

**Final Evaluation**  
**Sampling for Managers Workshop**  
**May 24-26, 1999**  
**Westminster, Maryland**

Expectations listed by participants at beginning of workshop

- *Be able to accurately determine the appropriate sample size for different types of survey exercises.*
- *To overcome a fear of statistics.*
- *Get a good overall view of the steps involved in sampling to help de-mystify the seemingly complex process.*
- *Get an introductory understanding of field sampling, not to make presumptions on what I already know.*
- *To have the right tools to prepare a survey for a food security program.*
- *Learn how to determine if a sample is adequate to say whether change has occurred & minimum size to do so.*
- *Learn skills (specific skills) that will be field applicable for example: How to confidently determine a sample size.*
- *I'd like to learn a variety of sampling methods which is most appropriate in specific cases so I can return to work & advise field staff on what method to use when and how to apply it in our work.*
- *To overcome a fear of statistics.*
- *Get a good overall view of the steps involved in sampling to help de-mystify the seemingly complex process.*
- *Simple, (relatively), common procedure for sampling in baseline, MTS final evaluations.*
- *How far can you go in " Customizing " adapting sampling methodologies for reality in the field.*

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Total Number of Surveys is 16

**1. How successful was the workshop in meeting the overall objectives stated in the workshop description?**

Responses and Comments:

Very successful 12 somewhat successful 3 not very successful 0.

**1b.) Were expectations met?**

Yes 7 Somewhat 2 No 1

- *Expectations were met, but need more work.*
- *Not field based enough, but people generally pleased [with workshop].*

**2.) How useful were the workshop sessions?**

**Introduction to probability sampling**

Very useful 13 somewhat useful 3 not very useful 0

**Sampling Frames**

Very useful 15 somewhat useful 2 not very useful 0

**Bias Issues on Data Collection**

Very useful 14 somewhat useful 3 not very useful 0

**Sample size**

Very useful 14 somewhat useful 2 not very useful 0

**Sample Design Effect**

Very useful 9 somewhat useful 7 not very useful 0

**Data Analysis**

Very useful 10 somewhat useful 5 not very useful 0

**Weighting of Data**

Very useful 6 somewhat useful 7 not very useful 2

Comments:

- *Where I have put somewhat useful rather than very useful is that there are areas where we need more instrumentation to be able to fulfill the objectives of the workshop.*
- *Highly technical information beyond my ability to apply in the field. As most project managers hire consultants to do this stuff, how about more of a focus on how to work with consultants on HOW TO EXAMINE SAMPLES AND SURVEYS done by someone else.*
- *All [sessions] are clearly useful. However, some sessions are more clear, and more relevant (to the field) than others.*
- *[Weighting of data session was] hard to understand.*
- *Thought the lectures were focused on the topics that the PVOs deal with. Maybe [you] could have used a few more step-by-step examples for the more complicated issues/concepts.*
- *Very knowledgeable facilitators. Good resource. ActivStats very interesting.*
- *Would have been useful to graphically illustrate the presentations with normal bell curve distributions.*
- *Sessions were much more effective when they included plentiful real-life explanations/examples and practice sessions.*
- *Generally very pleased, but much of the material was not field based enough. Bring it down to “How to”.*
- *Handouts very helpful for following presentations without trying to take notes at the same time.*
- *Data analysis/ weighing of data too heavy, complicated theoretical would have preferred to concentrate on sampling discuss real life PVO cases.*
- *Regarding logistics and accommodations, perhaps the next workshop could be held in a different location – one that has more/better access to stores and restaurants. Being from out of town, and only having one week in the country, it would have been nice to be able to run some errands in the evenings.*

**3.) How useful were the PVO presentations?**

Very useful **10** somewhat useful **4** not very useful **1**

Comments on the PVO Presentations:

- *It was most helpful to see the types of problems others have with data collections and creative solutions.*
- *Perhaps one or two more could have been useful.*
- *Informal sharing by each participant (10-15 minutes explaining our M&E look in our respective areas) would have allowed more interaction and problem solving among the group.*
- *All were excellent*
- *Useful for me because I received helpful feedback on my presentation.*

- *Very useful, would have liked more & more discussions on each other's sampling problems.*
- *It was interesting to share information and to know what problem you may have in your own work.*
- *Learning about field applications can be useful.*

**4.) How useful were the breakout group exercises?**

Day 1: Sampling Scenarios

Very useful **16** somewhat useful **0** not very useful **0**

Day 2: Sampling Size Calculations

Very useful **16** somewhat useful **0** not very useful

Day 3: Data Analysis

Very useful **15** somewhat useful **1** not very useful **0**

**Comments on the breakout group exercises;**

- *It was most helpful to work on applying the information.*
- *I learned that for this kind of work, I need to first process & work out problems on my own. However I found the first one useful as we talked through quite a bit before putting it on paper.*
- *Gave us the opportunity to really understand the concepts.*
- *Very useful, allowed real world examples and helped to have more knowledgeable folks in small group.*
- *Extremely helpful.*
- *Very stimulating helped cement the concepts and procedures.*
- *The break group was good people seem to push themselves and learn more.*
- *Good group size, good problems to work on.*
- *The exercises were the highlight. Perhaps even homework would have been good. The data analysis exercise too easy.*
- *Helpful to have hands-on experience and to see comfort level of other participants to gauge training needs in my organization.*
- *They were good; more exercises may have been helpful.*
- *They were well-designed. Permits to apply the theory that sometimes was not very clear.*
- *This was great! It's very useful to be able to practice what were learning and make sure that we understand.*

**5.) How do you anticipate applying any new information you learned here in your work?**

- *We have new baselines to do for 2 & 3 programs, and midterms for many more programs. [I] will use in working with the staff and consultants on performing designs and sampling frames.*
- *In playing around with an anticipated proposal design (way in advance will add quality - to some, not all- future designs and will disseminate information to HQ/ field (when appropriate).*
- *Will share with our Title II program in Peru, and will use it in the event that my organization in my region implements a more vigorous study.*
- *Gave me a better overall idea of what is required for these analyses.*
- *Reviewing recent baseline for rigor validity, make recommendations for changes in future baselines.*
- *Very practical,*
- *By emitting a set of guidelines and procedures for preparing for MT and Final evaluations use in training workshops for field offices.*
- *Most of the things I knew. The thing I gained is how to simplify them and make them user friendly.*
- *Manage more effectively the program's M&E work-plans and proposal design.*
- *Correcting some baseline methods in our upcoming midterm evaluation and planning/implementing upcoming rolling baseline survey.*
- *General understanding*
- *Collection of resources for organization use - assessing training needs and planning trainings – planning surveys - providing technical assistance.*
- *In our [upcoming] baseline and mid-term evaluation to make sure that sampling is done correctly.*
- *To improve the M& E component for future programs. Share information with program directors to make them think about these topics to improve program designs.*
- *Doing a deeper analysis of social economic study regarding statistical significance - developing future baseline studies.*

**6.) What type of follow-up or next steps would you like to see out of this workshop?**

- *Data analysis workshop (total of 10 responses with data analysis/or analysis)*
- *I'd like to attend a workshop that might preclude this one. How do you determine when you want to use sampling? How can you design indicators and M&E in order to simplify sampling tasks.*
- *An analysis workshop*
- *Data analysis FAM Mtg- a complete walkthrough (actual or hypothetical) of applying sampling/data analysis to Title II field project (i.e. at baseline, i.e. at final).*
- *Basic survey design/data coding exercise and data analysis.*
- *Maybe more direct Epi-info.*
- *Data analysis workshop, use statistical package and analyze real program data.*

- *Special workshop on 1.) emergency/transition sampling, 2.) Indicators and Questionnaire design workshop, and 3.) Performance monitoring system design workshop.*
- *Data Analysis activity through the M&E working group.*
- *I am open to any topic because it will contribute to information sharing and increase potential for cooperation.*
- *[Same] materials to teach field staff discussions on a level and rigor required by FANta and USAID!*

#### **7.) Other Comments:**

- *Change menu, change venue and closer to DC.*
- *Great workshop! Bob and Tony were well-prepared, experienced and open to questions.*
- *Venue could be selected that's more accessible to participants to extra-curricular activities during off-hours. Greater variety during lunch desirable very well planned-congratulations.*
- *This was a useful workshop.*
- *Different venue next time/too isolated*
- *"I just wanted to let you know that the FAM workshop on sampling was excellent. The information provided will assist me greatly in developing support materials for Save the Children."(Sent in after the workshop via email.)*

### **Day Three Next Steps- brainstorming: (Flip Charts)**

- *Practical application of sampling knowledge / skills. Example: M & E working group and / or Fanta involvement in assisting PVOs with survey design, baseline evaluations and PVO's should look at ISA funds to do this.*
- *Translating sampling guide into Spanish, French, and Portuguese?*
- *Materials that can help our fields buy into "good" surveying.*
- *Field-based sampling workshop into:*
  - *Levels*
  - *Practicum?*
  - *Applied & useful information.*
  - *Regional with / many PVO involved.*
  - *Do it as a TOT.*
- *Program & Survey Design that will attempt to measure 5<sup>th</sup> level impact control group with multivariate analysis.*
- *Data Analysis workshop?*
- *At the beginning of a 5 year cycle, PVO & FANta Develop 1-2 key program activity (pilot) plan multi-pro-activity, with a more rigorous design looking at numerous variables. FANta to Fund.*
- *Sampling workshop in the field (for what audience?- still undefined.)*