The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique is a qualitative and participatory form of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). It is based on the collection, systematic selection, and analysis of stories of important changes in people's lives, resulting from development activities. MSC uses the concept of 'monitoring without indicators'. The participatory fundament is captured through the involvement of project stakeholders and beneficiaries in the analysis of the data and the decision of the most significant among the changes, to be reported.

MSC can be used as a valuable addition in a broader M&E framework to both monitor and evaluate project progress, results, outcomes and impact.

ResultsinHealth is one of the leading agencies with expertise in the implementation of the MSC technique to its full extent.

MSC: why and when?

MSC can be used in diverse projects and interventions engaging a variety of stakeholders. Its characteristics include the following:

- MSC is a suitable method to identify changes that are unexpected and difficult to quantify
- It is a participatory form of monitoring that requires no special professional skills for participants. In addition, it is easy to communicate across cultures; everyone can tell stories about events they believe were important
- The method increases self-reflection, accountability and engagement of all project stakeholders since monitoring is done by all stakeholders in the project
- It delivers a rich picture of what is happening and contextualizes project results, rather than giving an overly simplified picture
- MSC is always used in combination with other M&E methods
Why choose ResultsinHealth for MSC

RiH has vast expertise in the implementation of the MSC technique in diverse settings and themes, including:

- Use of MSC for the evaluation of complex interventions
- Provision of training to teach the basics of MSC to various groups of international development experts
- Provision of capacity-building programs to use and integrate MSC into (existing) M&E systems of projects. This involves on-the-job-training and mentoring of staff in using MSC, as well as integration of the method and its results in a project’s overall M&E activities
- Conducting advanced content analysis of MSC data.
- Use of the technique in projects addressing (sensitive) issues such as unsafe abortion, gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming, women’s empowerment, and HIV/AIDS
- Involvement of various parties and beneficiaries (e.g. migrants, people living with HIV or disabilities), project implementers, policy makers and government staff during data collection and analysis.

ResultsinHealth offers

**Programme evaluation using MSC**

RiH supports organizations in evaluating their project using the MSC technique. It facilitates the step-by-step development of an evaluation plan; collection, selection and in-depth content analysis of stories of change; and integration of findings into the overall M&E framework. This activity may include face-to-face meetings and distance mentoring.

**MSC training**

RiH offers training on the MSC technique – basic or advanced – through scheduled RiH training courses or as in-house, tailor-made trainings. Training can be delivered in English, Dutch or Indonesian.

**Support in MSC data analysis**

RiH provides support in data analysis for organizations that already use the MSC technique as part of their M&E activities. The support depends on the need and can include assistance in the process of selection of stories of change, advanced content analysis of the collected stories of change, or integration of the results into the overall M&E report. Support is provided through a combination of face-to-face meetings and distance mentoring.

Contact

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Visit our website for more information on our work.
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