FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Community-Led Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (CoLMEAL)

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What is CoLMEAL?

- An approach to MEAL that builds the capacity of key community members to lead and manage MEAL processes for themselves to improve well-being in their community

Why implement CoLMEAL?

- To empower the people who '*live the data*' to access, understand and use data as evidence to define, monitor and adapt their actions towards positive change

Why support CoLMEAL?

- CoLMEAL enables community-driven change, thereby fostering ownership of process and results
- It is at the heart of FIAP – empowerment of the most vulnerable and building of local capacities
- CoLMEAL results can be aggregated and used towards project indicators
- It contributes to SDG # 16 – building participatory, effective, accountable institutions at all levels

What are the key benefits and limitations of CoLMEAL?

Benefits	Limitations
• Inexpensive • Engages the community • Provides the opportunity to engage the most vulnerable • Builds community independence	• Often (but not always) qualitative data • Limitations imposed by literacy and numeracy of community • Not necessarily a replacement for formal MEAL on an institutional level

How to do CoLMEAL?

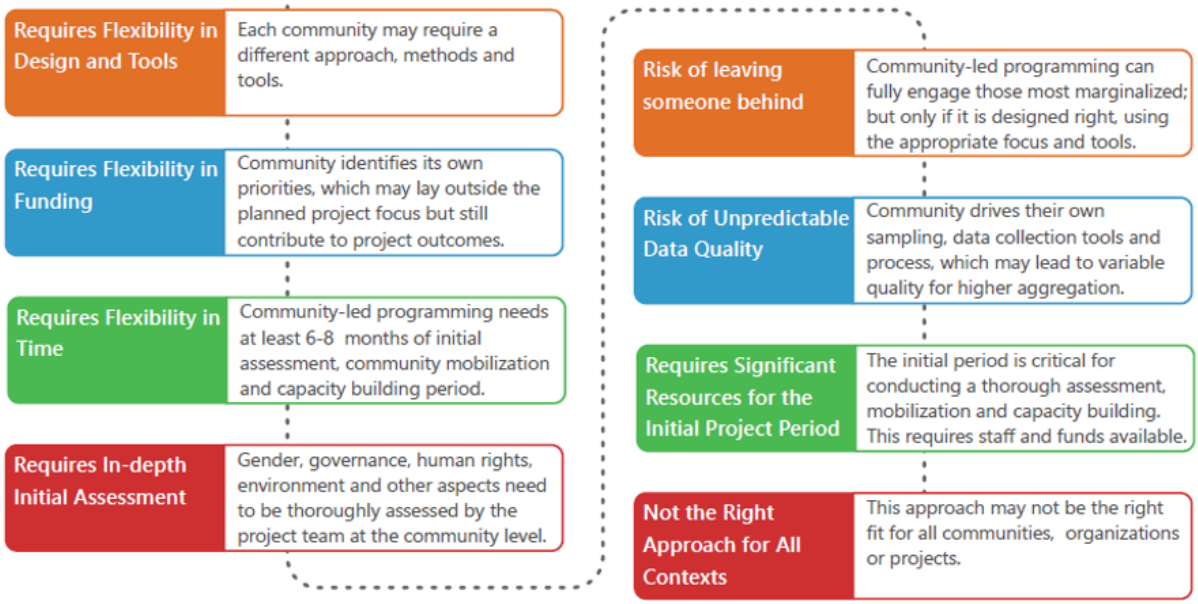
- CoLMEAL takes an 8-step vertical process. Each step begins with the capacity building of the project team and the community-based CoLMEAL structures – followed by reflection and adaptation of the processes and tools for each step.
- Through this process model, communities will be empowered to continue beyond the project's scope and timeframe

What are the main organizational considerations for deciding to implement CoLMEAL in your project?

- Clear mandate and budget for the project to implement CoLMEAL
- Staff and community acceptance of the iterative process of this approach and their roles in implementing it
- Adequate number of staff with background on community engagement to meet the CoLMEAL targets
- Technologies and equipment available to project staff and communities to support online and face-to-face learning and communication
- Manageable risks to allow safe implementation of each CoLMEAL step at the community level

To assess the viability of implementing CoLMEAL in your project, use the **CoLMEAL Viability Assessment Tool.**

What are the key considerations for CoLMEAL programming?



To learn more about CoLMEAL please [sign-up to our mailing list.]