

Catholic Relief Services
Quito, Ecuador

Revised Proposed Deliverables for DPMI+ CRS- South America Zone (SAZ)

I am a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Intern in the Quito, Ecuador office of CRS-SAZ. Although I am a MEAL intern, I have responsibilities across the map. Here are my proposed deliverables.

1. A tool to monitor the advancement of MEAL activities and projects across the South America Zone (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia)

Currently CRS has ten projects across five countries in South America. We need to a tool to monitor the progress of each project in each of the MEAL areas (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) to make sure that each project is following the MEAL Policies and Procedures, as well as plan each activity, with the team member who is responsible for carrying-out the activity and what support is needed.

2. A Zonal Beneficiary Accountability Strategy for Development Projects and Disaster Relief Projects.

Nick and I are building an accountability strategy for the region that will lay out SAZ's unique view on beneficiary accountability while also staying in accordance with the CRS' MEAL Procedures and Policies. The goal of the accountability strategy (SAZ-AS) is to create accountability systems that are built upon participant voice and adaptive to contextual changes and receptive to the changing needs of beneficiaries. Furthermore, the SAZ-AS aims to build systems that develop communities to engage with NGOs and INGOs to better advocate for themselves and their needs.

The questions the accountability strategy aims to answer are:

1. How can we establish protocols for beneficiary defined indicators?
2. How can our accountability system build the capacity of beneficiaries?
3. How can the accountability system better serve program managers?

3. Corresponding tools for Zonal Beneficiary Accountability Strategy

We are creating a set of tools to complement our accountability strategy including a decision tree to choose a feedback mechanism and a series of questions for creating a beneficiary defined indicators.

4. SenseMaker Tool for Final Evaluation of the PRM Project

CRS is trying out a new qualitative/quantitative tool for accountability called "SenseMaker". It involves interviewing beneficiaries with a "generative question" and then following up with questions where they rate their answers using a sliding scale, a canvas, or a "sliding scale with little rocks". The tool is

designed to create qualitative and quantitative data. I participated in a week long workshop on SenseMaker, where I was one of three people designing the tool. Since then we've done three drafts and done two pilots of our tool. This is the final draft we will be using to train 10 university students studying sociology to complete 480 interviews for the final evaluation.

5. Annotated Problem Tree for the Juventud Constructora Project in Imbabura, Ecuador

The project is focused on SILC (savings and internal lending communities, a microfinance tool) groups for Colombian refugees and vulnerable Ecuadorians and capacity building for youth groups in the area.

6. Facilitation Strategy for the Annual CRS Learning Event

As part of the CRS mandate, each country (or zone, in our case) is required to carry out an annual learning even with program managers to share lessons learned as well as create a "learning agenda" for the following year. The Learning event is normally held over a couple days and uses a wide variety of adult-learning activities. I have been tasked with creating a facilitation plan for the event.

7. Final Evaluation Tools for the first phase of the Father's Table "Juventud Constructora" Project

We have been significantly delayed on the final evaluation for Father's Table. I have built three tools for the final evaluation in the meantime: a guide for focus groups, a survey for the partners we worked with, and an interview guide for the prominent and important players within CRS. I have already sent out the survey, but the other tools will not be used until the week of May 22nd.

8. Detailed Concept Note for the Howard Buffett Foundation including Results Framework

We have the opportunity to present a concept note to the Howard Buffett Foundation on a project we would like to implement in the south of Bolivia using a conservation agriculture strategy.