

Outcome Harvesting

One of 11 innovations with the potential to be particularly catalytic for monitoring and evaluation

— UNDP, August 2013

Outcome Harvesting is useful for

- ✓ Rigorous knowledge management of complex, multi-actor processes
- ✓ Reviewing results from complex program/project components to improve the benefit of interventions, sustainability and mix of actors involved
- ✓ Gathering evidence and lessons from the change process that can complement other M&E tools

— The World Bank, June 2014

actionaid

Six iterative steps



1. Design the Outcome Harvest: Harvest users and harvesters identify useful questions to guide the harvest and agree what additional information is to be collected as the outcome description, along with the changes in the social actors and how the change agent influenced them.



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2. Review documentation: Harvesters extract changes in social actors from reports, evaluations, and press releases along with documentation on what the change agents did to contribute to them.



3. Engage with informants: Harvesters engage directly with the change agent informants to review the outcome descriptions extracted from the files, identify and formulate additional verifiable outcomes, and classify them all. Informants will often consult with others inside or outside their organization who are well-informed about outcomes to which they have contributed.



4. Substantiate: Harvesters obtain the views of one or more independent people knowledgeable about the outcome, or a representative group of outcomes, and how they were achieved, to enhance the accuracy as well as the credibility of the findings.



5. Analyse and interpret: Harvesters organise outcome descriptions through a database in order to make sense of them, analyse and interpret the data and provide evidence-based answers to the useful harvesting questions.



6. Support use of findings: Harvesters propose points for discussion to harvest users grounded in the evidence-based answers to useful questions. Discussions with users might include how they could make use of findings. The harvesters also wrap up their contribution by accompanying or facilitating the discussion amongst harvest users.



CIFCA



Over 400 networks and associations, NGOs, community-based organisations, research institutes, and government agencies on all seven continents have used Outcome Harvesting to identify and report on thousands of changes they have influenced.



Outcome Mapping

LEARNING COMMUNITY
www.outcomemapping.ca

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