Lessons Learned from Collaborative Monitoring and Evaluation Design

My name is Christie and I work with street kids international as a program manager and I work on projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Sierra Leone and i manage our international youth internship program and more recently have become engaged in developing our monitoring and evaluation framework.

So Istanbul principle number seven is around creating and sharing knowledge and committing to mutual learning, and street kids international feels this important not only in our own work around collaborating with different organizations to learn from each other, but then also sharing what we've learned through those processes with other civil society organizations to try to enhance learning throughout as opposed to keeping all that learning for ourselves.

Today we talked about monitoring and evaluation and I shared the process that took us from potentially doing an impact evaluation back to revising our monitoring and evaluation framework and really stopping and thinking about what information was important to us as an organization and that was something that i felt was useful to share with other organizations. I definitely think that many of us struggle with what the purpose of monitoring and evaluation is, and if we can take some time to stop and think about what the real value is to our organization and build our frameworks around that, that would be ideal. And I think that this conversation was the start of potentially more conversations and more collaboration, through OCIC, to discuss this sphere of work, to try to share practices in something that's often under-funded and under-resourced but is extremely important for actually bettering our practice and our work.