Small Grants Workshop in Baghdad: M&E Report

Prepared for:

IHSS Project funded by USAID

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November 13, 2003

Table of Contents

1. Introduction **3**

2. Objectives **3**

3. Approaches **3**

4. Results **4**

5. Conclusions **12**

1. Introduction

In order to assure that the grant is being best used for the expected results, the consolidated work plan of IHSSP as approved by USAID specified that IHSSP should "design and implement a grants monitoring and evaluation program that includes internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E), performance-related payment, and collaborative review of grant achievements before final payment is made". M&E, both internal and external, can serve as an important tool to increase grant performance, through its inspection mechanism as well as provision of necessary technical assistance.

M & E team has prepared a plan to monitor and evaluate the small grant projects throughout its course including individual grants assessment (for both mid-term and end-of-project M&E) as well as an overall program activity assessment. These will be done by using the pre-designed M&E tools (Midterm M&E report, End of project M&E report, and workshop evaluation questionnaire).

Currently, 6 small grants have been approved by USAID, another 5 are in the process of approval, and around 50 applications are in the pipeline. In order to invite more applications and increase the competitiveness of the small grant application for the purpose of assurance the quality of small grants, the small grant program of IHSSP (I-HELP) organized the small grant workshop in Baghdad.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this M&E report:

- To analyze some of the variables related to the workshop participants like age, gender, profession, administrative position, and place of work.
- To provide the small grants team with a feedback report by revising the opinions of the participants about the training, and the benefit they got from the workshop.

3.Approaches:

In order to reach the above mentioned objectives, the monitoring and evaluation team designed a questionnaire form that is universal for all the workshops and submit this form to the small grants team. Participants filled these forms at the end of their workshop, data was processed using the EPI6 and Excel computer programs.

5. Results

The workshop was held in Baghdad for one day (Nov,10, 2003). The total number of participants was 27.

The mean age of the participants was 41 years ± 10.83 SD, with a range between 26 – 68 years and a median of 40 years.

The sex distribution of the participants is displayed in table 1,where it shows that most of the attendants (70.4%) were males.

Table 2 shows that the highest number of attendants (25) was from Baghdad where the workshop was held and only 2 attendants were from other governorates (Dyala and Salahaldeen)

Table 3 shows a wide spectrum of participants' professions where most of the participants were non medical personnel (3.7% social science,14.8% technicians 14.8% engineers,18.6% head or member of an NGO, 29.6 % others), and only 2 (7.4%) GP doctors and 3 (11.1%) specialist doctors in community medicine.

Table 4 shows that most of the participants have no specific administrative positions and few of them have different positions in the ministry of health offices.

Table 5 is a comprehensive table showing the opinions of the participants about different aspects of the workshop. Most (70.4%) of the participants considered the length of the workshop is just about right(Fig.1). More than a half (63%) of them found the workshop are very useful or useful (37%) (see figure 2 for detail).

Interestingly, no participant felt there was no improvement in their knowledge and skills. More than half (59.2%) of them reported a major improvement, and 37% of the participants felt that they had minor improvement in knowledge and skills(see figure 3 for detail).

Majority of the participants reported positive impacts of the workshops on their work, with 65.4% very positive impact, and 34.6% positive impact (see figure 4 for detail).

All the participants were willing to participate in additional workshops in the future (80.8% very willing and 19.2% willing to participate; see Figure 5 for detail).

All of the participants were satisfied about both the workshops and the trainers (29.6% satisfied and 70.4% very satisfied see figure 6 & figure7 for detail).

Table 1. Sex distribution of the participants

Sex	Frequency	%
Male	19	70.4
Female	8	29.6
Total	27	100

Table 2. Distribution of participants by governorates

Governorates	No. of Attendants	%
Baghdad	25	92.6
Dyala	1	3.7
Salahaldeen	1	3.7
Total	27	100

Table 3. Distribution of the participants by professions

Profession	Frequency	%
Social science specialist	1	3.7
Medical Doctor (GP)	2	7.4
Community medicine specialist doctor	3	11.1
Technician	4	14.8
Engineer	4	14.8
NGO(head or member)	5	18.6
Other	8	29.6
Total	27	100

Table 4. Distribution of the participants by administrative positions

Position	Frequency	%
Department of planning manager	2	7.4
Community medicine specialist	3	11.1
Others	22	81.5
Total	27	100

Table 5. Distribution of participants by opinions about the workshop

Opinion about:	No.	%
1-Workshop length		
Too short	1	3.7
Short	3	11.1
Just about right	19	70.4
long	1	3.7
Too long	3	3
Total	27	100
2-Workshop usefulness		
Very useful	17	63
Useful	10	37
Unuseful	0	0
Total	27	100
3-The improvement of their skills and knowledge		
Major	16	59.25
Minor	10	37
No Improvement	0	0
No comment	1	3.7
Total	27	100
4-Workshop impact on the participants work		
Very positive	17	65.4
Positive	9	34.6
No impact	0	0
Total	27	100
5-Participants' willing for additional participation		
Very willing	21	80.8
Willing	6	19.2
Unwilling	0	0
Very unwilling	0	0
Total	27	100
6- Participants' satisfaction about the trainers		
Very satisfied	19	70.4
Satisfied	8	29.6
Unsatisfied	0	0
Very unsatisfied	0	0
Total	27	100
7- Overall satisfaction about the workshop		
Very satisfied	19	70.4
Satisfied	8	29.6
Unsatisfied	0	0
Very unsatisfied	0	0
Total	27	100

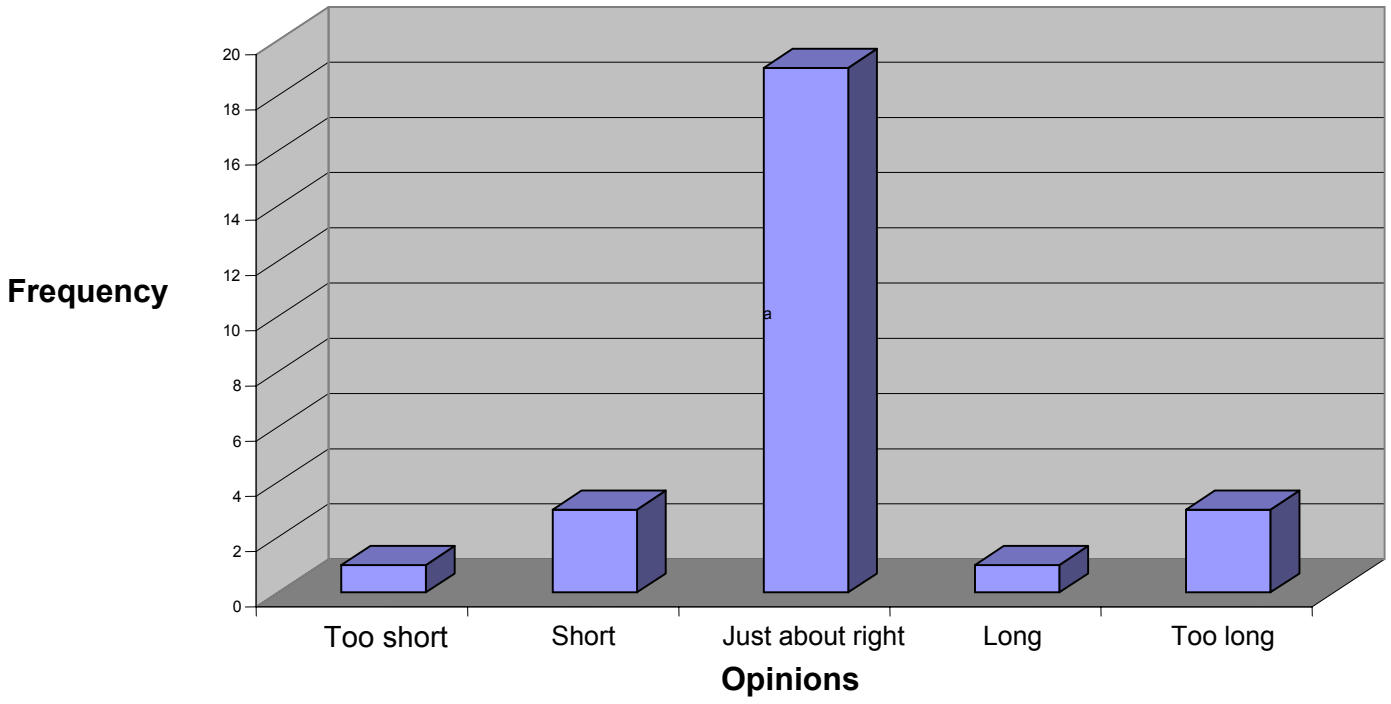

Figure 1 Distribution of participants by opinions about workshop length

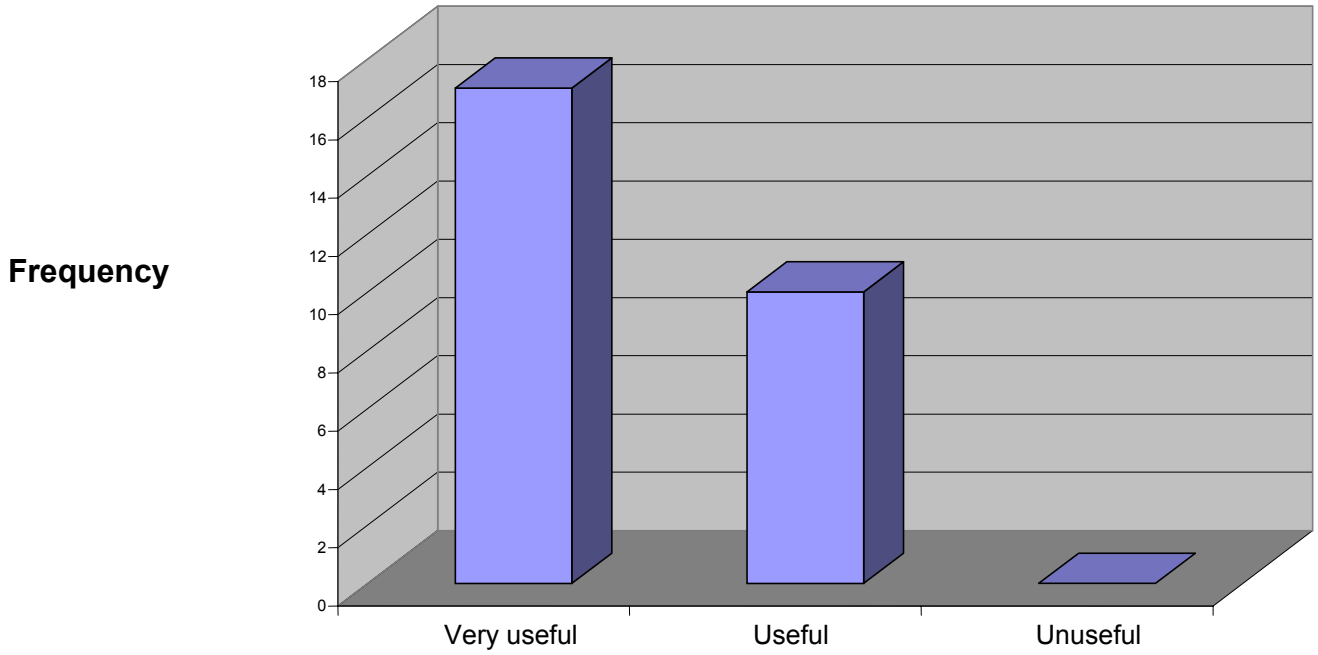

Figure 2 Distribution of participants by opinions about workshop length

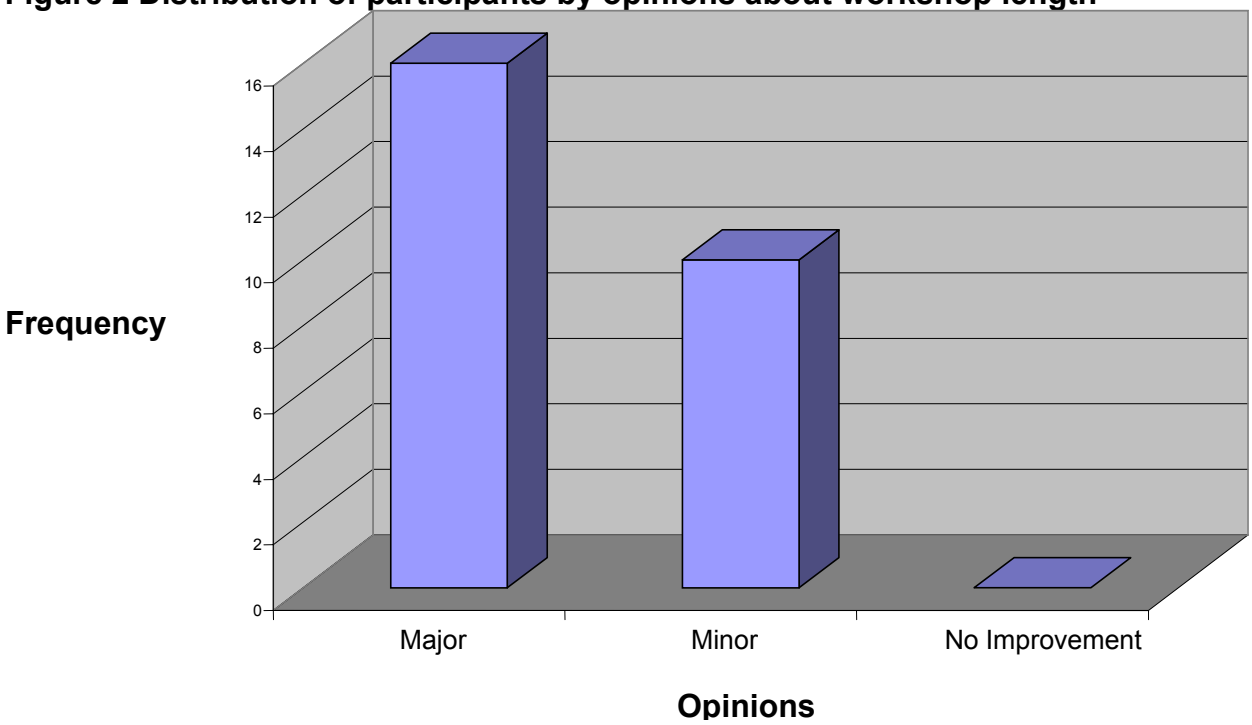

Figure 3 Distribution of participants by opinions about Skills & Knowledge improvement

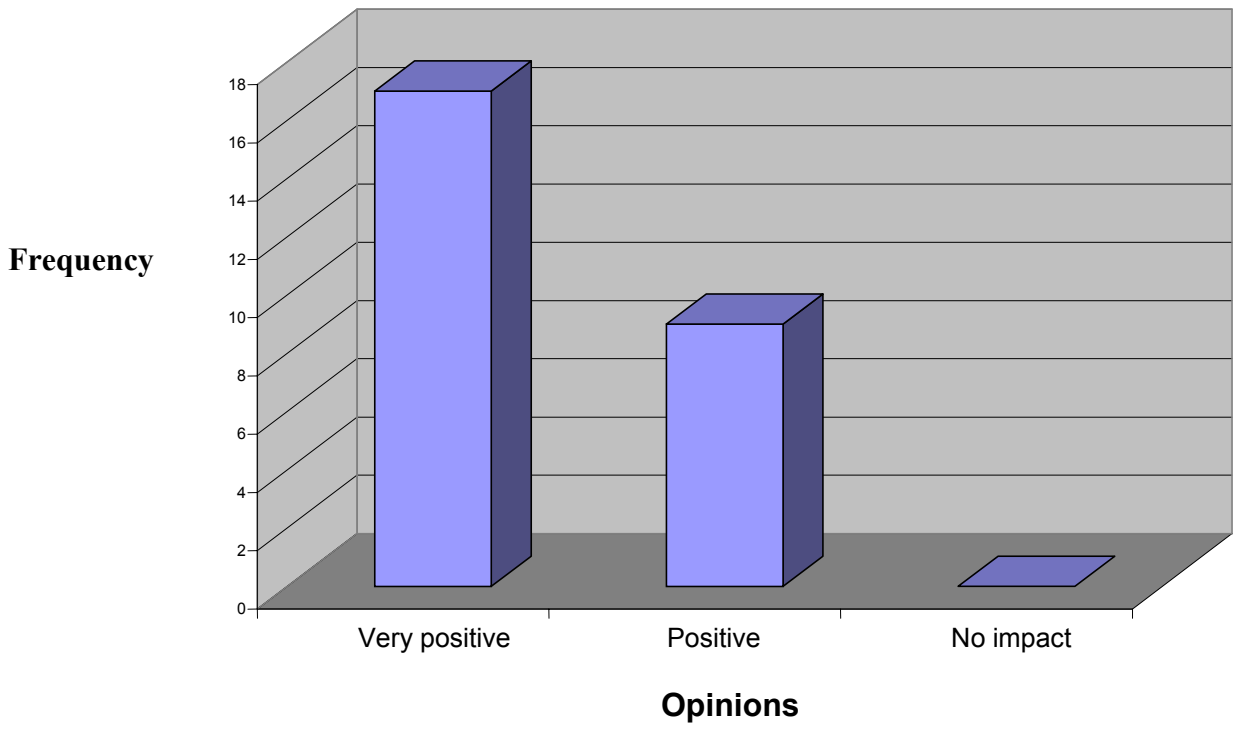

Figure 4 Distribution of participants by opinions about workshop impact on their work

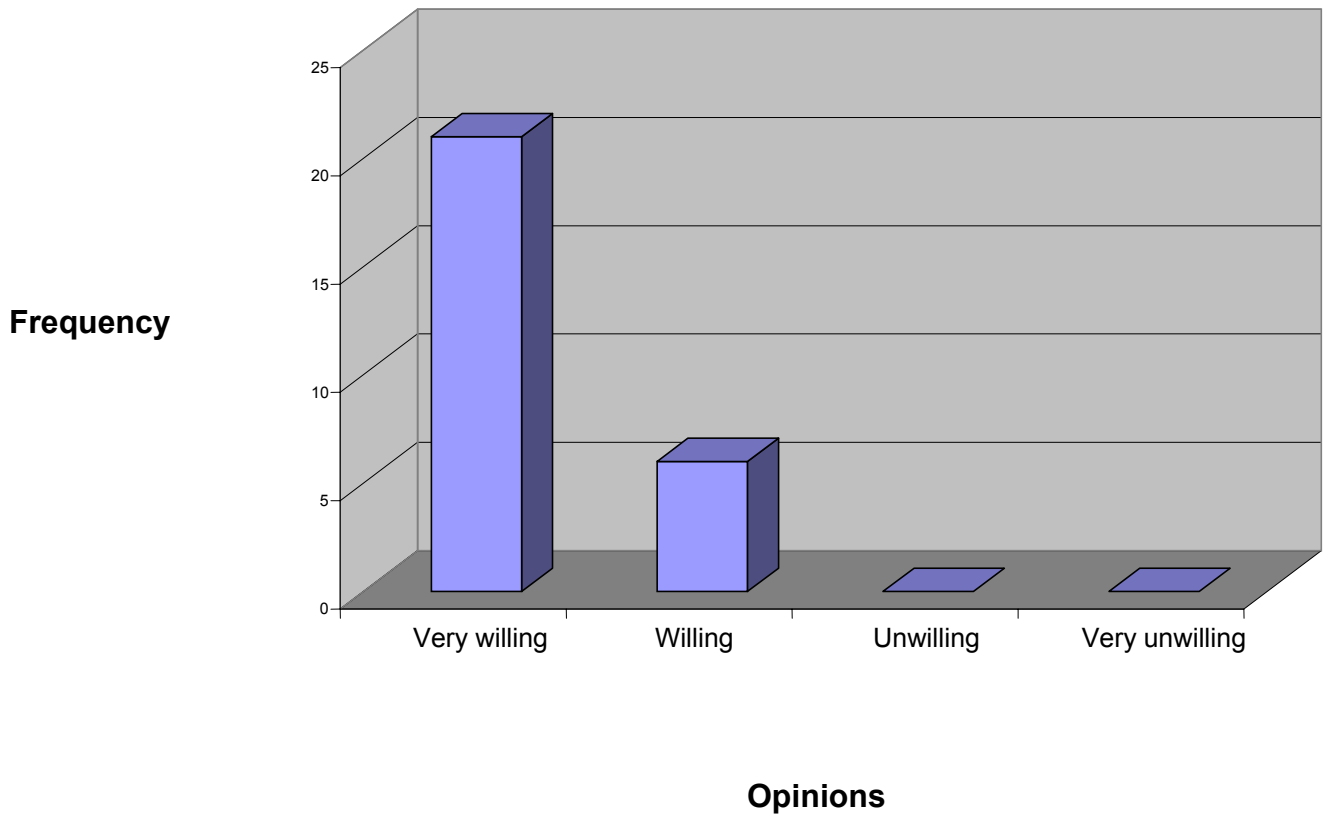

Figure 5 Distribution of participants by their willingness for additional participation

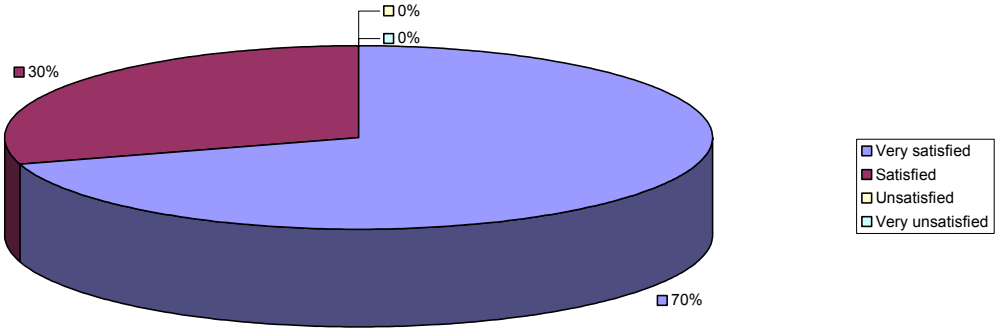

Figure 6 Distribution of participants by opinions of their satisfaction about the trainers

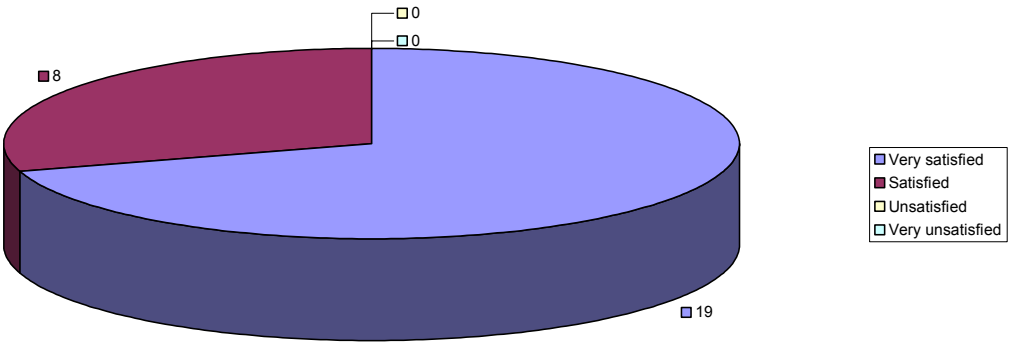

Figure 7 Distribution of participants by their opinions of satisfaction about the workshop

6. Conclusions

- Most of the participants were of the middle age group, and the participation of women in small grant applications is still much smaller than men.
- The number of participants belongs to the governorate where the workshop was held is much greater than that of the other neighbor governorates which indicates a problem in communication and transportation.
- There was a wide spectrum of professions among the participants. Most of them were non medical personnel working in NGOs, and other places, this may indicate the need for the workshops to be held where the medical personnel are more available (e.g. Iraqi Medical Association). The medical community is a fertile soil to disseminate the I-HELP objectives and then to propose many projects focusing on the health system improvement.
- Almost all participants reported satisfaction with the workshop, in terms of trainers' capacity and overall workshop quality.
- Majority of the participants reported that they were willing to participate in additional workshops.