An innovative and participatory methodological approach that enhances learning:

A case of Oxfam in Zimbabwe
Securing Rights in the context of HIV and AIDS Program
Mid Term Review and Learning (MTLR)

a e s 2016

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Overview of the presentation

- **Purpose** of the Evaluation

- A brief **background** of Securing Rights Programme

- Evaluation **approach**

- Observations

- Innovation, Participation

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Innovation, Participation & Learning
in country programme evaluation

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Contextual Background
Organizational, Political & Economic Landscape

Internal changes within Oxfam

✓ Effect on framing various tools and approaches

✓ Effect on the approach taken for the mid term evaluation

✓ Effect on the evaluation questions

✓ Effect on the next steps and recommendations

External Changes

✓ Shrinking economy

✓ Rising poverty

✓ Effect on social services including delivery of health related services
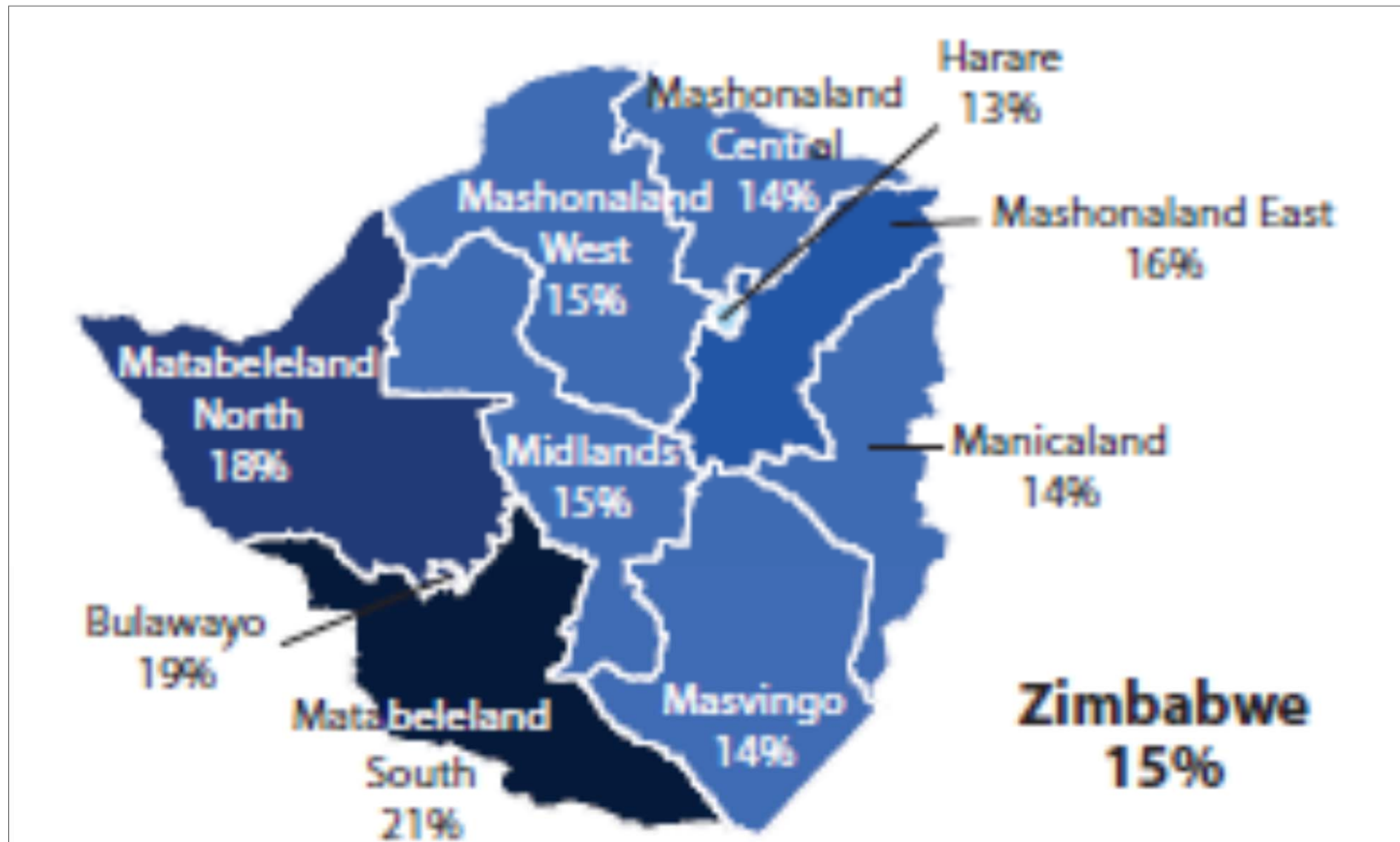
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Brief overview of the programme

- 4 year programme (2013-2017)

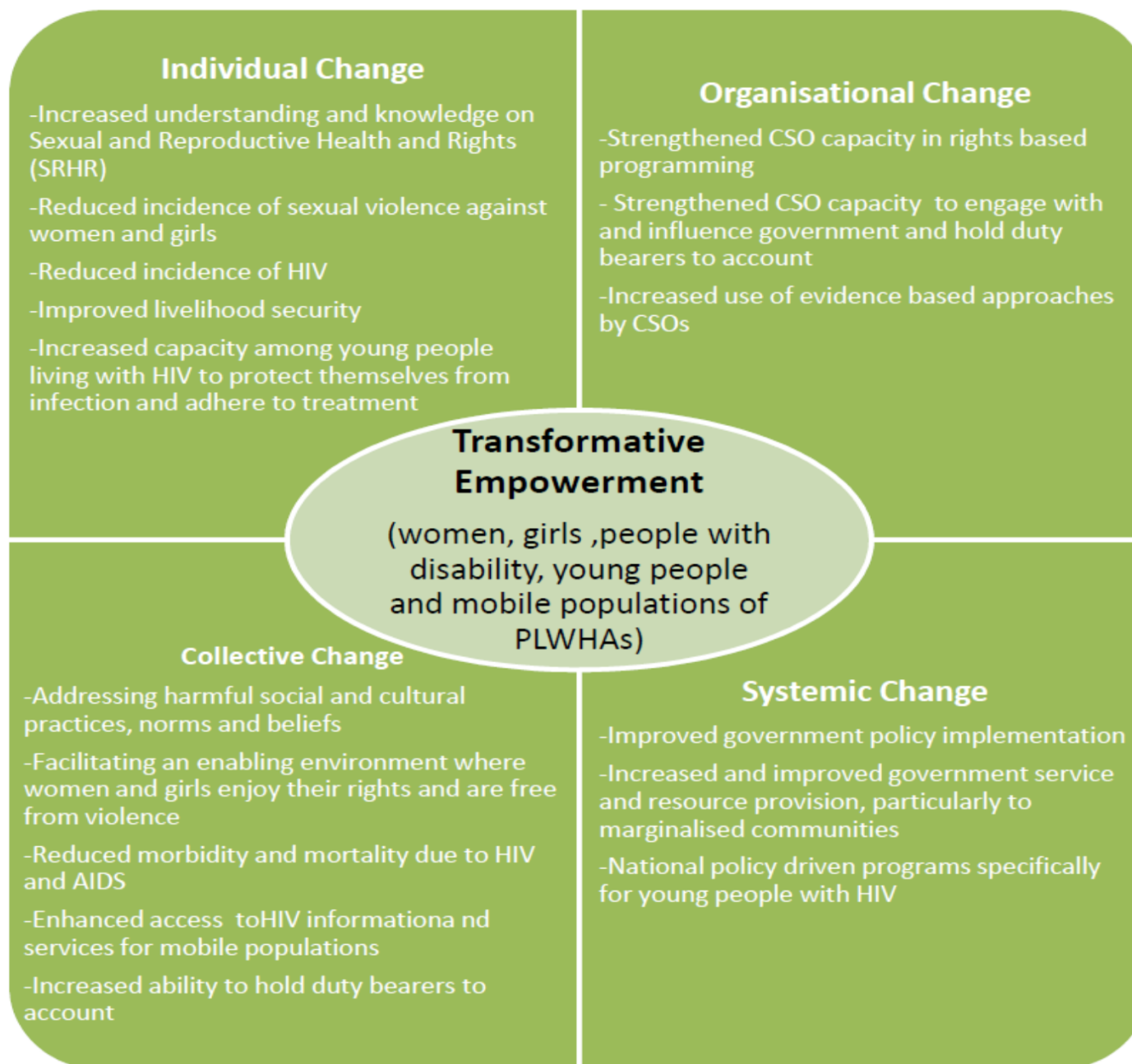**AIM:** **Secure the rights** of women and girls, young people, mobile populations and persons with disability **in selected areas** to exercise their rights to **PREVENTION, QUALITY TREATMENT** and SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

❖ **Integrates** Gender-HIV-Livelihoods work

❖ **Mainstreams**-SRHR, Disability Inclusion, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction as mitigation measures
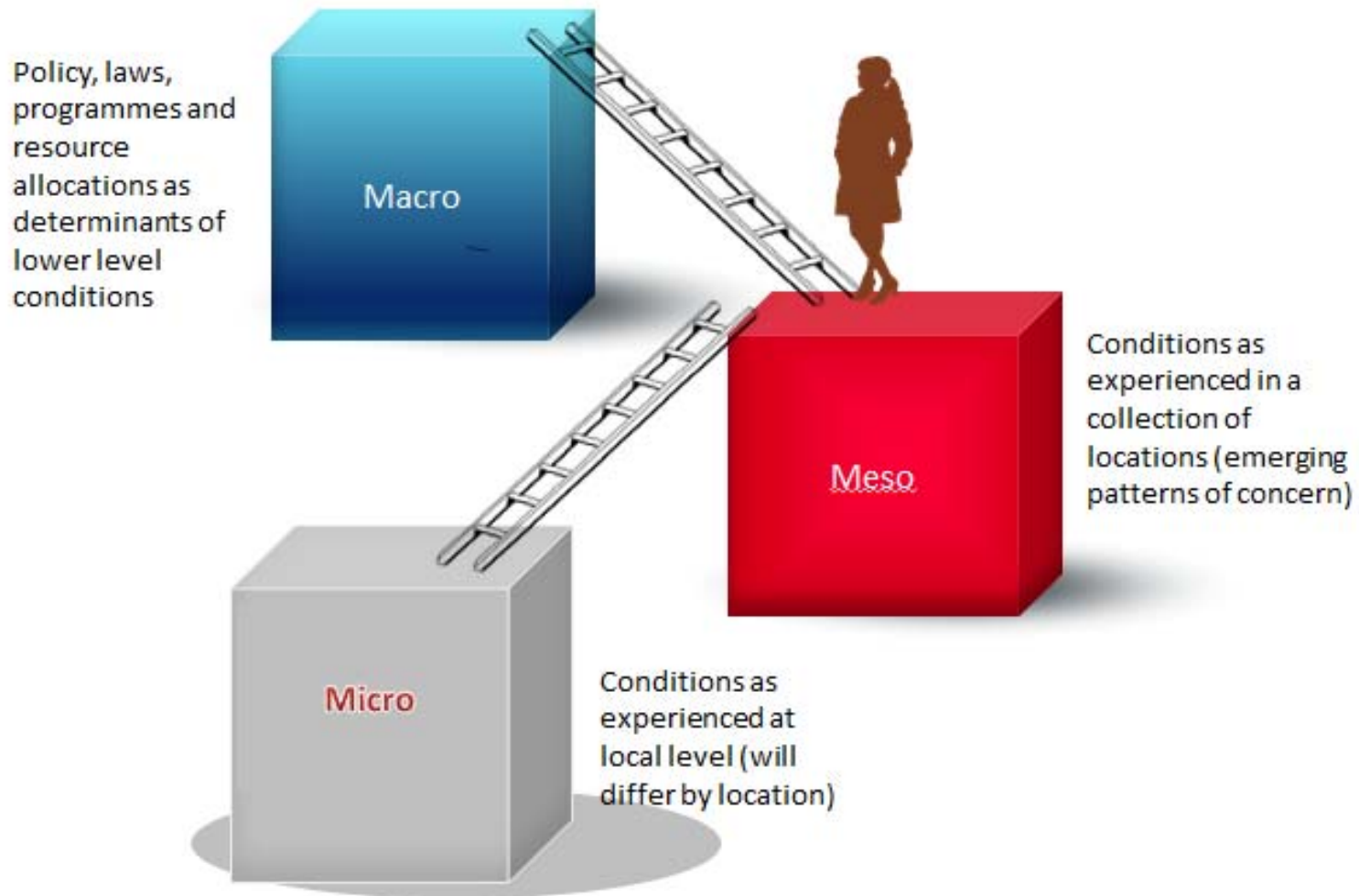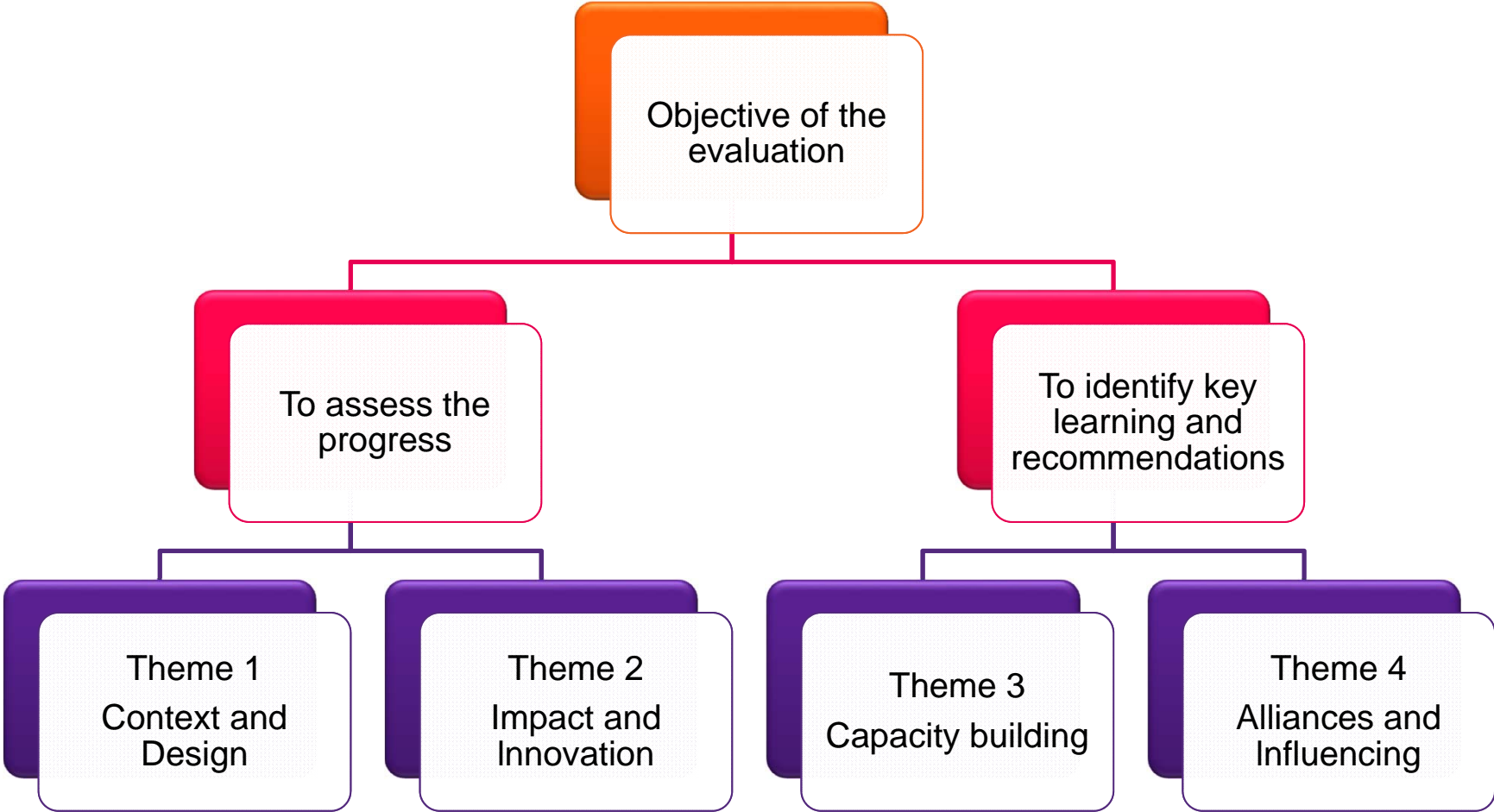
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Where we work…

Theory of Change

Individual Change

-Increased understanding and knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

-Reduced incidence of sexual violence against women and girls

-Reduced incidence of HIV

-Improved livelihood security

-Increased capacity among young people living with HIV to protect themselves from infection and adhere to treatment

Organisational Change

-Strengthened CSO capacity in rights based programming

- Strengthened CSO capacity to engage with and influence government and hold duty bearers to account

-Increased use of evidence based approaches by CSOs

Transformative Empowerment

(women, girls ,people with disability, young people and mobile populations of PLWHAs)

Collective Change

-Addressing harmful social and cultural practices, norms and beliefs

-Facilitating an enabling environment where women and girls enjoy their rights and are free from violence

-Reduced morbidity and mortality due to HIV and AIDS

-Enhanced access toHIV informationa nd services for mobile populations

-Increased ability to hold duty bearers to account

Systemic Change

-Improved government policy implementation

-Increased and improved government service and resource provision, particularly to marginalised communities

-National policy driven programs specifically for young people with HIV

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Partnership Model

Policy, laws, programmes and resource allocations as determinants of lower level conditions

Macro

Conditions as experienced in a collection of locations (emerging patterns of concern)

Meso

Conditions as experienced at local level (will differ by location)

Micro

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Mid Term Evaluation Approach
The Landscape of Analysis

Objective of the evaluation

To assess the progress

To identify key learning and recommendations

Theme 1
Context and Design

Theme 2
Impact and Innovation

Theme 3
Capacity building

Theme 4
Alliances and Influencing

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Innovative and Participatory methodology

Combination of Systemic Thinking

Participatory Action Research

Oxfam's Feminist Principles to MEAL

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METHODOLOGY

- **External and Local review teams**
  - **Desk Reviews**

- **Interviews**
  - **Learning and Review workshops**
- **Field Based Reviews**
  - **Validation workshop**

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Key Observations of the Evaluation Approach

Streghths

- Retaining Oxfam's DNA by having an internal team
- A mixed team is an added as it fosters cross learning and sharing of ideas.
- Capacity building of partners who were part of the internal team
- Tools used were non threatening and promoted active participation and critical reflection of the programme

Weaknesses

- Qualitative approaches are work-intensive and time consuming and are not appropriate if a light touch MTLR is requested.
- No specific team leader appointed, roles and responsibilities were not clearly defined from the very beginning
- Team became too big and diverse which tended to derail some processes
- Individual strength and affiliate bias

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Key findings and results of evaluation

On program design and partnership

- Sound comprehensive partner scoping

- Partner portfolio enabler to the program's TOC

- Partners working in different thematic areas i.e disability inclusion
  & influencing have provided capacity building and mentoring to other SRP
  partners with the aim of activating key elements of the theory of change.

- Synergistic nature of the TOC & partnership portfolio a noteworthy strength of
  the SRP both in the design and implementation.

Key findings and results of evaluation..cont

Influencing & Empowerment

- Effectiveness of SRP in reaching and empowering particularly marginalised groups

- Providing spaces for partners to get involved in policy development and implementation

Key findings and results of evaluation..cont

Capacity Building

- Partners brought positive changes in policies of tertiary institutions and the Government of Zimbabwe and increases in the knowledge of decision makers.

- Partners valued capacity building on MEL, theory of change and finance mobilisation topics

Key findings and results of evaluation..cont

Gender Sensitivity

- The emphasis on women's rights is a core element of SRP and this has supported partners in deepening their focus on women's rights within the broader frame of sexual and reproductive health rights.

- Almost all SRP partners have gender policies and the programme has emphasised long term transformative thinking particularly in the context Gender Based Violence.

Key findings and results of evaluation..cont

Disability inclusion

- Embedding disability inclusion in the programme design and integrating it into partner reporting and support through capacity building has effectively reinforced the topic as a key and valued element of SRP. This three-pronged approach to disability inclusion is a unique program strategy and could provide valuable learning for other programs.

What did we learn from this

Innovative, Participatory and Learning Evaluation Approach?

Be flexible, adaptable and responsive to context

Recognize that change is non-linear and complex

Use of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies

Support strengthening of organizational capacity on engagement in feminist MEAL

Acknowledge skills and attributes of the evaluating consultants

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Key Recommendations and Next Steps

- **Gender:**

Undertake research to understand more clearly the drivers and details of specific gender inequalities and discrimination

- **Capacity building:**

There is need to develop a strategic capacity building program with the aim of supporting consolidated outcomes in the last 18 months of the program

- **Disability inclusion:**

Undertake a stock take of partner progress towards disability inclusion to inform capacity building and identify where disability inclusion can be more explicitly included in SRP's influencing activities

Key Recommendations and Next Steps……cont

Partnership Approach:

Review the partnership portfolio i.e. emphasis on a particular type of partners

Influencing:

Need to have a clear strategic approach on how to scale up influencing

Scale Up:

Develop clear scale up strategy

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Conclusion

- **A very rich learning experience** for both the external and the internal facilitators.

- **Combination of systemic and participatory methodologies** shaped the review process

- **Guarantee of local ownership in the process and sustainability** of the MTLR results through inclusion of partners in the review process.

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