

Collaborating Centre for Operational Research and Evaluation (CCORE)

Background: Zimbabwe is currently undergoing political, economic and social transition. It is against this background that major donors have started to consider re-engaging with the Government of National Unity in Zimbabwe, specifically aimed at helping Zimbabwe's social sectors rebuild and respond to the needs of the people.

As social services begin to recover, there is an urgent need for good data to drive programme priorities and decision-making by the Government of Zimbabwe and donors. In a complex and fluid environment such as the one we are in, it is imperative to have access to correct information and evidence and not to rely on outdated statistics, anecdotal evidence and poorly collected data. Strong, accurate, and program-focused information, will guide and direct programming for children.

The CCORE has been set to meet the information needs of donors and implementers, including the government of Zimbabwe's (GoZ), with the aim of ensuring better programming, policy-making, data collection and analysis capacity. Operations research is an on-going process that aims to build information about what works, what does not work and how we can do better in the programming process. Qualitative research process will be employed to better understand the positive and negative processes, outputs and policies during implementation of programmes.

The CCORE will support the setting of evidence based programming within UNICEF and its partners Operations Research and will use

Objectives: Support original programmatic data collection in critical gap areas for humanitarian and development sectors.

- 1) Support analysis and dissemination of such data in a timely manner in order to provide opportunities for mid-course programme adjustments.
- 2) Build formal operational research capacity within the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and GOZ.
- 3) To strengthen collaboration with Zimbabwe-based research groups and individuals in the development and design of appropriate activities that address emerging humanitarian and development issues.
- 4) To support for and strengthen existing initiatives for results/data dissemination to policy makers and project implementers.
- 5) To establish expertise in key Operational Research methodologies.
- 6) Work with key partners in reviving and offering basic up-to-date monitoring and evaluation training for partners and implementers in Zimbabwe.
- 7) To provide technical support for program monitoring initiatives to neighboring states on request
- 8) To provide support for and strengthen existing initiatives for results/data dissemination to policy makers and project implementers.