

# 18th October MSC MOG PM session

Recording by Konny

Transcription by Otter AI

Summary of transcript by Cluade AI

Here is an expanded summary of the key discussions related to the use of the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique from the meeting transcript:

## **Introduction to MSC**

- MSC is a qualitative, participatory monitoring and evaluation method that involves systematically collecting significant change stories from program participants and stakeholders, then convening panels to discuss the stories and select the most significant ones to understand outcomes and impact.
- The working group has been organizing these meetings to test using an online platform for sharing MSC experiences, building an international MSC community, and progressing the methodology. The sessions are recorded to summarize learnings with AI.

## **Identifying Significant Change Stories**

- Strategies for inclusively identifying storytellers and authentic significant change stories from beneficiaries were discussed, including using surveys to screen for interesting feedback and perspectives, then filtering further based on criteria like demographics.
- The challenges around identifying real, grounded stories versus those selected due to organizational or political pressures was raised. Power figures tend to direct story collection.
- The importance of collecting detailed, contextual stories with enough information to understand the significance and nature of the change was emphasized. Stories need to have a proper narrative arc to be usable.

## **Story Selection Panels**

- How to mitigate biases and power dynamics in story selection panels was discussed, including mixing panel composition and involving beneficiaries directly to get their authentic perspectives.
- Ensuring genuine engagement in panels rather than just ticking a box for the sake of process was raised as important for meaningful analysis.
- The significance of the quality of dialogue and collective interpretation during story selection panels was discussed. Panels can verify and fill gaps in stories.

## **Analyzing and Reporting MSC**

- MSC was seen as more suitable for generating learnings and insights rather than performance measurement and proven attribution.
- The inherent subjectivity in selecting the most significant stories was raised, and the importance of transparency by documenting the selection rationale.

- Challenges in presenting MSC insights alongside quantitative data to donors was discussed. Stories bring meaning to numbers.
- The difficulties around verifying stories by speaking to beneficiaries multiple times given limited time and resources was raised as an issue.

### **Overall Themes**

- The MSC process itself being as valuable as the end results of story selection was emphasized by several participants.
- The need to customize MSC design and execution based on different organizational contexts and needs was highlighted.
- Learning the practicalities of MSC by actively experimenting and trying different approaches was encouraged.

### **Prompts used with Claude AI**

*Please provide a summary of this meeting transcript. Ignore the discussions about the organisation of the event, including who in the working group will do what. Focus on the discussions about all aspects of the uses of the MSC (Most Significant Change) technique. Organise the summary into sections dealing with different kinds of issues relating to the use of MSC*

*Now increase the size of this summary by 100% by including more details. But avoid any repetition*