Empowering youth through participatory monitoring and evaluation

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference, October 7, 2014
Youth Microfinance Project

• **Objectives:** To promote asset building through Youth Savings and Loans Associations (YSLAs) and pilot linkage possibilities of graduated individuals and groups to formal financial institutions; provide life skills and financial education training to enhance youth’s chances of successful transition into adulthood; and document and share the results of the project.

• In partnership with **The MasterCard Foundation** and **Plan Canada**

• Targeting youth aged **15-25 years old**

• Implemented in **Senegal, Sierra Leone** and **Niger** from January 2010 to June 2014

• **Results:**
  - 89,719 youth reached through YSLA, life skills and financial education training
  - 4,150 savings groups formed in three countries
  - 84% female youth participation rate
  - 1,453 youth linked to a Microfinance Institution
Youth Participation and M&E

• Active *youth participation* across all sectors of the project as a means of empowering the youth beneficiaries.

• *Youth Advisory Boards* a mechanism integrated in all three countries involving democratically elected representatives of the youth beneficiaries.

• Involved in the project at multiple levels, including mentoring, group quality monitoring, providing additional training and collecting data, including the *Most Significant Change* tool.
What is Most Significant Change?
Most Significant Change Methodology

Fine-tuning

Verify stories
Quantify data
Conduct secondary analysis
Revise MSC process

Implementation

Collect stories
Select stories
Provide feedback

Preparation
Find champions
Establish domains
Define reporting period

YMF Project’s focus on MSC approach
Why use Most Significant Change?

• Provides a richer picture of the project results that goes beyond the indicators

• Encourages analysis of similarities or trends that have been occurring

• Creates a process for stakeholders to sit down and debate the stories and why they are significant to the project

• Uses a participatory approach that involves all levels of the project management, as well as local communities and project beneficiaries

• Enhances oral traditions that are very important in many of the project communities

• Documents changes that the project may not have anticipated (both positive and negative)
For more information…

Plan Canada’s Report

Most significant change stories: Voices of youth


Rick Davies’ website

http://mande.co.uk/special-issues/most-significant-change-msc/

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