Child Status Index (CSI) Implementation for Program Level Use Training Workshop for CORE TEAM Ethiopia

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Introductions

- Core CSI Team for Ethiopia (CCTE)

- You are expected to steer the process of developing the protocol to implement the CSI in the country, review draft of guide, and agree on any data collection and reporting flow etc.
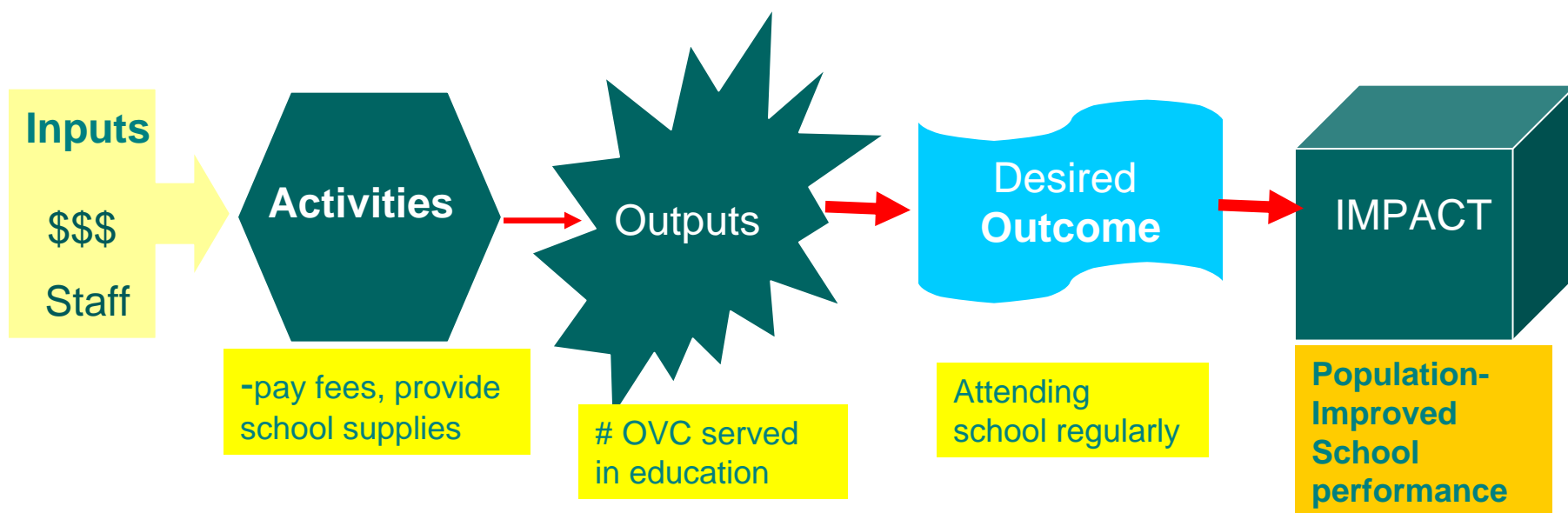
Objectives

- Review and understand the CSI tool rationale, principles, and its potential benefits.

- Review CSI implementation progress to-date

- Discuss and share the successes, challenges, and opportunities of institutionalizing the CSI for program M&E by organizations.

- Learn how to train volunteers & with practice

- Discuss and decide on a data collection and flow system that can be used and managed by stakeholders from the community to the program or national levels.

- Discuss and commit to the implementation of CSI tool for program and/or national monitoring in Ethiopia

Jog your mind

- Why do we provide care and support to OVC?

- What do we expect after providing services?

- How do we know if we are moving in the right direction towards achieving those expected outcomes?

- Why do we care about the direction child wellbeing is going?

- How can we know that we are making the 'change we can belief in' in the life of a child?

  - The Child Status Index

Why the CSI tool for OVC Programs?

Programs have o*ften focused on **activities** or **outputs** rather than **desired outcomes for child**: E.g. in education*

Inputs

$$$

Staff

Activities

-pay fees, provide school supplies

Outputs

OVC served in education

Desired **Outcome**

Attending school regularly

IMPACT

Population-Improved School performance

How we demonstrate progress......

- Output or process indicators to demonstrate program achievements (such as how many children have been reached by the program)

- Outcome indicators to show that program interventions have made a difference in a child's life (such as improved school attendance)

- Accounting reports to demonstrate effective use of resources (program costs per outcome)

- Information regarding most effective practices as a basis for improving programs in the future

Characteristics of the Child Status Index

- Simple, reliable & intuitive

- Its domains are measurable, changeable by program interventions

- Broad domains to reflect overall child wellbeing than one-dimensional

- Captures all the key dimensions of child wellbeing

- Reflect both positive and negative outcomes/benefits of children receiving services

- Constructs that can be measured or adapted across ages and cultures

- <u>NOT</u> - A policing tool

- <u>NOT</u> – Promoting any type of service delivery method etc.

Is the Child Status Index Useful to me/us?

- Helps field staff/caregivers monitor problems and benefits of their efforts in serving children.

- Helps identify the specific needs of a child and his/her household, to translate these needs into intervention strategies.

- Helps decision-makers plan, implement and modify child services based on aggregate information about child well-being over time.

- Supports advocacy for resources and improvements in service quality.

- Raises awareness among frontline staff (such as community health workers and caregivers) on the multiple dimensions of child well-being.

- Helps compare performances within and across programs, countries and cultures.

- Helps assess if it is time to conduct a "Quality assessment of your OVC services if they are not producing expected results" (CSI & quality of services are related)

What does the CSI Evaluate?

- ✓ **Twelve outcome areas** – 10 were field-tested for reliability and validity but two have not yet been field tested (Nutrition & Growth, and Legal protection)

  - Food and Nutrition (2)- (Food Security; and Nutrition & Growth)

  - Shelter and Care (2)- (Shelter: How the Child Lives; and Care)

  - Protection (2)- (Abuse & Exploitation; and Legal Protection)

  - Health Care (2)- (Wellness; and Health Care Services)

  - Psychosocial (2)- (Emotional Health; and Social Behavior), and

  - Education and Vocational Training (2)- (Performance; and Education/Work)

- ✓ **Rating:** 4= Good; 3=Fair (A little problem); 2= Bad (some problems); 1=Very bad (Emergency situation)

Basic ways to gather information about children using the CSI tool

- Observation
- Informal interviews with caregivers
- Multiple sources (neighbors, teachers, community leaders)
- Informal interviews with children

Learning to use the Child Status Index-5 Basic Steps

✓ Learn about the Child Status Index dimensions and Record sheet

✓ Conduct the CSI assessment visit

✓ Score and complete the CSI Record Form

✓ Plan necessary follow-up to address needs

✓ Implement follow-up plan through appropriate service delivery

Using the Child Status Index and Record Sheet

✓ Person conducting CSI Assessment Visit must know the CSI extremely well so he/she can ask the right questions to elicit the necessary information to complete the CSI Record sheet.

✓ Information gathered in an informal manner without reading text; therefore home visitor either attend a CSI training session or study the CSI on their own.

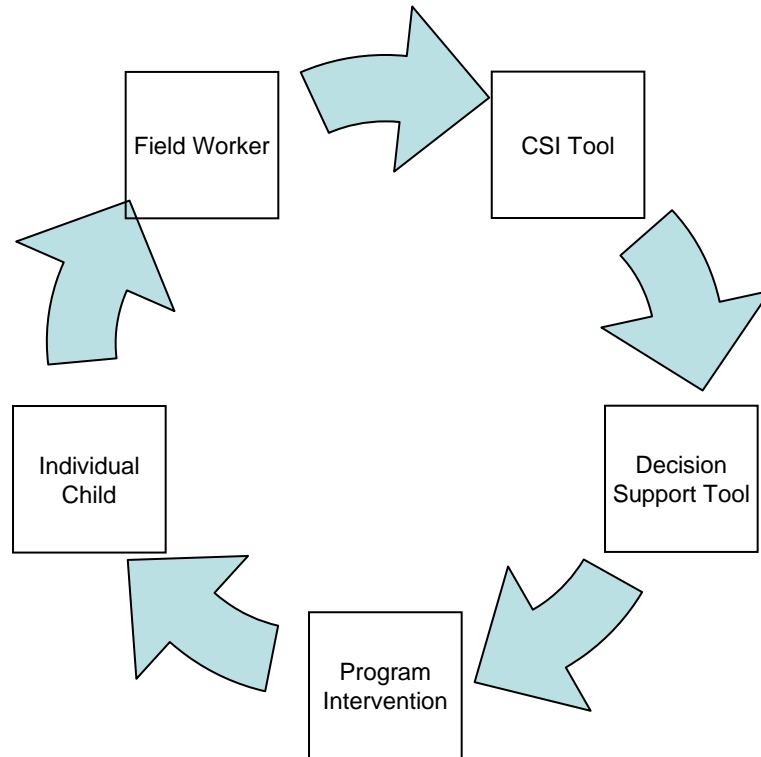✓ Be sure that you know both the goal and content of each domain.

Conduct the CSI Assessment Visit

✓ CSI assessment visit usually part of a home visit conducted by community members & frontline staff

✓ Community worker conducts brief, informal discussion with the child, the child's caregiver or other adults, including neighbors and teachers (as needed) to gather general information about the child.

✓ Involve the adult (and the child, if old enough) in a discussion about the child in a natural and spontaneous way while making sure to collect enough information on the 12 domains

Training on the Use of the CSI

✓ Foremost, find out if there are existing tools that monitor child needs and outcomes used by any of the partners or any service providers

✓ Discuss with participants (volunteers or other stakeholders) on the feasibility and need for a child centered evaluation for OVC programs;

✓ Work with partners to determine the appropriate target for a child assessment, that is, who would complete the evaluation, frequency, and literacy demands;

✓ Collaborate with community health workers or volunteers about the need for and usefulness of the CSI to monitor child outcomes and needs;

✓ Discuss how to conduct informal interviews to gather information from various sources about the wellbeing and rating of each child.

✓ Score the children and fill the summary form on the outcomes, services received, important events that happened in the child's life, etc; and

✓ Practice with a few children and discuss the next steps in using the CSI systematically in their work.

Individual Child Level

Cycle diagram: Field Worker → CSI Tool → Decision Support Tool → Program Intervention → Individual Child → Field Worker

Program Level

For the program level we need to develop a system to:

- Regularly collect information from the field

- Store that information in a central location (**Program Data Base**)

- Make system level corrections and adjustments based on defined criteria

- Communicate these to the field for implementation of changes in program interventions that reach OVC

Decisions that need to be made here are:

- frequency of collection of individual CSI records from the field

- coverage of the CSI records- do we sample or collect all records

- system for data transmission to the program level

- development of the data base system

- development of a dash board or some decision system to make changes in interventions

- communication protocol to the field to make the changes

- system for follow-up to monitor if changes were implemented

Sources of program level data

- **All children enrolled in the program** - in small sized programs, analysis of child outcomes should be based on data from all children.

- **A sample of children** - grantees that serve very large numbers of children may consider, with the assistance of appropriate research or evaluation experts, approaches to analyzing outcome data from a sample of children selected to be representative of the full population of children served.

Sampling Methods (Programs)

1. Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (discuss)

2. Random Cluster Sampling (discuss)

3. National – as a surveillance tool – sample of child population***

   Select **one method** that is simple to monitor program progress systematically (semi-annually), at low cost, and gather information needed for program management decisions.

Analysis of data on program progress

✓ Partners should develop a system to analyze data on child outcomes over time as they receive services in the program year to answer questions like…

- What are the patterns of progress and accomplishments for groups of children in different domains?

- What are the patterns of outcomes for children in different program options, forms of service, and service areas?

- What are the patterns of outcome data for different groups of children?

- What are the trends in outcome data from year to year, in terms of stability and change in patterns of progress and levels of accomplishment?

Integrate CSI into overall OVC M&E System?

- ✓ CSI assessment is one of the methods/M&E activities that can inform on the effectiveness and impact of an OVC program

- ✓ CSI assessment therefore it has to be planned and coordinated with other M&E activities (for better scheduling, staffing, funding, and use of existing resources)

- ✓ Consolidating CSI data with other M&E data strengthens the case and advocacy efforts for OVC

- ✓ Including CSI in overall project plans and strategic/results frameworks contributes to designing robust OVC programs (CSI assessment integrated into overall OVC programming strategy)

Suggested Group Exercises – to Understand how to Use CSI….

1. Three training participants volunteer to give an example of a child they know by assessing that child using the CSI and discussing the rating scores of that child to the other members of the group (must <u>score all</u> 12 outcome areas)

2. Each group **Maps** out service areas, geographical, or organizational levels to identify the most practical sampling unit for assessing program performance.

Next steps

- Schedule a <u>review workshop</u> for the CCTE to review the CSI implementation steps, share best practices to be incorporated into the guide.

- Complementary efforts are needed from government, other bilateral, NGOS, etc to make this a success.

- Urgent need for a national M&E/OVC system that shows common indicators for outcomes and quality of services.