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# DID YOU KNOW?

"Not more than 6-10 % of expenditures in training actually result in transfer to the job."

**Broad and Newstrom** 

## **Program Overview**



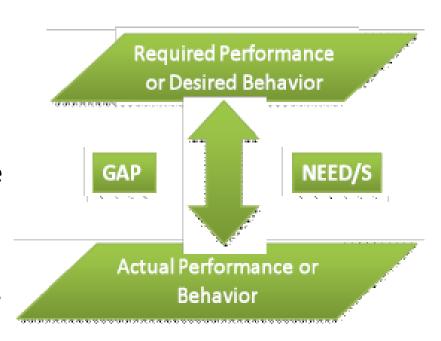
Planning is the first step of the training management cycle. At the planning stage, the steps are divided into two:

- i) Training NeedsAssessment (TNA) and
- ii) Training Planning.

This manual takes up TNA.

## What is Training Needs Assessment?

- "Training Needs Assessment" (TNA)
  is the method of determining if a
  training need exists and, if it does,
  what training is required to fill the
  gap.
- TNA seeks to identify accurately the levels of the present situation in the target surveys, interview, observation, secondary data and/or workshop.
- The gap between the present status and desired status may indicate problems that in turn can be translated into a training need.

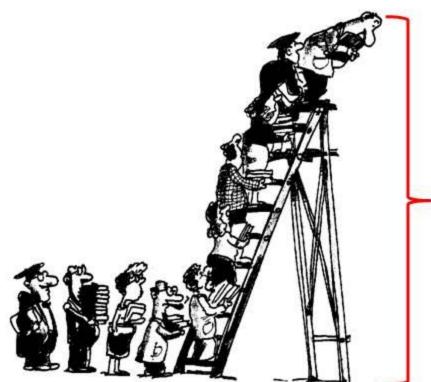


Training Needs = Desired Capability – Current Capability of the Participants

## TNA

#### Where they need to be

- -Now
- -Tomorrow
- -Future



Skill Knowledge Behaviour

performance gap

Where they are now



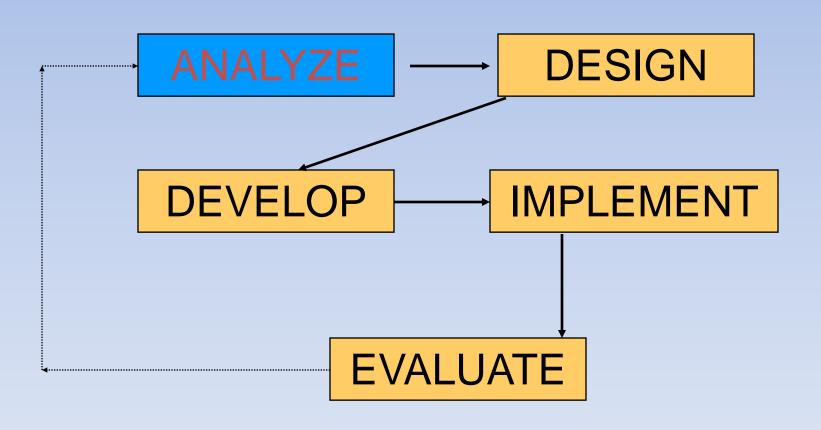
#### Macro

- aligned with strategic goals
- three levels
  - organizational
  - occupational
  - individual

#### Micro

- initiated by performance problems or change
- assessment done to clarify problem, determine if training is the solution, analyze performance, and characteristics of trainees

## **Instructional Design Process**



### Why do a Training Needs Assessment?

A TNA provides information on the training and skills development requirements of all members of your network. It is one of the key steps in preparing a training plan and will provide you with information on which to base your network"s training plan. It enables you to:



- Identify the gap between current and required levels of knowledge, skills and atitude
- Identify what the general content of training should be
- Form the foundation of a training plan
- Provide a baseline for the evaluation of a training plan
- Ensure that appropriate and relevant training is delivered
- Maximise use of scarce resources

Why conduct the training: to tie the performance deficiency to a working need and be sure the benefits of conducting the training are greater than the problems being caused by the performance deficiency. Conduct two types of analysis to answer this question: (1) needs versus wants analysis and (2) feasibility analysis.
 Who is involved in the training: involve appropriate parties to solve the deficiency.

is involved in the training: involve appropriate parties to solve the deficiency. Conduct a target population analysis to learn as much as possible about those involved in the deficiency and how to customize a training program to capture their interest.

How can the performance deficiency be fixed: training can fix the performance deficiency or suggest other remediation if training is not appropriate? Conduct a performance analysis to identify what skill deficiency is to be fixed by a training remedy.

What

When

is the best way to perform: there is a better or preferred way to do a task to get the best results. Are job performance standards set by the organization? Are there governmental regulations to consider when completing the task in a required manner? Conduct a *task analysis* to identify the best way to perform.

will training take place: the best timing to deliver training because attendance at training can be impacted by work cycles, holidays, and so forth. Conduct a contextual analysis to answer logistics questions.

(Source: Jean Barbazette, 2006, Training Needs Assessment: Methods, Tools and Techniques)

### Why do a Training Needs Assessment?

Must analyze as much information as possible about the following:

- Organization and its goals and objectives.
- Jobs and related tasks that need to be learned.
- Competencies and skills that are need to perform the job.







- Culture
- Structure
- Values
- Leadership
- Technology



#### Competencies

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Experience
- Aptitude
- Behavior



- Goals
- Metrics
- Feedback
- Incentives
- ◆ Training

## Benefits of a Training Needs Asessment?

- Identifies performance goals and the knowledge, skills and abilities needed by a company"s workforce to achieve those goals
- Identifies gaps in training provision in sectors and or regions
- Helps direct resources to areas of greatest priority
- Addresses resources needed to fulfil the organisational mission, improve productivity, and provide quality products and services



## What are the key steps in conducting an effective Training Needs Assessment?



- Prepare thoroughly
- Follow a structured methodology
- Link training needs with the objectives of the network
- Gain commitment from members to participate in the TNA
- Communicate with all those involved
- Ensure you have the skills to conduct the TNA (analytical and communication)
- Collate the results gathered
- Prioritise the identified training needs and group them into training categories

## Why do we need training?



- Having the knowledge and right skills to be able to do their work effectively and competently.
- Training may be needed when there is a gap between the desired performance, and the current performance, and the reason for that gap is lack of skill or knowledge.
- Training may only be able to resolve part of the problem.
   Thus we need to analyze the problem and find out whether training will be able to resolve it.
- If training is necessary, we also need to define the objective of the training and how it will help the member(s) become more effective.

### **Five Steps of Training Needs Assessment**

#### Five Steps:

The processes of Training Needs Assessment can be divided into five steps: i) identify problem and needs; ii) determine design of needs assessment; iii) collect data; iv) analyze data; and v) provide feedback.

Step 1: Identi fy Problem Needs Step 2: Determine Design of Needs Analysis Step 3: Collect Data Step 4: Analyze Data

Step 5: Provide feedback

π Determine organizati onal context (policy, goal, roles & responsibiliti es) π Perform gap analysis π Set objecti ves

π Determine target groups to be trained, interviewees, methods, schedule π Determine persons in charge of TNA from the GDLA Task Force members

π Conduct
interviews
π Administer
questi onnaires
and surveys
π Review
documents on
existi ng trainings
π Observe
people at work

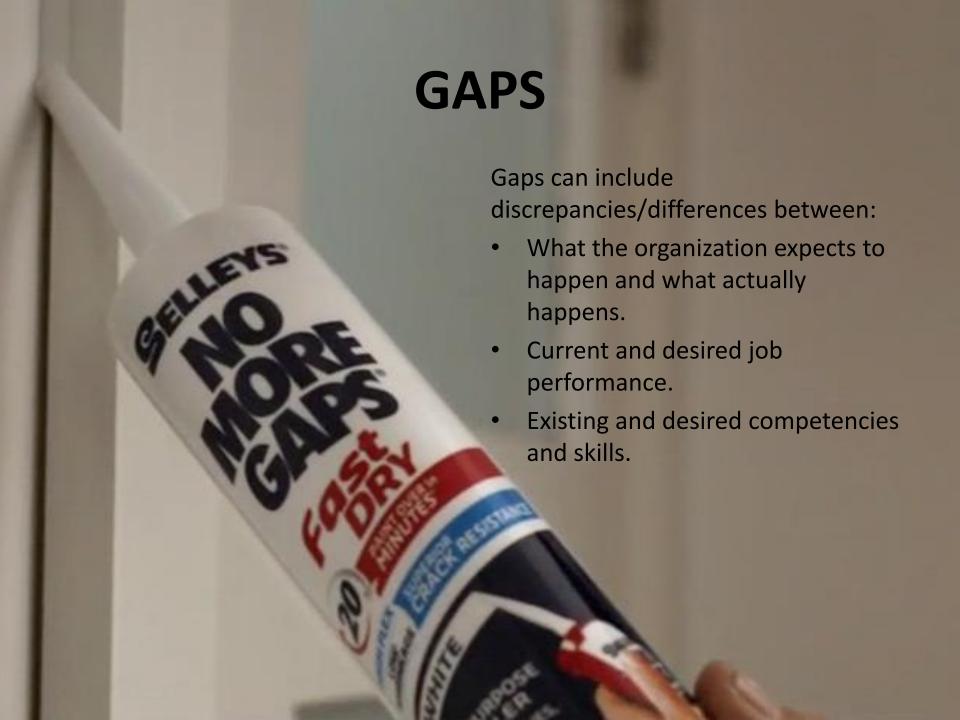
π Conduct
quanti tati ve and
qualitati ve
analyses
π Draw fi ndings,
conclusions and
recommendati ons
on training
contents
π Write up a
Report

π Make a presentati on to the GDLA Task Force members and concerned officials π Determine the next step for training preparati on



## Step 1: Identify Problem and Needs

- The first step in TNA is to identify problems and needs. Before TNA is conducted, it should be probed whether training is needed. In the public sector, it is important to identify organizational context in such aspects as policy, goal, roles and responsibilities.
- Realizing the policy direction of the organization, performance analysis known as "gap" analysis is conducted to look at an official's current working performance and knowledge and identify whether an official is performing as desired based on given roles and responsibilities.





#### **DESIRED PERFORMANCE (Optimals)**

- ACTUAL PERFORMANCE (Actuals)
  - = POSSIBLE TRAINING NEED

## Is Training Important?

- Why is it important?
- What if you did nothing?
- How big is it? (Quantify if possible)
- Who cares?
- "Is the cost of the discrepancy high enough that it seems worth pursuing a solution?"



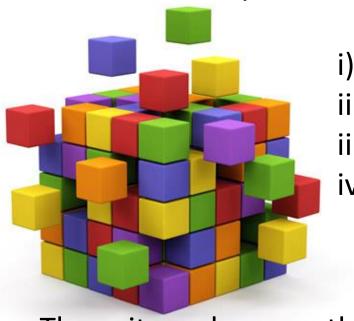
## **Determine Cause(s)**



Is it a problem of skill or a problem of will?

### **Step 2: Determine Design of Needs Analysis**

The second step in TNA is to determine the following:



- i) target groups to be trained;
- ii) interviewees;
- iii) survey methods;
- iv) survey plan including schedule to be conducted TNA and persons in charge of TNA.

Those items become the basis for a training course designer to either create a new training course, identify an existing one that can fulfill the need, or obtain one externally.

## **Target Groups**

- The survey must clearly define the target group of the training, i.e., target population. Although no strict rules for defining exist, the target population must be defined in line with the objectives of TNA.
- The survey should produce the following elements in its report: training subject(s); importance of the training; time requirements; current target group; potential target group; frequency of training; and required outputs of the training.



### **Interview**

Once a target group for the training, i.e., target population, is identified, interviewees for the survey are selected. It is likely that all the officials of the target group cannot be interviewed due to time constraints. Thus, sampling of the target population which will be addressed in the next section should be used.

## **Survey Methods**



The following figure indicates types of needs analysis and contents. It is suggested that those analyses be used in combination depending on the needs, time availability and manpower.

#### **Types of Needs Assessment**

Type of Needs Analysis		What the Analysis Answers	
Performance analysis or gap analysis	_ _ _	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Feasibility analysis	0	Why should this training be done? Is the benefit of training greater than the cost of the current deficiency?	
Needs versus wants analysis	<u> </u>	Why should this training be done?  Is the deficiency tied to a need?	
Goal analysis		What is the specific behavior improvement behind a vague desire?	
Job/task analysis	<u> </u>	What is the best and correct way to do this work? How can this job and task be broken down into teachable parts?	
Target group analysis	0	Who is the trainee for this training? What is known about them to help design and customize this training What other groups mgiht benefit from training?	
Contextual analysis	<u> </u>	When will the training be presented? What are the other requirements to deliver the training successfully?	

## **Survey Methods**



Data collection and analysis are essential parts of needs assessment. The following table describes the most commonly used methods of data collection. TNA is optimized when a combination of data collection methods is used to analyze quantitative and qualitative data. Regardless of which methods are used to collect and analyze data, it is important to consider the reliability, validity and trustworthiness of the data.

Method	Concept	
Structured Interview	<ul> <li>Quantitative research method commonly employed in survey research to ensure that each interviewee is presented with the same questions in the same order and that answers can be reliably aggregated and that comparisons can be made with confidence between sub-groups or between different survey periods.</li> <li>Interviewers read the questions exactly as they appear on the survey questionnaire. The choice of answers to the questions is often fixed (close-ended) in advance, though open-ended questions can also be included within a structured interview.</li> </ul>	
Semi-Structured Interview	<ul> <li>Unlike the structured interview, more general questions or topics. Relevant topics are initially identified and the possible relationship between these topics and the issues become the basis for more specific questions which do not need to be prepared in advance allowing both the interviewer and the person being interviewed the flexibility to probe for details or discuss issues.</li> <li>New questions can be brought up during the interview as a result of what the interviewee says, so the interview flows more like a conversation.</li> </ul>	
Observation	<ul> <li>Observation of working environment and performance of officials (office materials, communication tool, IT system, means of circulating the information)</li> </ul>	
Questionnaire Survey*	A questionnaire is a survey instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. They are often designed for statistical analysis of the responses.	
Focus Group discussion	<ul> <li>Qualitative research method whose purpose is to obtain in-depth information on ideas and perceptions of a group and also to be more than a question-answer interaction.</li> <li>A relatively small meeting (generally six to twelve participants) convened for a specific purpose under the direction of a facilitator, during which group members talk freely and spontaneously about a certain topic.</li> </ul>	
Workshop	<ul> <li>An educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchanged of information among a usually small number of participants developing skill or common understanding through some types of application</li> <li>Discussion on verification of identified staff training needs in the returned TNA questionnaires and interview results</li> </ul>	

	METHOD	BENEFIT	WEAKNESS	WHEN TO USE
	Review of References	Factual information Objective Can collect a lot if you have resources	May be out of date May be inaccurate or inconsistent Need cooperation of others to obtain information	When you need factual information about performance
Qı	uestionnaire Survey	Simple Quick Easy Can collate a lot of data	May not get important information People may not send back survey May be hard to understand responses	Have to know much about your topic first Combine with other processes to encourage response
ı	Interviews	Obtain information about attitudes Obtain a lot of qualitative data Can have greater understanding of issues	Takes time of yourself and others More difficult to organize May be shy to respond depending on interviewer	When you know little about the topic or area When the training is about something complicated
	Focus Group Discussion	Can be easy and quick Can understand responses more easily	People may be shy to be honest in group People may dominate discussion	When the training is impacted by team work When there is not much time for other methods
c	Observation	Does not interrupt work Can be more reliable than other sources	Can take observer a lot of time Need time to collate Need to know what you are looking for	When the training is about simple skills When you know about the topic yourself

(Source: MOI/DOLA, 2004, Training Needs Assessment, Phnom Penh)

### **Sampling Methods**

Method	Concept			
Random sampling	<ul> <li>Purest form of probability sampling.</li> <li>Each member of the population has an equal and known chance of being selected. When there are very large populations, it is often difficult or impossible to identify every member of the population, so the pool of available subjects becomes biased.</li> </ul>			
Systematic sampling	Often used instead of random sampling.  It is also called an Nth name selection technique. After the required sample size has been calculated, every Nth record is selected from a list of the target population on members. As long as the list does not contain any hidden order, this sampling method is as good as the random sampling method. Its only advantage over the random sampling technique is simplicity.			
Stratified sampling	<ul> <li>Commonly used method that is superior to random sampling because it reduces sampling error. A stratum is a subset of the population that shares at least one common characteristic. The surveyors identify the relevant stratums and their actual representation in the population.</li> <li>Stratified sampling is often used when one or more of the stratums in the population have a low incidence relative to the other stratums.</li> </ul>			

(Source: Access to http://www.statpac.com/surveys/sampling.htm, July 31, 2007)

## Step 3 : Collect Data



- There are various methods to collect information for your TNA which can be utilised individually or in combination with each other. It is advisable to use more than one method to get a comprehensive overview of the needs of the sector/region.
- Data gathering is cornerstone of any needs assessment project.
- Can be time consuming.

## Typical methods of collecting information for your TNA

- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Individual interviews
- Reviewing existing documents
- Discussions with steering group
- Discussions with relevant bodies (trade associations, Chambers of Commerce, universities, unemployment services)



## Discussions with relevant Stakeholders



- Meetings with Steering Group
- Discussions with relevant Bodies
- Discussions with stakeholders operating in employment services



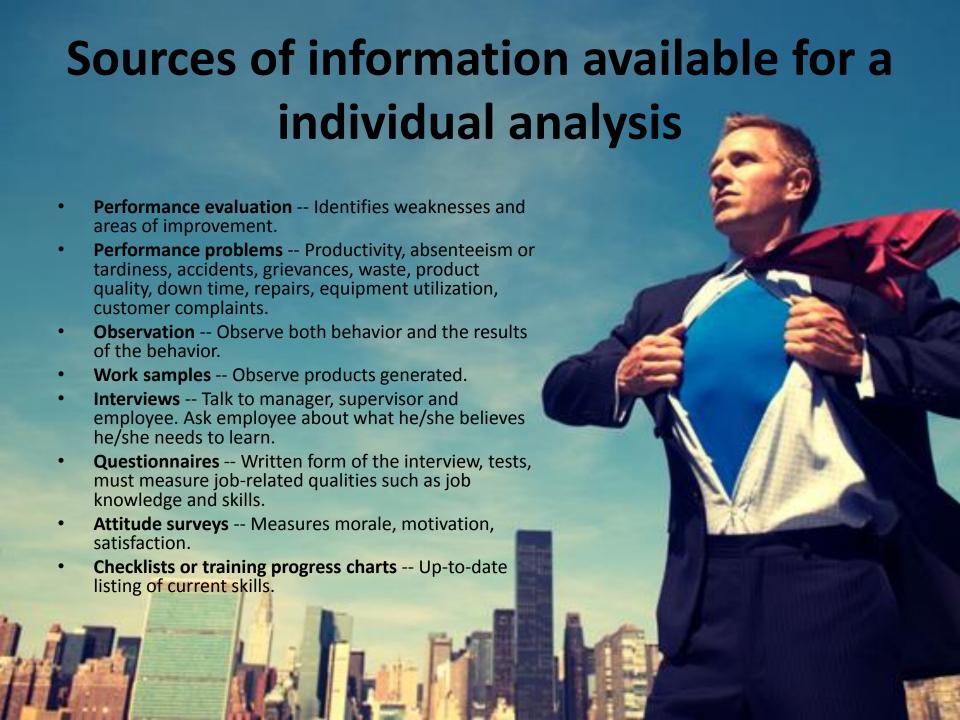
- Assuming that the needs assessment identifies more than one training need, the training manager, working with management, prioritizes the training based on the urgency of the need (timeliness), the extent of the need (how many employees need to be trained) and the resources available. Based on this information, the training manager can develop the instructional objectives for the training and development program.
- All three levels of needs analysis are interrelated and the data collected from each level is critical to a thorough and effective needs assessment.

## organizational analysis can be obtained from a variety of sources

- Organizational goals and objectives, mission statements, strategic plans.
- Staffing inventory, succession planning, long and short term staffing needs.
- Skills inventory: both currently available and short and long term needs, organizational climate indices: labor/management relationships, grievances, turnover rates, absenteeism, suggestions, productivity, accidents, short term sickness, observations of employee behavior, attitude surveys, customer complaints.
- Analysis of efficiency indices: costs of labor, costs of materials, quality of products, equipment utilization, production rates, costs of distribution, waste, down time, late deliveries, repairs.
- Changes in equipment, technology or automation.
- Annual report.
- Plans for reorganization or job restructuring.
- Audit exceptions; reward systems.
- Planning systems.
- Delegation and control systems.
- Employee attitudes and satisfaction.

# There are a variety of sources for collecting data for a task analysis

- Job description-- A narrative statement of the major activities involved in performing the job and the conditions under which these activities are performed. If an accurate job description is not available or is out of date, one should be prepared using job analysis techniques.
- KSA analysis-- A more detailed list of specified tasks for each job including Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes and Abilities required of incumbents.
- Performance standards-- Objectives of the tasks of the job and the standards by which they will be judged. This is needed to identify performance discrepancies.
- Observe the job/sample the work.
- Perform the job.
- Job inventory questionnaire-- Evaluate tasks in terms of importance and time spent performing.
- Review literature about the job-- Research the "best practices" from other companies, review professional journals.
- Ask questions about the job-- Of the incumbents, of the supervisor, of upper management.
- Analysis of operating problems-- Down time, waste, repairs, late deliveries, quality control.



#### To solve a performance issue



- Training may not be the answer
- Training may not be the only answer



#### Cause Solution

- If skill or knowledge.....training
- If lack feedback.....feedback, standards
- If not motivated.....rewards, consequences
- If unclear expectations.....std, measure, discuss
- If job environment.....change environment
- If potential.....change personnel

#### If training is the answer....



# Outcomes of Problem and Performance Analysis

- More complete picture of problem
- Is it training? Is it training plus...
- Make solid recommendations
- If is training or job aid....on to task or competency analysis!

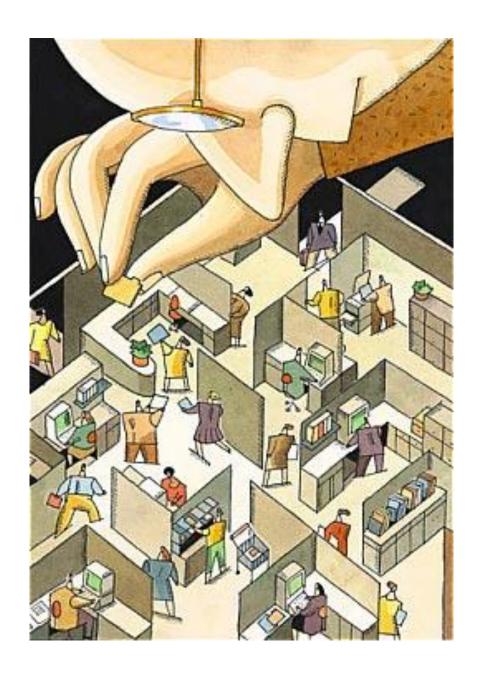
# Task/Competency Analysis "What do learners need to learn?"

#### **Task Analysis**

- For more skill oriented jobs
- When need consistent set of training requirements

#### **Competency Analysis**

- Soft skills training such as mgmt, supervision
- Professional jobs
- Career pathing
- Leadership development



### Steps in Task Analysis

- Break job into major functions
- Break functions into major tasks
- Break tasks into steps
- Identify training outcomes



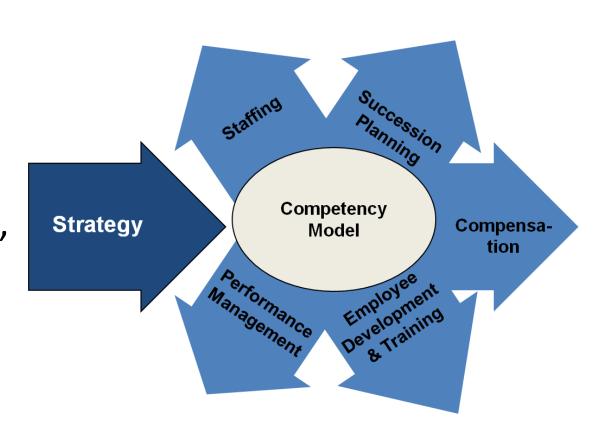
#### **Competency Analysis**

- What are competencies?
  - Enduring characteristics of a person that result in superior on-the-job performance
  - Areas of personal capability that enable employees to successfully perform their jobs by achieving outcomes or successfully performing tasks



#### What is a competency model?

Identifies the competencies necessary for each job as well as the knowledge, skills, behavior, and personality characteristics underlying each competency.



#### What do you want to know?



- General characteristics
- Specific knowledge and skill
- Learning styles
- Special needs

# Information is Used in Three Important Ways

- To help determine where to begin the content of the training program
- To determine how to present the content
- To get buy-in

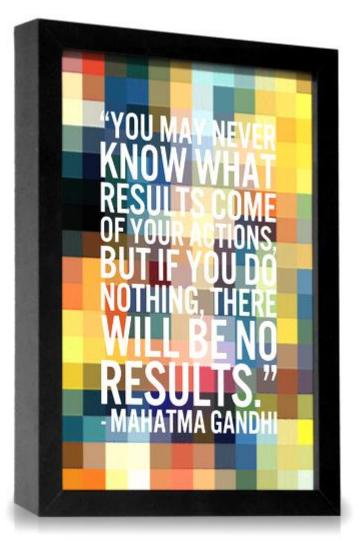
#### Results

The results of the needs assessment allows the training manager to set the training

- objectives by answering two very basic questions: who, if anyone, needs training and
- what training is needed. Sometimes training is not the solution. Some performance gaps
- can be reduced or eliminated through other management solutions such as
- communicating expectations, providing a supportive work environment, arranging
- consequences, removing obstacles and checking job fit.



#### From Result to Implementation



Once the needs assessment is completed and training objectives are clearly identified, the design phase of the training and development process is initiated:

- Select the internal or external person or resource to design and develop the training.
- Select and design the program content.
- Select the techniques used to facilitate learning (lecture, role play, simulation, etc.).
- Select the appropriate setting (on the job, classroom, etc.).
- Select the materials to be used in delivering the training (work books, videos, etc.).
- Identify and train instructors (if internal).



## Glossary

Competency	An observable behavior supported by specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Each competency has a specific result or output.
Content Analysis	A procedure for organizing narrative and qualitative data into emerging themes and concepts. Usually associated with a quantitative form of analysis in which the themes are counted or measured.
Feasibility Analysis	A cost-benefit analysis completed prior to conducting training. It is an estimate of the cost of the training weighed against the possible benefits that could be achieved if training were conducted
Gap Analysis	Also called performance analysis; identifies the difference between current performance and the desired performance.
Interview	The process of asking questions to experts or performers to identify training needs.
Job Analysis	The process of identifying all the parts of a specific job; conducted before a task analysis.
Learning Objectives	Describes a specific behavior, conditions, level of achievement and is written from the learner's point of view.
Needs Assessment	Gathering of information about a specific work need that can be resolved by training. The types of needs assessment include performance analysis, target population analysis, sorting training needs and wants, job analysis, and task analysis.
Needs versus Wants Analysis	Discovers training needs that are related to the organization's work. Training is linked to the final outcome and providing appropriate training will benefit the individual as well as the organization.
Performance Analysis	Also known as gap analysis. Performance analysis looks at an official's current performance and identifies whether the official is performing as desired
Performance Deficiency	A difference with a negative connotation, implying that the official is not meeting a known standard for performance.
Project Team	GDLA Task Force members and JICA experts.
Target Population	The individual or group involved in a needs assessment or training program.
Task Analysis	Finds the best method and sequence of steps to complete a specific task.
Trainer	A term used in a corporate setting for a teacher. Also instructor.
Training Needs	The method of determining if a training need exists and, if it does, what training
Assessment	is required to fill the gap.

