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Implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy to Strengthen Public Sector Accountability

Course Overview

The **"M&E for Accountability & Governance"** program is a 5-day intensive course that provides public sector officials with the strategies and tools to build robust oversight systems. In many African contexts, data is collected but rarely used to hold decision-makers accountable. This course bridges that gap by teaching participants how to design M&E strategies that drive performance, improve transparency, and ensure that public resources are resulting in the promised services for citizens.

Program Objectives

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- **Design** a comprehensive M&E strategy that aligns with National Development Goals.
- **Develop** Theory of Change (ToC) and Results Frameworks that clearly define accountability.
- **Master** data collection techniques that ensure data integrity and prevent "performance masking."
- **Utilize** M&E findings to inform the national budget process and policy adjustments.
- **Strengthen** the "Culture of Accountability" within their institutions through transparent reporting.

Course Coverage (Modules)

Day 1: M&E as a Pillar of Good Governance

- **The Accountability Framework:** Understanding the link between M&E, transparency, and public trust.
- **M&E in the African Context:** Lessons from the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
- **Policy Alignment:** Integrating M&E with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Day 2: Designing the Results Architecture

- **The Theory of Change (ToC):** Mapping how interventions lead to long-term impact.
- **The Results Framework:** Developing SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).
- **Selecting Baselines and Targets:** Ensuring realistic goals for public service delivery.

Day 3: Data Systems & Digital M&E

- **Data Collection Methodologies:** Balancing quantitative and qualitative data (Surveys vs. Focus Groups).
- **Digital M&E (e-M&E):** Leveraging mobile data collection and remote sensing for real-time tracking.
- **Data Quality Assurance (DQA):** Techniques to identify and correct data manipulation or errors.

Day 4: Analysis, Reporting & The Social Contract

- **Performance Analysis:** Moving beyond "what happened" to "why it happened."
- **Citizen-Led Monitoring:** Engaging civil society and the public in verifying government claims.
- **The "Citizens' Dashboard":** Designing public-facing reports that simplify complex data.

Day 5: Institutionalizing M&E for Long-Term Impact

- **Building M&E Units:** Staffing, budgeting, and the "Independence" of the M&E function.
- **The Feedback Loop:** Ensuring M&E findings are used for "Management for Results."
- **Action Planning:** Developing an "Institutional M&E Strategy Roadmap."

Target Participants

- **Directors of Policy, Planning, and M&E** in Ministries and Agencies.
- **Parliamentary Researchers** and members of Oversight Committees.
- **Local Government Officers** responsible for decentralized service delivery.
- **Performance Audit Officers** from the National Audit Office.
- **Civil Society Leaders** involved in social accountability initiatives.

Expected Outputs

Participants will graduate with a **"Public Accountability Toolkit"** containing:

- **A Draft M&E Strategy:** A 5-page framework tailored to their specific department or agency.
- **A Customized Results Matrix:** A set of indicators for a high-priority national project.
- **A Data Collection Protocol:** A standard operating procedure to ensure data integrity in the field.
- **A 100-Day "M&E Quick-Win" Plan:** A strategy to implement one transparency-boosting change immediately

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