

Daniel Shaughnessy and TCR Evaluation Experience

Background

Throughout an extensive career in food aid and related development work, Mr. Shaughnessy and his firm, TCR Services, Inc. has been involved in evaluations of Food for Progress programs, school feeding programs, emergency response activities, a Congressionally–mandated evaluation of PL 480 Title II, Section 416(b) food aid programs, evaluations of Cooperating Sponsor Consortia activities, and preparation of manuals for management and evaluation of food aid programs.

Specifically

In 1980, Mr. Shaughnessy, as Executive Director of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger led a Congressionally-required evaluation of the US government response to Hunger, preparing a report to the President and the Congress.

In the late 1980's Mr. Shaughnessy and TCR conducted initial evaluations for USAID and USDA of the use of monetization in food aid programs.

In the late 1990's Farm Bill legislation mandated a review and evaluation of the PL 480 Title II food aid program. Mr. Shaughnessy and his firm, TCR Services were competitively selected to be the lead evaluators, with an extensive and detailed report provided to USAID and the Congress.

During the period 2002 to present, Mr. Shaughnessy and TCR have:

Conducted, for Food Aid Management, an extensive evaluation of food aid consortia activities carried out by NGO's conducting various food aid programs. The evaluation was funded by USAID through FAM, with reporting to USAID.

Participated in evaluations of Food for Progress programs in Central America and Africa, an evaluation of a USDA school feeding program in Haiti, and evaluations of International Food Relief Partnership programs in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

Conducted, for the Gates Foundation an extensive evaluation of food aid and other emergency planning carried out by five major international NGO's, with evaluation results reported both orally and in a written report to the funders.

Methodologies

In addition to the use of general methodologies, the TCR evaluation team has applied experience in the use of SAS statistical analysis software to analyze and interpret quantitative data using a variety of statistical methods.

These approaches include univariate methods used to summarize, describe and present data, basic probability distributions, discrete probability distributions, normal distributions, sampling distributions, confidence interval estimation, single-sample and two-sample hypothesis testing,

regression, ANOVA (one-way, two-way, and factorial), chi-squared, correlations, regression (linear, multivariate, and logistic), principal component analysis, factor analysis, and discriminant analysis.

TCR evaluation teams choose the methods most appropriate to each key evaluation question, considering the type and number of variables and relationships among them. All method choices are documented.

Summary

As a result of significant experience in a wide range of assignments, Mr. Shaughnessy, TCR Services, and its contractors are highly skilled in the techniques and processes of sound programmatic evaluations.

TCR's evaluation planning is focused on the need for a careful examination of anticipated program results and the particular factors involved in judging those results. TCR assures that data collection is accurate and properly documented, with analyses that carefully support conclusions.

TCR evaluation reports are concisely written, on time, and in accordance with donor requirements.