

Tracer Survey Report Summary 2015

Demographics

Overall, 123 of 205 (60%) IPDET alumni who were contacted via email responded to the online survey. This rate is very high for online surveys, which may be an indication of the participant group's strong relationship with IPDET.

Approximately 48% of the respondents previously participated in both the core and workshop components of IPDET, with lower percentages participating in just one or the other. A majority of respondents (53%) indicated that they were fully or partially funded by their employer, whereas 36% were on IPDET scholarship. 62% of the respondents were females and 38% were males; 41% indicated that they work for government or ministry, followed by multi-lateral development agencies (22%) and NGOs (14%). In addition, 17% of the total respondents indicated that they work in an Evaluation Unit, 37% in a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, and 46% belonged to various other departments. The largest proportion (28%) of respondents described their primary evaluation-related function as using evaluation results for policy making and/or program improvement.

The patterns of demographics described above are quite consistent with the patterns indicated in the IPDET evaluation reports of the past 10 years. Thus, respondents to this survey appear to be a good representation of the IPDET participant population. In addition, most respondents, 69%, have between 3 and 10 years of experience working in M&E and/or evaluation. A majority (55%) also indicated that they have had a substantial role to play in one to five evaluations *over the past 5 years*, while 71% indicated that they have had a substantial role to play in one to five evaluations *since last attending IPDET*.

Gender-equality Considerations

63% (n=68) of the respondents stated that gender-equality considerations were “usually” or “always” (a rating of 3 or 4) taken into account when conducting the evaluation related work in which they have been involved. A further analysis reveals that approximately equal proportions of male (62%) and female (65%) respondents answered “usually” or “always” to this item.

Application of Knowledge

A large proportion, 66% (n=80), of the respondents said that they have applied the knowledge and skills acquired from IPDET in their work very frequently. This relatively high frequency of knowledge transfer was largely consistent across respondent work functions and type of employer, demonstrating the breadth and relevance of knowledge acquired at IPDET.

Only 13% (n=16) indicated that they did not use the knowledge and skill acquired from IPDET or did so very infrequently. However, many of these respondents indicated that their work does not involve evaluation, or that they face organizational barriers to applying their knowledge.

Impact of Attending IPDET

Respondents indicated that their work is having a significantly stronger impact on decision making since they have attended IPDET, with a large majority, 72% (n=84), stating that evaluation-related work they have done since IPDET has very frequently contributed to decision making.

Many, 48% (n=57), of the respondents answered that their evaluation career has changed since last attending IPDET, with responses revealing that they are taking on more, or more varied, evaluation-related responsibilities since attending IPDET. An overwhelming majority of these alumni whose evaluation careers have changed, 77% (n=44), said that their IPDET experience contributed to that change. Detailed responses pointed towards having more knowledge, confidence, and network contacts as a result of attending IPDET.

Staying Active

Overall, 37% (n=45) of the respondents reported staying active in evaluation associations in one way or another: approximately 11% (n=13) renewed their IDEAS membership after the one year free membership they obtained through IPDET, 29% (n=35) joined an evaluation association apart from IDEAS since last attending IPDET, and impressively 16% (n=16) have started an evaluation association since last attending IPDET.

Most, 85% (n=101), of the respondents continue to actively follow the IPDET listserv primarily to gather or share new information, look for job opportunities, and network/stay connected. An even larger proportion, 89% (n=108), feel connected to a global community because of the IPDET listserv.