

# Nigeria HPN Multi-Activity Evaluation




## Most Significant Change: Methods Brief

In collaboration with local research partner Data Research and Mapping Consult Ltd. (DRMC), Data for Impact (D4I) conducted two-day MSC workshops in Ebonyi, Kebbi, and Zamfara states in July and August 2022 as part of the HPN Multi-Activity evaluation.

Most Significant Change (MSC)<sup>1</sup> is an approach to monitoring and evaluation that involves assessing changes and impacts in response to a program from the perspective of (in this case) HPN activity (IHP, PMI-S, BA-N, PSM) staff, the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) and other state government staff, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

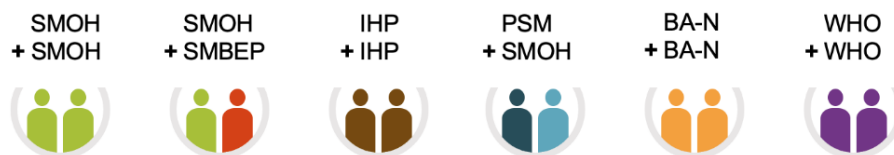
“Domains of change” are chosen as topic areas for the stories of change. Domains of change are not indicators, which are defined so everyone interprets them the same way. Rather, they are deliberately vague to allow participants to have different interpretations of what makes up the change they think is important. Changes can be negative or positive. D4I chose three domains that were cross-cutting across the four HPN activities. Figure 1 illustrates the MSC methodology using Ebonyi state as an example.

### Domains of Change

-  Advocacy and accountability for health
-  Capacity for leadership and governance in healthcare
-  Sustainability of health systems and outcomes

**Figure 1. MSC method in Ebonyi state**

**Step 1.** Six groups of 2 share stories of significant change for 3 domains.



**Step 2.** Groups of four are formed from the pairs and choose the MSC story for each domain. (3 stories per group = 9 total)



**Step 3.** Each group of four presents their MSC story for each domain to the full group, which debates and votes on the MSC story for each domain. (1 story per domain = 3 final MSC stories)

<sup>1</sup> Davies R and Dart J. The ‘Most Significant Change’ (MSC) Technique. Available at: <https://www.mande.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2005/MSCGuide.pdf>.



## Workshop Participants

Each of the HPN implementing partners (IPs) identified state IP and government staff to invite to the workshop and provided information on each person’s role and their areas of engagement in the activities being evaluated. In addition, D4I invited WHO, represented by two staff members, to attend the workshop to gain the perspective of another donor partner and to share the findings more broadly to encourage data use.

## Analysis

The final nine stories chosen as most significant (one per domain per state) were summarized. In addition to relating the story of change, participants explained why the change was significant and the main lesson learned from the change.

D4I analyzed the nine stories as a group through reading, re-reading, and comparison to identify key themes as well who benefitted from the interventions described in the stories. Figure 2 maps the stories to the HPN desired high-level health system and facility-level outcomes and overall impacts.

Figure 2. HPN outcomes and impacts

Health System Outcomes	Facility-Level Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened health financing</li> <li>Strengthened financing for EDDS</li> <li>Increased use of data for decision making</li> <li>Improved planning, management, and coordination</li> <li>Increased advocacy and accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved provider knowledge, skills, and practices</li> <li>Improved client-provider interaction</li> <li>Increased availability of EDDS</li> <li>Increased facility readiness to provide services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased demand for high quality services</li> <li>Increased use of RMNCH+NM services</li> <li>Increased sustainability of health outcomes/systems</li> </ul>

## Verification

D4I verified the three stories per state chosen as most significant from HPN activities’ FY21 and FY22 progress reports, D4I process monitoring results, and D4I’s DHIS2 data analysis results. D4I will supplement this with future data gathered by the evaluation team, such as new DHIS2 data, when applicable.

## Strengths and Limitations

MSC is a flexible method that can capture a broad range of results. It encourages analysis as well as data collection as respondents debate which stories are most significant and why. Limitations include a bias toward success stories, popular views, and those who are good story tellers. The method also requires a lot of participants’ time.

## For more information

D4I supports countries to realize the power of data as actionable evidence that can improve programs, policies, and—ultimately—health outcomes. We strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of local partners to collect, analyze, and use data to support sustainable development. For more information, visit <https://www.data4impactproject.org/>