

# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Systems (advanced)

5-week online training course: Nov - Dec 2026



## Course summary

Are you interested in strengthening the monitoring, evaluation and learning processes and practices within your organisation? Do you want to make sure that high quality information is collected and shared to enable learning and accountability? INTRAC's online course on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Systems aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to be able to develop an effective MEL system for your programme or organisation.

Recognizing the evolving development landscape, the course has recently been updated to emphasise decolonisation and localisation principles. Participants will learn how to integrate these critical themes into the design and management of effective MEL systems.

The course explores the core components of effective MEL systems and how these differ for complex programmes and organisations. We'll delve into key considerations like:

- identifying and managing external influences and considering power dynamics
- diagnosing and resolving MEL system challenges
- making informed decisions on what information to collect
- summarising and making sense of that information, ensuring its use for learning, accountability and management decision making

The course will draw on real-life case studies and examples from INTRAC's MEL systems' work.

## Who is this training course suitable for?

This course is designed for individuals responsible for developing and managing MEL systems within the international development sector. We will explore practical solutions to common challenges faced in designing and managing robust MEL systems. Prior experience in MEL system development and management is essential.

## What are the objectives?

By the end of the training participants will have:

- explored the influences on how MEL systems are designed and managed, including themes of decolonisation/ localisation
- discussed the key elements of effective MEL systems at programme and organisational level, drawing on examples from participants' and INTRAC's work
- identified common challenges with complex MEL systems and ways of addressing these, drawing on examples from INTRAC's work
- explored different approaches to summarising data in complex MEL systems, with a focus on qualitative and story- and case-based approaches
- examined ways of integrating learning effectively in MEL systems
- worked with the course trainers and participants to find practical ways to address specific MEL system challenges in their own contexts

## What is the course format and requirements?

Participants will be part of an online facilitated, interactive and collaborative elearning experience.

- Four interactive live sessions via Zoom weekly with a week's break between session 3 and 4 (please refer to the session calendar below for dates & times). The sessions include small group discussions and practical exercises
- Access to the INTRAC elearning platform, recommended resources and reading materials
- One 1-hour individual mentoring session with a course trainer to support participants' learning and address specific challenges they face with MEL in their programmes and organisations

# Course calendar

Session	Topic	Date
	<i>Enrolment</i>	<b>Thursday 5 November 2026</b>
1	Key elements of complex MEL systems and the influences on designing and managing these	<b>1:00 pm - 3:30 pm UK time Thursday 12 Nov 2026</b>
2	Common challenges of complex MEL and how to address them	<b>1:00 pm - 3:30 pm UK time Thursday 19 Nov 2026</b>
3	Approaches to summarising data in complex MEL systems, with a focus on qualitative methods	<b>1:00 pm - 3:30 pm UK time Thursday 26 Nov 2026</b>
Triads Activity Week		<b>w/c 30 Nov 2026</b>
4	Using MEL information for learning, accountability and decision-making; sharing solutions to MEL systems challenges	<b>1:00 pm - 3:30 pm UK time Thursday 10 Dec 2026</b>

## What are the IT requirements?

You will need a laptop and ideally also a headset, as well as access to broadband and internet. You will need to be able to download software (Zoom) to join the live sessions. INTRAC's e-learning platform (Moodle) is accessible via a browser. If you have any questions about these requirements, please do get in touch.

- Participants must identify and share a MEL challenge before the 1st live session using the elearning platform. This is a core task for successful participation in the course
- To deepen learning, participants will collaborate in small groups of three (triads) and will engage in 3 meetings outside of scheduled sessions (2 of these meetings are mandatory for course completion). The triads will be formed by the trainers based on participants' MEL challenges shared before the course start, their experience and time zones.
- Participants are expected to attend all 4 scheduled live sessions in real time. Please make sure you have no clashing commitments prior to registering for the course.

***Participants should allocate approximately 4-5 hours per week over the 5-week period of the course. Prior to the first session, participants will need to complete pre-reading and share a current MEL system challenge as outlined in the course requirements.***

## Course fee

The fee for this course is £650. Training access scholarships are available for small NGOs /civil society organisations. [For more information, please visit our FAQ.](#)