.	Emmaule Ediau	ICT Maintenance facility for Rural Uganda	UICT 077 2354188 Ediau_em@uict.ac.ug
14.	Josephine Nalubega	Improve Competence of Rural SMEs using ICTs	Uganda Industrial Research Institute 078 2307834/041 286124

			Nalubega@yahoo.co.uk
15.	Charles Ojilong	ICT Maintenance Facility in Rural Uganda	UTC Elgon 077 2446135/578228/03122755866 cojilong@yahoo.com
16.	Elisha Wasukira		I-Network Uganda 077 2740740 wasukira@i-network.or.ug
17.	John Tsekoko	Rural Information to Support Commodity Exchange	Kayunga ACE 077 2313512 tsekojohn@yahoo.com
18.	Joseph Ojiambo	Improving Competence for Rural SMEs using ICTs	UIRI 075 2938738/045 36442 ojiambo@yahoo.com
19.	Deborah Mwesigye	Rural Information System to Support a Commodity Exchange	Uganda Commodity Exchange 075 2519906/041 345678 deborahm@uce.co.ug
20.	Moses Kisembo	I-Network	I-Network 075 2772262 Kmoses01@yahoo.com
21.	John Kizito	Continuing Medical Education	Allied Health Professionals Council 077 2455256 kizitojk@yahoo.co.uk
22.	Simon Peter Wolumeli	Districtnet Mbale	Mable District Local Government 078 2231575 chepwoiz@yahoo.co.in
23.	Alfred Kurong	M&E partner	Aclaim Africa Ltd 071 2839994 alfredlabu@yahoo.co.uk
24.	Jannet Opio		Aclaim Africa Ltd 071 2800123/041 231040; fax: 231046 jopio@aclaimafrica.com
25.	Eunice Namirembe Gnay	I-Network Uganda	I-Network 071 2 833955 gnayeunice@yahoo.com
26.	Lule Tonny	ICT in Vocational & ICT Maintenance Facility UICT 077 2315801 ltonny@uict.ac.ug	
27.	Nele Blommestein		IICD, Netherlands

Annex 3: Presentations