

Measuring Outcomes of Orphan and Vulnerable Children Programs

MEASURE Evaluation has produced a set of tools for measuring quantitative child outcomes and caregiver/household outcomes in programs for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). This tool kit was developed with the support of the PEPFAR OVC technical working group to:

- standardize the production of population-level child and caregiver well-being data beyond what is available from routine surveys,
- produce actionable data to inform programs and enable mid-course corrections, and
- enable comparative assessments of child and caregiver well-being and household economic status across a diverse set of interventions and geographical regions.

The tool kit, available at <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/our-work/ovc/ovc-program-evaluation-tool-kit>, now includes the following:

- *Child, Caregiver & Household Well-being Survey Tools for Orphans & Vulnerable Children Programs: Manual*
- Three questionnaires:
 - » *Caregiver Questionnaire*,
 - » *Child Questionnaire Ages 0–9 Years*
 - » *Child Questionnaire Ages 10–17 Years*
- *Child, Caregiver & Household Well-being Survey Tools for Orphans & Vulnerable Children Programs: Protocol Template*
- *Core OVC Program Impact Indicators*

In late 2013, MEASURE Evaluation will add:

- a data analysis guide
- a data collector training manual and materials

Who Will Use the Tool Kit?

The tools will support OVC programs and research institutions with an evaluation agenda. The tool kit may be useful to you if are seeking to answer one of these five questions:

1. Is my program having, or did my program have an impact on the children and households it reached?
2. What are the characteristics of children and their caregivers in my area regarding education, health, protection, and psychosocial status?



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3. Where do the children most in need of program support live?
4. Approximately how many children need services or support?
5. What are the needs of my program's registered beneficiaries as an entirety, in terms of education, health, protection, and psychosocial support?

Manual

The tool kit Manual describes the tools, question by question, and outlines how the tools may be used, and how they should not be used. The Manual also includes basic guidance on implementing the tools, such as:

- Program outcome data should be collected by trained data collectors external to service delivery.
- A documented research protocol, outlining a technically robust, peer-reviewed study is required.
- The protocol, including data collection tools, must undergo ethical review in the country of research.
- Tools should be pilot-tested in the research setting.

Protocol Template

A research protocol is a prerequisite to implementing the OVC questionnaires. The process of protocol development facilitates agreement on the implementation strategy, and child protection issues, among other things. This process improves the study design, enables matching of resources to objectives, and ultimately improves the usability of the data generated from the study. Finally, the protocol is a guidance document for all stakeholders throughout the study period, serving as a reminder to all stakeholders of the agreed strategy and timeline. The Protocol Template has been structured to resemble an actual research protocol, including appendices. For each section, the information that is required has been outlined, as well as issues to consider when developing your own protocol.

Data Analysis Guide—Coming soon

Developing a data analysis plan is the first step in data analysis. A data analysis plan is important as it enables discussion and agreement of the key points of analysis, ensures that the analysis plan will address the research questions, and that the analysis reflects the strengths and limitations of the data. In order to reduce the burden on evaluators, MEASURE Evaluation is developing a data analysis guide for the Child, Caregiver & Household Well-being Survey Tools. This guide includes suggested analyses by questions, as well as more general background, refresher information on data analysis.

Data Collectors Training Manual & Materials—Coming soon

The field workers who will seek informed consent and administer these questionnaires must be well trained before data collection begins. MEASURE Evaluation is developing a data collectors' training manual and materials to ensure a standard level of competency across data collectors. This manual will describe the structure and content for a six-day training (five days for data collectors and one additional day for supervisors). MEASURE Evaluation has also developed PowerPoint slides and handouts for the training, which will be included in the manual.

Conclusion

While no single data collection tool can meet all OVC data needs, this set of survey tools responds to distinct information needs related to program planning and evaluation. These tools will help to standardize measures and processes for assessing child, caregiver, and household well-being at the population level.



<http://www.measureevaluation.org>

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