Advanced Community Needs Assessment and Impact Evaluation Training Course

12 – 16 July 2027
Addis Ababa

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Ref: 1099_224262 **Date:** 12 – 16 July 2027 **Location:** Addis Ababa **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Overview

Advanced Community Needs Assessment and Impact Evaluation Training Course is a one-week course for NGO program managers, evaluation specialists, community engagement leads, public service planners and implementing partners, who leave with a Community Evidence and Impact Pack. Participants diagnose community-defined needs, prioritize evidence, construct a theory of change and test contribution to outcomes. The course connects inclusive inquiry with defensible impact judgments. Agile Leaders Training Center develops community assessment and impact evaluation capability.

Who Should Attend

- Teams responsible for community consultation, service planning and priority setting
- Functions responsible for evaluation design, evidence quality and organizational learning
- Partners responsible for program delivery, accountability and reporting
- Public service teams responsible for population needs and intervention choices
- Leaders responsible for using community evidence in resource decisions

The course assumes participants already work with community programs or evaluation evidence, and it leaves out generic project management, routine performance monitoring and rapid emergency assessment procedures.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries that must link community priorities to credible evidence of change.

- NGO programs, evaluation, accountability and community engagement
- Public planning, social services and local development
- Healthcare, education and social protection
- Humanitarian organizations, foundations and implementing partners
- Research, policy and organizational learning functions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply inclusive community and stakeholder mapping methods
- Build mixed-methods needs assessment instruments
- Prioritize needs using transparent decision criteria
- Build a theory of change and indicator framework
- Compare baseline, comparison and contribution approaches
- Evaluate impact evidence, ethics and alternative explanations

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Course Agenda

Day 1: Community Inquiry and Scope

- Community System and Boundary Map
- Stakeholder Influence and Inclusion Matrix
- Normative, Comparative, Felt and Expressed Needs Grid
- Assessment Purpose and Decision-Use Statement
- Ethics, Consent and Safeguarding Checklist

Day 2: Mixed-Methods Evidence

- Secondary Evidence Review Protocol
- Key-Informant Interview Guide
- Focus Group Discussion Route
- Community Survey Sampling Plan
- Data Triangulation and Quality Matrix

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Day 3: Priorities and Change Logic

- Needs Significance and Equity Scorecard
- Feasibility and Cost-Effectiveness Matrix
- Participatory Priority-Setting Method
- Theory of Change Pathway Map
- Assumption, Risk and Indicator Register

Day 4: Impact Evaluation Design

- Evaluation Question and Criteria Framework
- Baseline and Comparison Design Options
- Contribution Analysis Evidence Tests
- Alternative Explanation Assessment
- Evidence Synthesis and Judgment Rubric

Day 5: Community Evidence Practice

- Exercise: Map Communities and Stakeholder Inclusion
- Exercise: Triangulate Mixed-Methods Findings
- Exercise: Prioritize Needs and Validate Change Logic
- Exercise: Test an Impact Contribution Story
- Capstone Exercise: Community Evidence and Impact Pack

Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities to connect community voice, assessment evidence and impact judgments.

- Suggested activity: design an inclusive inquiry for a health or education service
- Suggested activity: triangulate interviews, group discussions, surveys and secondary evidence
- Suggested activity: facilitate transparent prioritization using significance, equity and feasibility
- Suggested activity: challenge a contribution story with contextual factors and alternative explanations

FAQs

Who suits community needs assessment and impact evaluation training, and what does it assume?

Program managers, evaluators, engagement leads, planners and implementing partners suit the training. It assumes practical exposure to community programs, consultation or evaluation evidence.

How does community needs assessment and impact evaluation differ from routine monitoring?

Community needs assessment identifies and prioritizes community-defined gaps, while impact evaluation examines whether and how an intervention contributed to longer-term change; routine monitoring tracks implementation and recurring indicators.

What evidence supports a community needs assessment?

Credible assessment evidence combines community perspectives, stakeholder knowledge, service data, research and contextual information, then tests convergence, disagreement, gaps and bias across sources.

Why use a theory of change in impact evaluation?

A theory of change makes expected causal pathways, assumptions, risks and external influences explicit so evaluators can target evidence and test whether the proposed explanation remains plausible.

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How does contribution analysis support impact evaluation?

Contribution analysis tests a reasoned change pathway against implementation evidence, observed outcomes, contextual factors and competing explanations to judge whether the intervention plausibly contributed to change.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Community Evidence and Impact Pack containing maps, inquiry tools, priority scorecards, change pathways, indicators, design options and a contribution story. The pack makes community voice, assumptions and evidence quality visible. It supports transparent choices about needs, interventions, evaluation questions and impact judgments.