



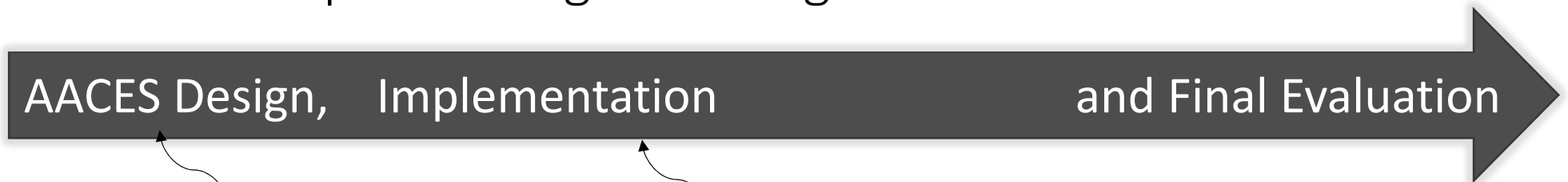
Using an
M&E System Review
to build partnerships, have greater impact,
and be able to prove it

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Evaluative Input to Program Design



M&E System Design

- **Program Level:** synthesis across outcome areas and core indicators, VfM, independent review, [M&E Systems Review](#) etc
- **Project Level:** alignment with program outcome areas, guiding principles, but flexibility with approaches

M&E
Systems
Review

What did we focus on

- We reviewed not just MEFs, but also data collection tools, and raw, analysed and reported data.

What was involved

In Australia – 6 mths into implementation

- ANGOs completed a self-assessment
- Review workshop
 - technical critique + facilitated peer review by other NGOs (DFAT observed)
 - then the NGOs swapped (1/2 day/ NGO)

In Africa – 10 mths into implementation

- ANGOs + African partners + DFAT
- NGOs completed a self-assessment
- Review workshop
- Culminated in an innovations workshop

Feedback

- *"Peer collaboration and review provided useful insights and stimulated further ideas about the planned implementation of our project. This has included further linkages with other DFAT programs..., learning events with AACES partners as well as shared research."*
- *'It's useful to have someone help us sit back and look at our MEF. We like being able to share and have constructive criticism. It's been a learning experience. We'd welcome more support like this.'*
- *The AACES M&E System '...provides an opportunity for wider learning around the value of monitoring and evaluation systems that operate in complex and diverse programs. They also provide NGOs and DFAT with a creative mix of ideas to be adapted into future NGO program assessment' (Final Evaluation p:67).*
- *'The design and M&E systems review process provided a strong foundation which the NGOs built on over the life of the program, which has most definitely contributed to the success of AACES'. (AACES NGOs)*

Is this Australia's best ever NGO program?

10 NGOs ■ 11 countries ■ 2.3 million lives improved

The Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) represented a new, collaborative model to deliver foreign aid programs.

This was a genuine partnership in which knowledge sharing and innovation flourished. AACES was also underpinned by substantial investment in program design and best practice M&E.

The result was a suite of highly successful programs that delivered outstanding value. For example, by targeting women with poor access to sexual health services, an estimated 260,000 unintended pregnancies will be prevented across Kenya and Tanzania. That means a saving of around \$A21million in healthcare costs.

Elsewhere, over 14,000 people with disability benefited from new support services. And thousands of families have been empowered by programs that helped them increase and diversify their income.

Most importantly, AACES' programs were engineered to create lasting change. By working with local and district governments as well as the private sector, NGOs created systems that will continue to improve people's lives into the future.

