WORKING GROUP SESSION: EXPLAINING YOUR DATA OR RESEARCH (RPS1G)

Module
From Research to Policy

Format
Individual worksheet and small group discussion

Purpose
This activity contributes to the module learning objectives by giving participants practice at describing research and findings that are relevant for policy purposes.

Time Required
- 2 hrs

Working Group Description
Participants are grouped into Working Groups of 3-5 participants based on their research topics. Throughout the series of Working Group sessions, participants are asked to apply the concepts and skills taught in the workshop to their own topics.

Activity Description
This Working Group Session focuses on getting to know the members of the working group and the topics they plan to focus on during the training. This session is best suited for workshop participants who are researchers. Participants who are advocates or program experts may struggle to complete this exercise; if you suspect that might be the case, you can skip this Working Group Session and begin the working groups with the next session.

The worksheet asks participants to describe their research questions, hypotheses, methods, and actual or expected findings. Participants using existing or secondary data or information can still adapt the responses to these questions (explaining the topic, what data they'll be using, the source of that data, how it was collected, etc.). During the group discussion, each participant presents his/her research. After each individual describes his/her research, you and the other members of the group ask questions and discuss. Make sure that you have a clear understanding of each individual’s research by the end of the discussion. You can encourage them to try using nontechnical terms, but they don’t have to yet. In one sense, this session lets the participants “get the academia out,” so that in future sessions you can focus on discussing the policy communication concepts and not the research methodology. Estimate approximately 30 minutes of discussion per Fellow.
Key Learning Concept(s)
- Make sure all group members, and the facilitator, have a clear understanding of each participant’s research question and methods.

Materials Needed
- Working Group Session worksheet “Explain Your Data or Research”