Although little accurate information exists about the total number of street children, it is estimated that this figure is in the millions globally. A significant number of street children have no regular source of health care. Confronted with the harsh life of the street, these children engage in high risk behaviour in a quest to survive. Despite successful methods to increase knowledge on problems related to psychoactive substance use, street children who are often coerced into unsafe sexual practices will continue to be at risk for psychoactive substance use, HIV infection and other reproductive health problems. Intensive and ongoing services are required to meet their multi-facetted health and social needs.

As a contribution to global efforts, the WHO Street Children Project (developed in the early 90s) identified an inventory of factors that are key in effective interventions related to psychoactive substance use and reproductive health including HIV and STDs for this vulnerable population. The project findings were incorporated into a specifically developed training package - ***Working with Street Children: A training Package on Substance Use, Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS and STDs*** (WHO/MSD/MDP/00.14). This training package responds to the needs of field workers in a variety of settings and aims at better equipping street educators with essential knowledge and skills.

As a companion to the above mentioned training package a monitoring and evaluation handbook has been developed. No project is ever complete without monitoring and evaluation. Important lessons from any intervention help to shape the course of future work and avoids duplication of effort. This handbook is therefore complementary to the Street Children Training package produced in the year 2000. The Monitoring and Evaluation handbook is designed to be used by street educators , as well as other people working with street children. It aims to provide the user with an understanding of the importance of monitoring and evaluating a street children project, identify a wide range of appropriate strategies for this and consequently the development of confidence to implement monitoring and evaluation activities. An example of an imaginary street children project called **The Street Link Project** is used to facilitate acquisition of knowledge and skills in this area of work. There are 8 chapters in the handbook. The first two chapters evolve around the importance of monitoring and evaluation and the basis for outlining the project aims, objectives and activities. Chapters 3-7 present various aspects of monitoring, process and outcome evaluation, methods and target groups. The last chapter is devoted to the imaginary street children project - **The Street Link Project.**

Because this handbook is not inclusive of every possible issue on monitoring and evaluation references to other materials are included for individuals who would like detailed information. It is desired that there is active involvement of appropriate groups- street children themselves in prevention work and creation of opportunities for contacts with health and social professionals.

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A Training Package on Substance Use, Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS and STDs

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Monitoring and Evaluation of a Street Children Project

A Training Package on Substance Use, Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS and STDs

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Geneva, Switzerland
2002

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This monitoring and evaluation handbook has been prepared as the final phase of the WHO Street Children Project which began in 1991 and includes cities in countries from all regions of the globe.

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The development of this handbook would not have been possible without the considerable support and enthusiasm of street children from many different sites around the world.

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Introduction

This monitoring and evaluation handbook is the final section of a larger training package for street educators and others working to improve the lives of street children Working with Street Children: A Training Package on Substance Use, Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS and STDs - WHO/MSD/MDP/00.14. The training package is comprised of an introductory handbook, ten training modules, a manual entitled 'trainer tips', and this handbook which aims to provide guidelines for monitoring and evaluating projects for street children.

The handbook has been designed to be used by street educators, as well as other people who are concerned about street children but may not have had any previous experience of monitoring or evaluating such projects. References to other materials are included for those individuals who would like more detailed information or those who have the resources to carry out more complicated monitoring and evaluation procedures.

The aims of this handbook are to provide you with an understanding of the importance of monitoring and evaluating the Street Children project; to help you to identify a range of appropriate strategies which could be used to do this; and to help you develop the confidence to implement monitoring and evaluation strategies in your work on the Street Children project. To help you make sense of some of the ideas presented in this handbook, we have included examples taken from an imaginary street children project called ***The Street Link Project***. This forms the final chapter of the document.

Below are listed the learning objectives for the handbook.

Learning Objectives

After reading the information presented in this handbook and participating in the learning activities you should be able to:

- ✓ Define the terms 'monitoring' and 'evaluation'.
- ✓ Explain why monitoring and evaluation are essential to the success of a project.
- ✓ Describe the benefits of monitoring and evaluating your project.
- ✓ Define the aims and objectives of your project.
- ✓ Describe how the aims and objectives are derived from your needs analysis.
- ✓ Explain the link between aims and objectives and monitoring and evaluation.
- ✓ Explain the components of project monitoring.
- ✓ Describe the steps needed to plan a process evaluation.
- ✓ Identify relevant methods needed to monitor and evaluate the project.
- ✓ Describe the process by which a community can be monitored.
- ✓ Conduct an outcome evaluation of the Street Children project.
- ✓ Write a report to disseminate the results of the evaluation.

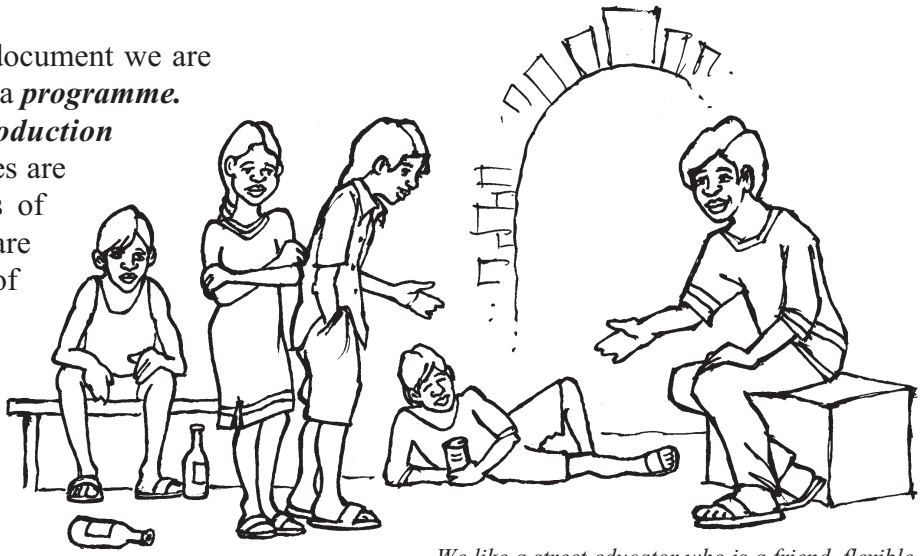
Chapter 1 Thinking about monitoring and evaluation

Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation strategies are essential components of any project and are crucial to its success. The challenge is to convince all who are involved in the project, such as street educators, project managers, support workers and the street children themselves, of the need to support the monitoring and evaluation process. In order to do this you will need to explain the meaning of the terms, the reasons why they are essential components, and the benefits to be gained from carrying out this activity.

1.1 Defining terms

For the purposes of this document we are focusing on a ***project,*** not a ***programme.*** As cited in the ***Introduction*** module (p. 7), programmes are 'Specific events or series of planned activities that are initiated with the aim of benefiting street children in some way'. They generally refer to a long-standing activity, whereas a ***project*** is of shorter duration and is frequently an offshoot of a ***programme.*** A project is a time-limited initiative that is undertaken to create a unique service. It therefore has a definite beginning and an end.



We like a street educator who is a friend, flexible, loving and a source of encouragement.

Monitoring is the process of collecting information about what is happening in a community and in

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