

Linking, Learning, Leading the Way

Introduction of Evaluation Methods for Livelihoods of Vulnerable Children Programs



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Evaluation

Evaluation is a systematic collection of information about program activities, characteristics, and outcomes for use to reduce uncertainty, improve effectiveness, and make decisions.



Types of Evaluation

- **Process** – implementation of the program
- **Outcome** – short-term effects; focus on quality and effectiveness of activities
- **Impact** – long-term effects; focus on quality and effectiveness of strategies
- **Efficiency** – relationship between program costs and program effectiveness or benefits

Evaluation Design

Develop your causal model

- Describe the situation
- Define the problem
- Describe the causes of the problem
- Describe your intervention (project activities)
- Describe the interventions expected:
 - Outputs – to make project improvements
 - Outcomes – measure project effectiveness
 - Impacts – prove causal links



What is an indicator?



An indicator **measures** a specific **aspect** of a project or activity

- Include at least one or two indicators per activity
- At least one indicator per expected result
- Use multiple data sources
- Include no more than 8 to 10 indicators per issue area

Identify measurable indicators

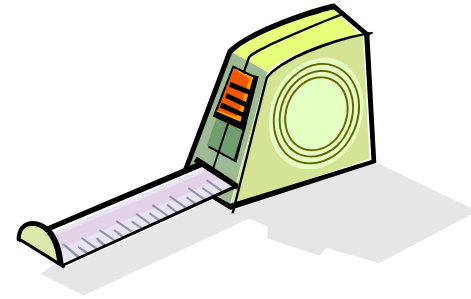
Youth and child-level indicators

Well-being

- Food security
- Education
- Health

Context

- Poverty
- Family structure & living arrangements



Framework for selecting indicators

- Causal model
- What are your reasons for evaluating?
 - Sponsor requirements
 - Effective decision-making
- What are your resources?
 - What data are available?
 - What data can your project staff gather?
 - Do you need a third-party evaluator or consultant?
 - Are standard indicators and/or tools available?

Example Causal Model

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
Short-term essential food/non-food resources program	Food packages supplied Non-food items such as clothing, shoes and mosquito nets supplied	Change in food intake and change in weight Change in non-food essential durables	Better long-term health
Youth club program	Youth clubs formed Participation by adolescent VC in clubs Savings by VC	Increased social networks of VC Increased financial awareness among VC Increased financial capital of VC Use of lower-stress coping mechanisms Change in teenage parenthood	VC with social capital Ability to manage shocks by using financial capital

Operationalize Indicators



- How is each concept or behavior in your causal model measured?
 - Counts, e.g., # of youth clubs formed
 - Calculations, e.g., ratio of funds saved per group
 - Indices or composite measures, e.g., social network index consisting of several indicators

Collect information

- Outputs – monitoring of participants throughout project implementation
- Outcomes – evaluation of before and after data of participants
- Impacts – compare data from participants and non-participants



Strategies for a successful evaluation



- Define and implement procedures to responsibly, effectively and ethically collect and maintain data.
- Match evaluation method to stakeholder needs/requirements
- Be culturally aware and involve stakeholders

Who should conduct evaluations?

Internal Evaluator	External Evaluator
Advantages	
<p>More familiar with stakeholder interests</p> <p>More program knowledge</p> <p>Better rapport with staff</p>	<p>Objectivity</p> <p>Expert</p> <p>Staff/program members may be more honest with external evaluator</p> <p>Better able to present unpopular information</p> <p>More credible with stakeholders</p>
Disadvantages	
<p>Reduced objectivity</p> <p>Time – inadequate resources</p>	<p>May need more preparation time</p> <p>Outsider</p> <p>Increased cost</p>

Context is Key

