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Conducting evaluations for multi-site projects can present unique challenges and opportunities. For example, evaluators must be careful to ensure that consistent data are captured across sites. At the same time, having results for multiple sites can lead to stronger conclusions about an intervention's impact.

HELPFUL HINTS

- 1. Investigate the consistency of project implementation.** Just because the same guidelines have been provided to each site does not mean that they have been implemented the same way! Variations in implementation can create difficulties in collecting the data and interpreting the evaluation results.
 - 2. Design the data collection tools to be standardized across sites.** This will minimize confusion and result in a single dataset with information on all sites. On the downside, this may mean limiting the data to a subset of information that is available across all sites.
 - 3. Help the project managers at each site understand the evaluation plan.** Provide a clear, comprehensive overview of the evaluation plan that includes the expectations of the managers. Simplify their roles as much as possible.
 - 4. Be sensitive in reporting side-by-side results of the sites.** Consult with project stakeholders to determine if it is appropriate or helpful to include side-by-side comparisons of the performance of the various sites.
 - 5. Analyze to what extent differences in outcomes are due to variations in project implementation.** Variation in results across sites may provide clues as to factors that may facilitate or impede the achievement of certain outcomes.
 - 6. Report the evaluation results back to the site managers** in whatever form would be the most useful to them. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit the site managers as supporters of evaluation, especially if they see that the evaluation results can be used to aid their participant recruitment and fundraising efforts.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

USAID, *International Program for Development Evaluation Training – 2007, Multi-Site Evaluations*, <https://communities.usaidallnet.gov/fa/system/files/Multi-Site+Evaluations.pdf>

Lawrenz, F., & Huffman, d. (2003). How can multi-site evaluations be participatory? *American Journal of Evaluation*, 24(4), 471-482. Available from http://www.stes-apes.med.ulg.ac.be/Documents_electroniques/EVA/EVA-GEN/ELE%20EVA-GEN%207384.pdf

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