Template

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

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Title of the abstract	Ensuring Data Quality and Accessibility: Challenges and Solutions – Practical Examples from Yemen.
Conference session	☐ √ Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems ☐ Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems ☐ Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches
Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable)	
Preferred format:	☐ Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes) ☐ Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared ☐ Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation ☐ Other (please specify) _I am open to all format ___
I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected.	☐ Yes ☐ √No
Language to be used for presentation	☐ √ English ☐ French ☐ Spanish ☐ Chinese

Abstract Text (max. 500 words)

The topic will address the challenges and solutions for ensuring data quality and accessibility with practical examples from Yemen evaluations.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Challenges at the Recruitment Phase:
- Budget constraints and tight timelines make it difficult to recruit qualified evaluators

Data Availability and Quality:
- Limited availability of quality data in Yemen due to weak state statistical capacities, high personnel turnover, and the need for changing interventions on the ground.
- Poor choice of evaluation methods and poor implementation of methods

Security and Access Issues:
- The unstable security situation, conflict, and concerns over safety make it difficult and dangerous to access certain areas and conduct data collection
- In some cases, open-ended questions are not allowed.
- Roadblocks and checkpoints disrupt data collection logistics

Limited Infrastructure and Resources:
- Lack of reliable electricity, internet, and digital tools hinders data collection.

Fragmented Governance and Coordination:
- Fragmented governance make it challenging to coordinate with different authorities and obtain necessary approvals.

Data Privacy and Sensitivity:
- Respondents may be hesitant to share information due to privacy concerns or mistrust

Challenges Reaching Marginalized Groups
- High illiteracy rates and gender/cultural barriers limit participation of certain groups, such as women and minorities

SOLUTIONS/ METHODS USED TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

Procedural Methods:
- Continuous coordination with authorities, and leveraging existing networks to enable safe access to evaluation sites.
- Train enumerators on the evaluation tools, project interventions, and objectives.
- Utilizing remote/mobile data collection methods where feasible, and leveraging existing monitoring and reporting systems within relevant agencies and IPs to triangulate data.
- Comprehensive security training for teams.
- Phased approaches starting in accessible areas.
- Engaging local partners as intermediaries and to facilitate access to hard-to-reach areas.
- Employing additional enumerators to address time constraints.
- Conducting gender-segregated data collection

Leveraging Mixed-Methods Approaches:
- Combining quantitative and qualitative data to triangulate findings and address data gaps.

Utilizing Mobile and Offline Data Collection Tools
- Using mobile/offline technologies to monitor data in real-time and overcome infrastructure challenges

Engaging Local Partners and Community Members
- Collaborating with local organizations, community leaders, and volunteer data collectors to improve access, insights, and trust.

Strengthening Data Protection and Privacy

- Developing data protection protocols, obtaining informed consent, and ensuring confidentiality of sensitive information
- Providing clear communication about data use and safeguards

Adaptive and Inclusive Evaluation Approaches:

- Regularly reviewing and adapting methodologies, using alternative sampling to reach marginalized groups.

LESSONS LEARNED AND CONCERNS

- Prior coordination with focal points greatly facilitates the field team's task and helps to reach the selected sample with the least time and effort.
- Security and safety concerns must be emphasized
- Actual site visits provide rich data.
- Effective stakeholder collaboration is key for relevance and utilization.
- Engaging existing networks fosters ownership of evaluation processes.
- Building community trust is crucial for successful participatory data collection.
- Local partners can help disseminate findings effectively.
- Engaging community members as data collectors improves access