

Beyond the Basics: Hands-On Training in Outcome Harvesting

Basic Information

Course title: Beyond the Basics: Hands-on Training in Outcome Harvesting

Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Having used Outcome Harvesting either for monitoring or evaluation

Target Number: No more than 25.

Technical Support Material: 3 flip charts stands or walls or screens that can be used to hang flip chart paper.

Workshop Description

Purpose, content and anticipated learning outcomes

Outcome Harvesting (OH) is a participatory monitoring and evaluation method that is used to identify, formulate, analyse and interpret outcomes. OH starts by collecting ('harvesting') evidence of what has changed ('outcomes') and then works backwards to determine whether and how an intervention has contributed to these changes. OH is particularly relevant to the conference theme. First, as a participatory Utilization Focused monitoring and evaluation approach it is used to understand and facilitate action informed by the perspectives of commissioners, evaluation users, evaluated partners, evaluators and external stakeholders. Second, reflection and sensemaking using OH data on outcomes, their significance, and how outcomes came about has proven to be a powerful support for collaboration among actors across fields as they collaboratively tackle complex problems.

This workshop is facilitated by a duo of seasoned Outcome Harvesting (OH) practitioners, who bring a wealth of international experience in both teaching and applying OH for effective monitoring and evaluation. This course is designed for those who have already used Outcome Harvesting either for monitoring or for evaluation. It will help deepen their proficiency in how to harvest, formulating challenging outcomes and stimulating participation during analysis and interpretation. Through hands-on exercises, the training will stimulate their thinking on these subjects, provide them with new ideas and deepen their understanding of the possibilities and trade-offs.

More specifically, after the training participants will:

- Be better prepared to organise a harvesting workshop or interview
- Have deepened their proficiency in formulating outcome statements by addressing common issues with for example negative outcomes, significance of outcomes and challenging outcomes
- Have expanded their ideas of making participation in analysing and interpretation a reality.

To achieve this, the workshop will contain the following sessions all with presentations as well as exercises:

1. How to harvest: an in-depth look at harvesting outcomes through workshops and interviews
2. Formulating outcomes: How to deal with challenging outcomes
3. Analysis and interpretation: How to make participation a reality.
4. Open session around OH issues provided by the participants before the training.

Delivery Methods/Activities

The two trainers have extensive experience in OH and are known for their highly participatory style of training: 'Hands-On Outcome Harvesting'. The workshop will be made interactive and dynamic through the following:

- Short, interactive presentations that serve to introduce a topic and share examples.
- Targeted participatory exercises to provide practical experience with OH. These exercises will use examples from the trainers as well as the participants' own project materials.
- Facilitated peer-peer interaction
- In-depth group discussions and plenary sessions enriched by the trainers' extensive knowledge and real-world application insights.

By capping the number of participants, we ensure that the facilitators can offer personalised support and interaction, allowing for a deeply participatory learning journey and the opportunity to benefit from the trainers' diverse experiences in applying OH.

Handout Materials. Where relevant, description of the materials participants will receive prior to/ during the course; explain when they will be disseminated.

No materials will be disseminated before the workshop, but we will ask participants before the start of the training for their input for the open session. During the workshop participants will receive the instructions for the exercises and after the workshop we will disseminate a copy of the slides used during the workshop.

History of versions of the proposed workshop: title(s), number of times, where and to whom it has previously been delivered, number of attendees, evidence of its success.

The trainers continually build on earlier versions of their trainings with updated examples and materials. Earlier versions of their beginner workshop have been delivered in numerous public and customised in-house settings and have ranged from one day to three days. This intermediate training builds on customised sessions that were done with clients around the world, but it's the first time that it will be conducted publicly.

A few quotes from participants from our last public face-to-face training in Spain:

'Coming on this course was one of the best decisions of my career so far. I feel I got what I wanted to get out of the training - and so much more! I better understand the theory behind outcome harvesting, feel more confident in adapting and applying the different steps and got some interesting ideas in how to address the specific challenges our organisation has had in our implementation of outcome harvesting. My enthusiasm and appreciation for outcome harvesting has deepened as a result of this training, I would recommend this course to anyone no matter where you are on your outcome harvesting journey!'

'Excellent training and very clear presentations. You are the best facilitation team, simply excellent: clear, professional and nice!'

'The training was very well structured and prepared and it is clear that the trainers are very experienced facilitators. They could share a wealth of experiences and practical examples. The attitude was very positive and all questions were welcomed and answered in a relevant and useful way. They managed to create a very good atmosphere in the group that supported a good learning environment.'

Why this course will be successful.

Firstly, the trainers are not only experts in Outcome Harvesting (OH) but also possess extensive experience in conducting OH training sessions. Their proficiency ensures that the training is both educational and practical. Secondly, the trainers excel in creating and facilitating engaging workshops tailored for adult learning, which is instrumental in maintaining participant engagement and facilitating the absorption of complex concepts. Furthermore, the course is designed to be highly participatory, encouraging active involvement from all attendees, which is known to enhance learning outcomes. Lastly, peer learning allows participants to benefit from each other's experiences and insights, fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge is shared and expanded collectively. All these elements combined lay a robust foundation for a successful and enriching educational experience.

Note backup strategy in the event the proposer would have to withdraw unexpectedly.

The trainers have given numerous trainings together and can easily take over from one another. Should one trainer be unable to attend, the other is fully prepared to conduct the training solo. Both trainers have collaboratively developed and utilised the training material and are individually equipped with a wealth of experience to instruct.