MEAL DPro Learning Outcomes

An Introduction to MEAL
✓ Define the components, integrated structure, and purpose of MEAL
✓ Explain the benefits of a strong MEAL system
✓ Explain the five phases of MEAL
✓ Describe the ethical standards and principles relevant to MEAL
✓ Explain the importance of participation and critical thinking in MEAL processes
✓ Describe the relationship between MEAL and project management
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of key MEAL planning tools supporting these key areas:
  - MEAL Budget
  - MEAL Calendar
  - MEAL Staffing

Logic Models
✓ Explain how project logic models contribute to establishing a strong foundation for MEAL
✓ Explain the purpose and structure of a theory of change
✓ Discuss conceptual frameworks and how they inform a theory of change
✓ Explain the purpose and structure of a results framework
✓ Explain the purpose and structure of a logframe
✓ Compare and contrast components, purpose, and structure of theories of change, results frameworks and logframes.
✓ Describe the structure of a logframe
✓ Explain the purpose of identifying assumptions in logic models
✓ Explain the purpose of indicators
✓ Discuss types of indicators: standard, pre-existing, custom, direct, indirect, quantitative, and qualitative
✓ List and describe several measurement methods and the contexts in which they are used
✓ Compare the different data collection methods
✓ Discuss the use of different measurement methods in collecting MEAL data
Planning MEAL Activities
✓ Explain why monitoring and evaluation planning is important
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of the Performance Monitoring Plans
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of the Indicator Performance Tracking Table
✓ Identify and describe the components, structure, and purpose of a Data Flow Map
✓ Identify and describe the steps for creating Data Flow Maps
✓ Interpret an illustrative Data Flow Map
✓ Discuss the various types of evaluation and the data required for each
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of key MEAL planning tools
  o Evaluation Summary Table
  o Evaluation Terms of Reference
✓ Explain why MEAL planning is important for accountability and learning
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of feedback response mechanisms
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of the communications plan
✓ Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of the learning plan
✓ Explain the relationship of these plans to the broader project management plan

Collecting MEAL Data
✓ Describe the steps in developing and implementing tools for quantitative and qualitative data collection
✓ Explain the basic concepts of sampling: bias, validity, and generalization
✓ Discuss sampling constraints and sources of error
✓ Identify key approaches for data collection implementation strategies
✓ Explain generally accepted protocols and standards for responsible data management
✓ State the basics of selecting databases and associated data entry and cleaning practice

Analyzing MEAL Data
✓ Explain how MEAL planning documents guide data analysis and interpretation
✓ Describe basic calculations of quantitative data analysis
✓ Give examples of descriptive statistics
✓ Give examples of inferential statistics
✓ Discuss quantitative analysis errors
✓ Describe the basics of qualitative data analysis
Using MEAL Data

✓ Describe best practices in project and evaluation reporting
✓ Explain how analysis leads to appropriate interpretation and the development of conclusions and recommendations
✓ Describe the purpose and process of data visualization
✓ Provide data visualization best practices
✓ Identify the key principles of adaptive management, including how they are incorporated into the MEAL cycle
✓ Explain how data informs decision making and is used for learning
✓ Describe how MEAL efforts contribute to organizational and sectoral learning
✓ Describe how data are used within reports and communications