

Overview: MEAL DPro On-line Course

The 4-week MEAL DPro On-line Course is designed for active development, conservation and humanitarian relief professionals who want to learn Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) via a process that is virtual, social and mobile-ready.

Pyramid Learning uses the Curatr Social Learning platform to design and facilitate a truly social online learning experience. Course participants study MEAL training resources (readings, elearning modules, videos and more) in a collaborative context, learning from each other's knowledge and experience. Discussion prompts throughout the course prompt learners (and facilitators) to discuss ideas and explore concepts, leading to much higher engagement and retention than more traditional teacher/learner environments.

MEAL DPro Course Schedule and Learning Objectives

Week 1: Introducing MEAL

- Define the components and purpose of MEAL
- Explain the benefits of a strong MEAL system
- Describe the relationship between MEAL and project management
- Identify the five phases of MEAL
- Describe the ethical standards and principles relevant to MEAL

Week 2: Logic Models

- Describe how project logic models contribute to establishing a strong foundation for MEAL
- Compare and contrast the components, structure and purpose of the Theory of Change, Results Framework and the Logical Framework
- Explain the purpose of identifying assumptions in project logic models
- Interpret the vertical and horizontal logic of the Logical Framework
- Understand the characteristics of a SMART indicator
- Identify the most common measurement methods and when they are used

Week 3 MEAL Planning Tools

- Identify and describe the purpose, process, and content of key MEAL planning tools, including
 - Performance Monitoring Plans
 - Indicator Performance Tracking Table
 - Evaluation Summary Table
 - Evaluation Terms of Reference
 - Feedback Response Mechanisms
- Discuss the various types of evaluation and the data required for each

Week 4 Collecting and analyzing MEAL data

- Explain the 5 elements of data quality
- Describe the components of a basic data collection tool, including questionnaires, surveys, interviews and focus groups
- Explain the basic principles of sampling
- Describe key steps in preparing to implement data collection tools
- Identify generally accepted protocols and standards for responsible data management
- Describe the purpose and processes of quantitative data analysis
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