Example of Guidelines on Overlapping in Aggregation PRISMA

The aggregation system followed by PRISMA will need to be able to do the following:

- Maintain a record of all interventions of the program. This will include on-going interventions, interventions which have been closed down, and interventions which are being planned (i.e. those that have an IP).
- Be able to aggregate projections of KPIs for all the interventions of the program.
- Be able to aggregate actual values of KPIs for all the interventions of the program.
- Ensure that all aggregations (both projected and actual) are overlap-adjusted.

All interventions and the values of their KPIs will be entered into the program aggregation file. This aggregation file hence has a record of all interventions and their KPI values (both projected and actual).

The next step for aggregating the KPIs is to account for overlaps between interventions. Typically overlaps mostly occur at the farmer level, thus other KPIs generally do not need to be overlap-adjusted. Nevertheless, the system for adjusting for overlaps will be the same. Adjusting for overlaps means that the program does not double count beneficiaries (that is, it makes sure that the same person/beneficiary has not been counted twice during aggregation and reporting).

Overlaps can occur when PRISMA has multiple interventions in the same sub-sector, or in different sub-sectors but in the same geographical area. This is illustrated in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Sector and geographic coverage

	Sub-sector 1	Sub-sector 2	Sub-sector 3	Sub-sector 4
Area 1	Intervention A		Intervention B	
Area 2		Intervention C Intervention D	Intervention E	
Area 3				Intervention F Intervention G
Area 4			Intervention H	

In Table 9, interventions C and D both occur in Area 2 of Sub-sector 2; there is therefore potential for overlap to occur between those two interventions, and farmers benefiting from Intervention C might thus also benefit from Intervention D. Similarly, with Intervention F and G in Area 3, Sub-sector 4 there might be overlaps, and those benefitting from intervention F may also benefit from Intervention G.

Overlap may also occur between sub-sectors within the same geographical area, for example between the beneficiaries of Intervention A and Intervention B, or between the beneficiaries of interventions C, D and E.

The first step in dealing with overlaps is to identify in which interventions they are likely to occur, and this is done in the Overall MRM Strategy worksheet in the ISD. The next step is to determine how much overlap occurs, potential scenarios and how to handle them, which are explained below.

Scenario 1: In the first scenario there is no significant overlap between interventions. In this case, the numbers can be simply added and become aggregated numbers.

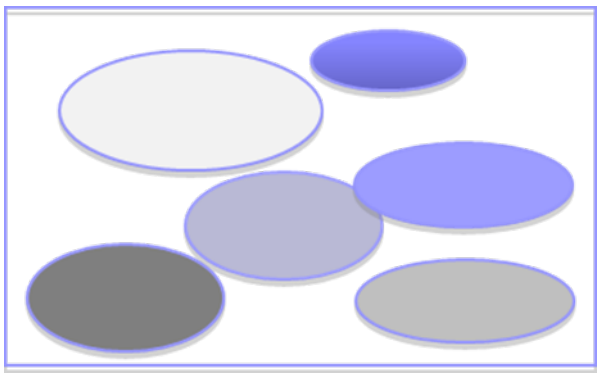

Figure 6: No significant overlap among interventions

Scenario 2: The second scenario is that one intervention might cover most of the outreach number. In this case, PRISMA can report only the biggest one and ignore the rest since most of the beneficiaries in other intervention(s) will be the same as the biggest one.

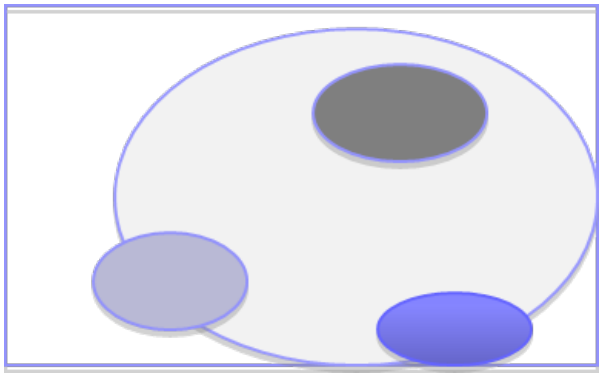

Figure 7: One intervention covers most of the outreach

Scenario 3: The third scenario is that there are significant overlaps among interventions but none are large enough to cover the others. In this case, the overlapping parts have to be estimated and deducted from the total added-up numbers.

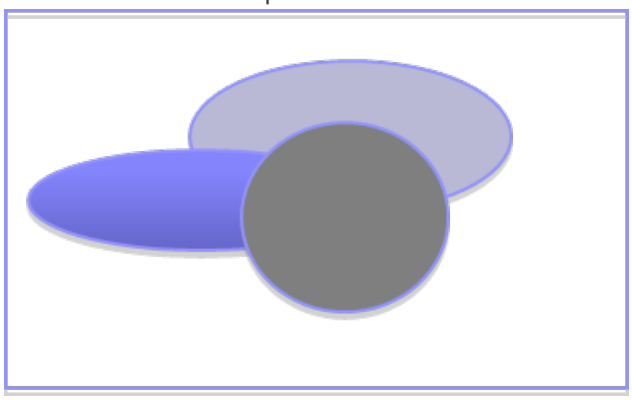

Figure 8: Significant overlap among interventions

The Sector Coordinators should be able to say how much overlap there might be between interventions. If the assumption is that the degree of overlap is similar to the situations in Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 then adjustments can be made at the point of aggregation. However, if the overlaps are likely to be similar to Scenario 3 then it might be necessary to investigate how much overlap occurs.

This might be done by talking with ISPs or during surveys of beneficiaries asking whether they are affected by other interventions. The percentage of beneficiaries affected by other interventions can then be estimated from the responses obtained; the percentage of overlaps can then be deducted from the total for the intervention

The appropriate method to be used to assess the amount of overlap for an intervention should be judged on a case-by-case basis. The same applies to overlaps between impacts measured as the result of systemic changes (impact due to copying and crowding-in).

Additional income changes reported from interventions are generally mutually exclusive and attributable to a particular intervention. The issue of overlaps here is therefore less likely to occur and income changes can simply be added up. Sometimes however, it will be difficult to isolate the attributable impacts to income and ascribe them to a particular intervention. For example, where two interventions (one involving good seed, the other good fertilizer) working in the same area reach the same beneficiaries, ascribing income increase to either seed or fertilizer may not be feasible because the beneficiaries have used both. In a case like this the income increase for both interventions will be measured in one go and reported once. However, this has to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Source: PRISMA Results Measurement Manual, February 2015 (p. 31-33)