Learning about monitoring and evaluation of reintegration

Come and join the conversation!

Overview of RISE Learning Network

The RISE Learning Network aims to promote and facilitate learning on Recovery and Reintegration (R&R) approaches that improve outcomes for children and young people affected by sexual exploitation (CSE). RISE brings together a diverse group of organisations, some of whose work in R&R may be advanced or innovative but so far only implemented at a local level or focused on one area of vulnerability. A series of Learning Projects will capture and share local experiences in order to positively influence learning and strengthen the evidence base to inform policy and practice regionally and globally. The RISE Learning Network is built on three regional learning hubs in Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and South and Central Asia, each led by a Regional Working Group. Participating organisations, networks and individuals take leadership in designing and implementing their own regional work plans, to strengthen learning on regional priority issues.

Learning Project 1: Monitoring and Evaluation of Reintegration

The first Learning Project[1] within the RISE Learning Network is focused on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of reintegration. Many organisations around the world are supporting vulnerable children who have become separated from their families. The ultimate goal for most organisations is to reunify these children with their families, or if this is not possible, place children into alternative family-based environments, and support their reintegration back into the wider community. Considerable attention and resources have been targeted at such reintegration programmes, yet rigorous evaluations, including on the impact of these interventions on children's outcomes are rare and it is not always clear what lessons are being learnt[2].

If we hope to strengthen reintegration programmes and see improvements in the lives of children and their families, then we need to measure the changes that these programmes are having on the lives of those being supported. By building a better understanding of what works and what makes a positive difference we can replicate and scale-up effective policies and programmes. When M&E is done well, it can tell us not only what works, but how and for whom[3].

This Learning Project aims to deliver three results:

1. Community of learning on M&E of reintegration is developed and used to strengthen organisations' understanding of and approaches to M&E of reintegration.

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[1] The second Learning Project will aim to capture survivor voices, and the focus of third Learning Project will be determined by these findings.

[2] Jordans, M.J.D. et al (2012) Reintegration of child soldiers in Burundi: a tracer study. *BMC Public Health 2012, 12:905;* Coren, E. et al (2013) *Interventions for promoting reintegration and reducing harmful behaviour and lifestyles in street-connected children and young people (Review).* The Cochrane collaboration, Wiley and Sons Ltd.

[3] Claessens, L.F. et al (2012) Participatory evaluation of psychosocial interventions for children: a pilot study in Northern Uganda. *Intervention,* 10(1), 43-58

2. Toolkit capturing various approaches and models, including case studies and best practices, including in low resource settings, on M&E of reintegration is updated and disseminated.
3. Key learning on M&E of reintegration from the learning project is effectively packaged and shared at appropriate forums to influence future policy and practice on reintegration efforts.

Community of learning

In order to generate further learning around M&E of reintegration, in June 2016 the RISE Learning Network established a community learning on the topic. This community of learning will allow actors and agencies involved in reintegration work to share ideas, experiences and examples of good practice to encourage and strengthen each other's work. This will be achieved through webinars, online discussion forums, online mentoring and sharing of documentation. Many resources from the community of learning will be made publically available on the RISE website, while other activities will be reserved for core members who were selected through an application process.

Toolkit

The community of learning will also contribute to the refinement of an M&E of reintegration toolkit,[4] which highlights different methods and tools for monitoring and evaluating reintegration programmes. The aim of the toolkit is to provide information on:

- What could be measured to assess reintegration, and
- How this information could be collected and used, including with the participation of children.

There is no universal approach to monitoring and evaluating reintegration. The toolkit emphasises that any methods used must be tailored and appropriate to the local context and must be carried out in an ethical and safe manner. The toolkit can be downloaded from the RISE website.

Key learning

Towards the end of the Learning Project, in 2017, the experiences of members of the community of learning will be brought together, and learnings will be accordingly packaged and made available to inform debate in the wider sector.

> If you would like to join the conversation and contribute to learning in this important area please visit the RISE website,
> or contact your regional coordinator: Mari for Latin America and the Caribbean, Jade for sub-Saharan Africa and Lopa for South and Central Asia

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[4] The toolkit builds on the work started by the *Home: The Child Recovery and Reintegration Network* which was hosted by the UHI Centre for Rural Childhood, Perth College from 2012-2014.

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