WELCOME

Mandela Rhodes Hotel
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DEFINING Participation and Inclusion in Evaluation

Breaking Barriers Conference

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Search for Common Ground

6th December 2016
What is participation?

Active involvement and decision making of/from stakeholders* in and throughout the evaluation process, including but not limited to the design of the evaluation, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use.
What is inclusion?

Equitable and contextually appropriate representation of stakeholders* in and throughout the evaluation process, including but not limited to the design of the evaluation, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use.
**What do we mean by evaluation?**

*Every evaluation is an intervention*

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**DESIGN**

Who decides what the lines of inquiry are? Who decides which methods are best? Who determines when an evaluation will occur and what approach is the most appropriate? Who decides when we’ll plan for the evaluation? And how are these decisions all made?

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**IMPLEMENTATION**

Who asks the questions? Who helps write the questions? How many perspectives are represented? How are you collecting information from different perspectives? Are we are of our own biases? Are we thinking about the direct and indirect?

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**UTILIZATION**

Are we being transparent as possible? Are we willing to share? How are we sharing it? Is it digestible and appropriate for each audience? Who am I sharing it with and when? How am I leveraging findings? Who’s involved and who makes decisions to move forward?
WHO is participating?

“Participatory monitoring and evaluation is not just a matter of using participatory techniques within a conventional monitoring and evaluation setting. It is about radically rethinking who initiates and undertakes the process, and who learns or benefits from the findings.”

—Institute of Development Studies, 1998

• This is nothing new
• We’ve moved from local government participation to a broader understanding of stakeholders
• We need to continue to think creatively and be self-aware
HOW are we being inclusive?

Are we conflating equality with equity? Equity with inclusion?

Are we considering inclusive means to engage with different stakeholders that are appropriate to the conflict?

How do we prioritize target audiences and/or high-level strategies while remaining inclusive?
Sometimes we don’t do it

Evaluation approach is chosen based on donor preference in order to close out project.

Male ex-pat evaluator tries to interview females one on one in closed society.

After action review is with NGO project staff only.

We still don’t always think about it...nevermind do it.
Sometimes it doesn’t work

**Pre-project:**
The conflict analysis done is not regionally representative. The evaluation design gets a late start, but the conflict analysis is used to determine who should partake. Groups are not appropriately brought together to help decide the line(s) of inquiry, and it negatively impacts relations that hinder programming.

**Post project:**
The evaluation findings and learnings are broken down into a Powerpoint, two-page overview, and blog, in addition to the traditional evaluation report. However, it is only disseminated in English to the various stakeholders, which means the direct beneficiary group cannot engage.
PUSHING FORWARD

We’ve come a long way, but it’s time to find actionable solutions to common barriers and problems to improve participation and inclusion in the whole evaluation process.