Vision Fund International Verifies Data Quality

Vision Fund International (VFI) provides an example of a strong system for data quality control. It asks its network partners not only to send data, but also to send regular reports on data quality, centered around three components taken from the PPI Standards of Use:

- Adequate Sample Size: Was the reported sample random and representative?
- Spot-check Rate: Were at least 5% of surveys verified by someone other than the original enumerator?
- Discrepancy Rate: Were less than 10% of spot-check responses different from the original responses?

Failing any one of these three tests can lead to erroneous results.

VFI's experienced has been that: "a key factor to support good quality data is to have one dedicated person responsible for the client data collection quality...With larger MFIs, there will be 3-4 people on the SPM team, one of whom needs to take responsibility. The issue is in smaller MGIs without operations—then client data supervisions is an additional task, and does not get enough attention. In our view, there should be al least one person with this responsibility—and sufficient authority to coordinate well."