

Local Ownership in Evaluation:

Who, When and How?

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What is Local Ownership in Evaluation?

Program participants are involved in **evaluation decision making**

- Evaluations won't only reflect our or funders' values and interests, but those of program participants as well
- Evaluations won't just meet our needs, but also those of the people and communities we serve
- Participants have a say in what is considered success or failure

Targeting the Ultra Poor

Field Experiment

- Improve targeting of a CCT program in Indonesia
- Three targeting methodologies
 1. Proxy means testing
(status quo)
 2. Community based targeting
 3. Self-targeting

Measures of Effectiveness

- Accuracy of targeting
- Satisfaction
- Costs

Results

Accuracy of Targeting

1. Self targeting
2. Proxy means testing
3. Community targeting

Least Cost (overall)

1. Community targeting
2. Self targeting
3. Proxy means testing

Satisfaction

1. Community targeting
2. Proxy means testing
3. Self targeting

Least Cost (to households)

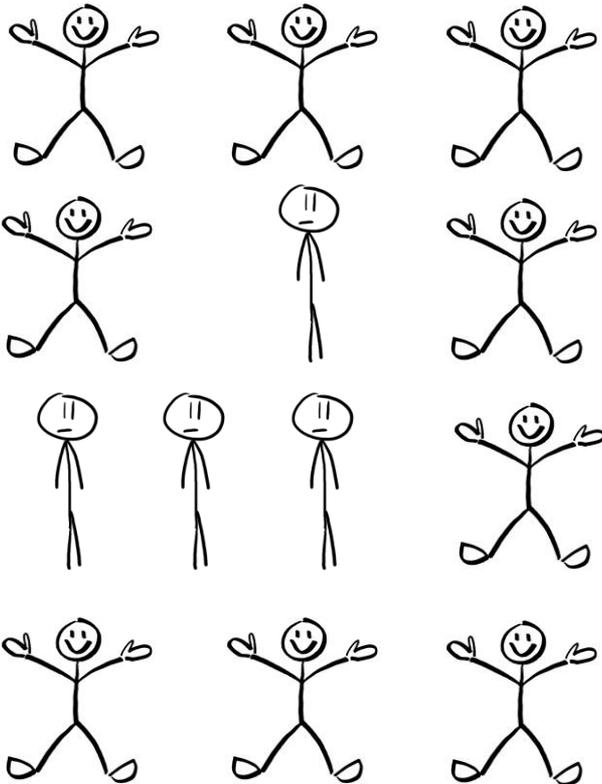
1. Proxy means testing
2. Community targeting
3. Self targeting

Feasible? Ethical? Appropriate?

- Will participants' input influence decision making?
- Will participants gain something from being involved?
- Do participants want to be involved?
- Can participants be involved?
- Does the evaluation team have skills to facilitate participation in the evaluation decision-making process?
- Will participants be put at risk?
- Will involving participants in evaluation decision making raise expectations that cannot be met?

Three Dimensions of Local Ownership in Evaluation

Who



When



How



Who: Selecting Participants

- Transparent, fair process
- Cognizant of power dynamics
- Inclusive of all groups
- Seeking legitimate representatives
- Aware of biases
- Differentiating roles: decision makers vs. informants

When: Expanding Participants' Involvement

Developing theory of change

Identifying/
prioritizing eval.
questions

Identifying
outcomes/impacts

Selecting
indicators

Deciding on eval.
methods

Assisting with data
collection

Providing data

Shaping
evaluation
findings

Providing feedback
on evaluation
findings

Developing
evaluation
recommendations

Hearing
evaluation results

Assisting with
dissemination

Participating in
decision making
around
evaluation results

How: Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

| Participant Involvement | Evaluation design | Data collection and analysis | Findings and recommendations | Disseminating and using results |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Rung 8: Participants share decision making with others as equal partners | Together, participants and evaluators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop theory of change - Identify outcomes - Determine eval questions - Select relevant indicators - Identify criteria for success - Design data collection approaches - Decide data sources and samples | Participants help develop appropriate measures (see this example from CARE / Everyday Peace Indicators) Participants are involved in data analysis. | Participants are involved in framing evaluation findings and developing evaluation recommendations. | Participants are involved in disseminating evaluation findings. Participants are responsible for acting on some of the evaluation recommendations. |
| Rung 5: Participants consulted and informed | Participants provide input into the evaluation design. | Participants provide data and may also be involved in data collection; Participants assist with data analysis. Data is shared with participants for their input. | Participants provide feedback on/validate the evaluation findings and recommendations. | Participants provide input on how evaluation results are disseminated and used. |
| Rung 4: Participants informed | Information about the purpose and nature of the evaluation is provided to participants. | The data collected and evaluator-conducted analysis are shared with participants. | Participants are presented with the finalized evaluation findings and recommendations. | |

A Few Examples

- Community/partner participation in baselines
- “Transparency Boards”
- Funding for post-evaluation community engagement/feedback sessions
- Conduct an assessment of current practice
- Set a “minimum standard” (see DFID report: [Beneficiary Feedback in Evaluation](#))



The image shows a man in a blue shirt pointing to a large dashboard titled "EPICENTER M&E DASHBOARD YEAR 2011". The dashboard is a table with columns for Quarter, Target, and Actual, and rows for various metrics across categories like Community Mobilisation, Education & Training, Health & Nutrition, Environmental Sustainability, and Gender Equality.

| EPICENTER M&E DASHBOARD | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| YEAR 2011 | | | |
| Metric | Quarter | Target | Actual |
| COMMUNITY MOBILISATION | | | |
| Number of New Partners: | Quarter | 250 | 168 |
| VCA Workshops: | Quarter | 180 | 102 |
| Animators Trainings: | Quarter | 180 | 102 |
| Leadership Trainings: | Quarter | 60 | 36 |
| PAR / M&E Trainings: | Quarter | 30 | 18 |
| EDUCATION & TRAINING | | | |
| Active FAL Classes : | Quarter | 15 | 9 |
| Partners Attending FAL Classes : | Quarter | 30 | 17 |
| FAL Graduates : | Quarter | 30 | 11 |
| Children Attending Nursery School : | Quarter | 30 | 18 |
| HEALTH & NUTRITION | | | |
| Immunisations : | Quarter | 30 | 18 |
| Partners Attending AIDS Workshops : | Quarter | 100 | 60 |
| Partners Accessing Health Services : | Quarter | 5000 | 2000 |
| Items Sold Distributed : | Quarter | 30 | 18 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY | | | |
| Plants Planted : | Quarter | 500 | 300 |
| GENDER EQUALITY | | | |
| Workshops : | Quarter | 30 | 18 |
| Animators Trained : | Quarter | 30 | 18 |

Source: [Data by the People, for the People: Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation at The Hunger Project](#)

Final Thoughts

- Local ownership in evaluation should not be considered “advanced” practice or a worthwhile “extra”
- Don’t feel you have to do everything at once
- Local ownership does not mean that participants have to do everything themselves
- Use of participatory methods alone does not guarantee ownership
- Can you do use a local ownership approach if a project hasn’t been participatory?
- Isn’t evaluation too late to be participatory? Shouldn’t we be talking more about monitoring?