

How do we know that our work works? Building evidence and evaluation capital

Anne Crawford & Sumera Jabeen

World Vision Australia

September 2017



@AnnieOS5

**What do you
see?**

**What are you
thinking?**



Why are we doing an Evidence Gap Analysis?

Internal and external needs of better understanding what we know about the **outcomes** of our programs



What is our Evidence Gap Analysis?

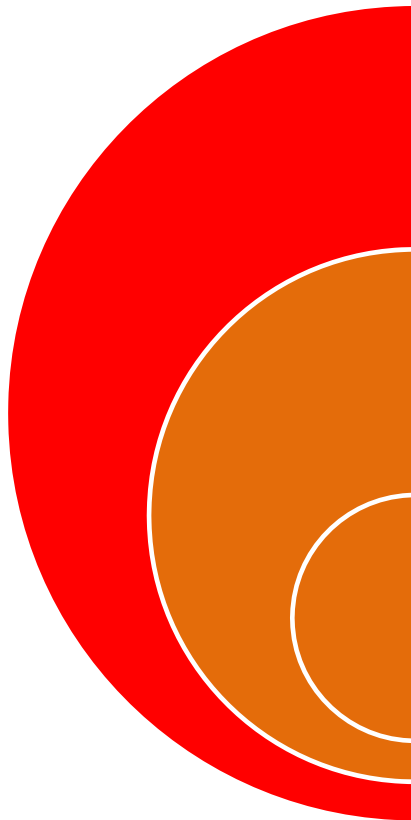
Disciplined

Reflective

**Living
document**



How is it used?



Helps Sector

- Meaningful contribution to the knowledge space

Helps WVA

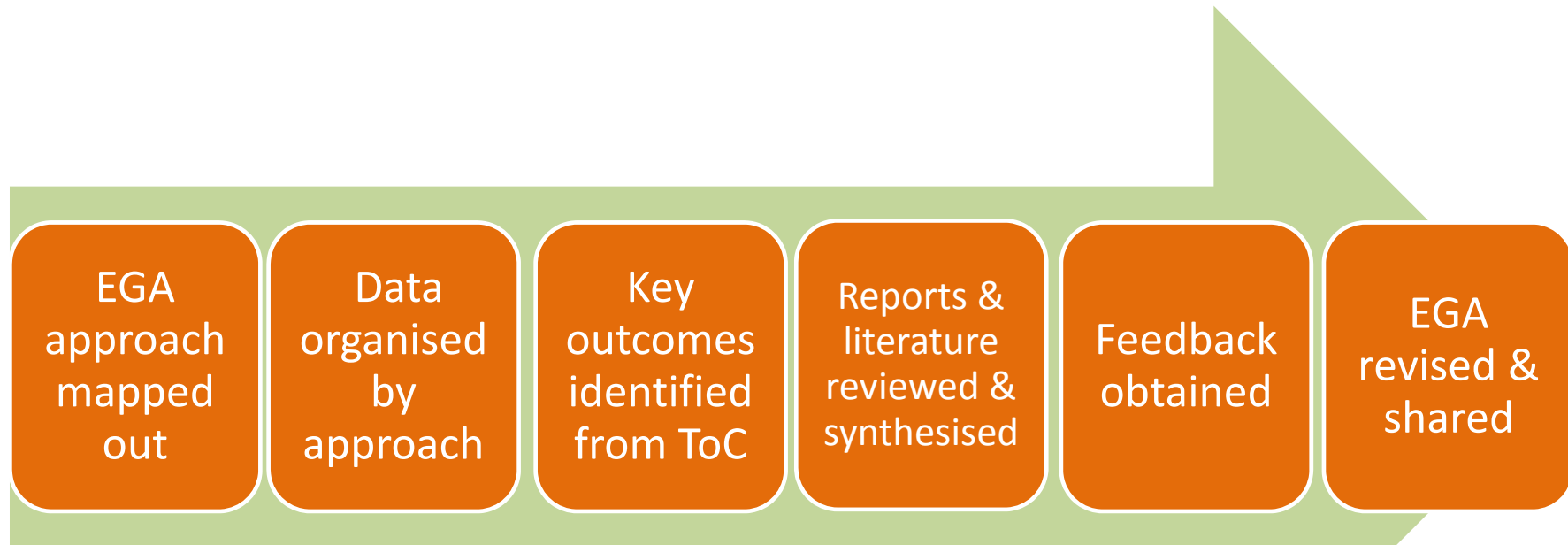
- Better understand evidence gaps
- Plan evaluation in a more intentional manner

Helps WVA

- Program improvement



The process



What does it look like?

Evidence Gap Analysis Form

Model Summary sheet

Project Model	Model development			External Evidence Base			Internal Evidence Base		
	Status	Application	Comment	Strength	Relevance	Comment	Strength	Relevance	Comment
[PROJECT MODEL NAME (date)									
Model development									
Introduction and Status									
Application									
Link to model materials									
Literature review - Internal and External Evidence –									
Evidence of the Approach									
Evidence for gender Inclusion									
Evidence of disability Inclusion									
Evidence Gap Analysis									
Summary									
Summary									
Detailed									
Program Improvement									
Donor Interest									
Moving forward									

What the EGA is not

- It's not a meta-evaluation
- It's not a literature review
- It is a synthesis of available documented evidence to meet our needs



An example

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration



Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)

FMNR is both a community mobilisation approach for landscape restoration, and a specific technique to regenerate trees.



As a technique...

It involves **pruning and protecting tree and shrub regrowth** to allow them to **grow into trees**

This brings the benefits of increased trees in the landscape – timber, firewood, forest fruits, medicinal products, income...



Key elements of the FMNR project model

Awareness creation & training



Favourable policy environment & forest rights



Organisational structures



Advocacy – enhanced market access



Follow-up & encouragement

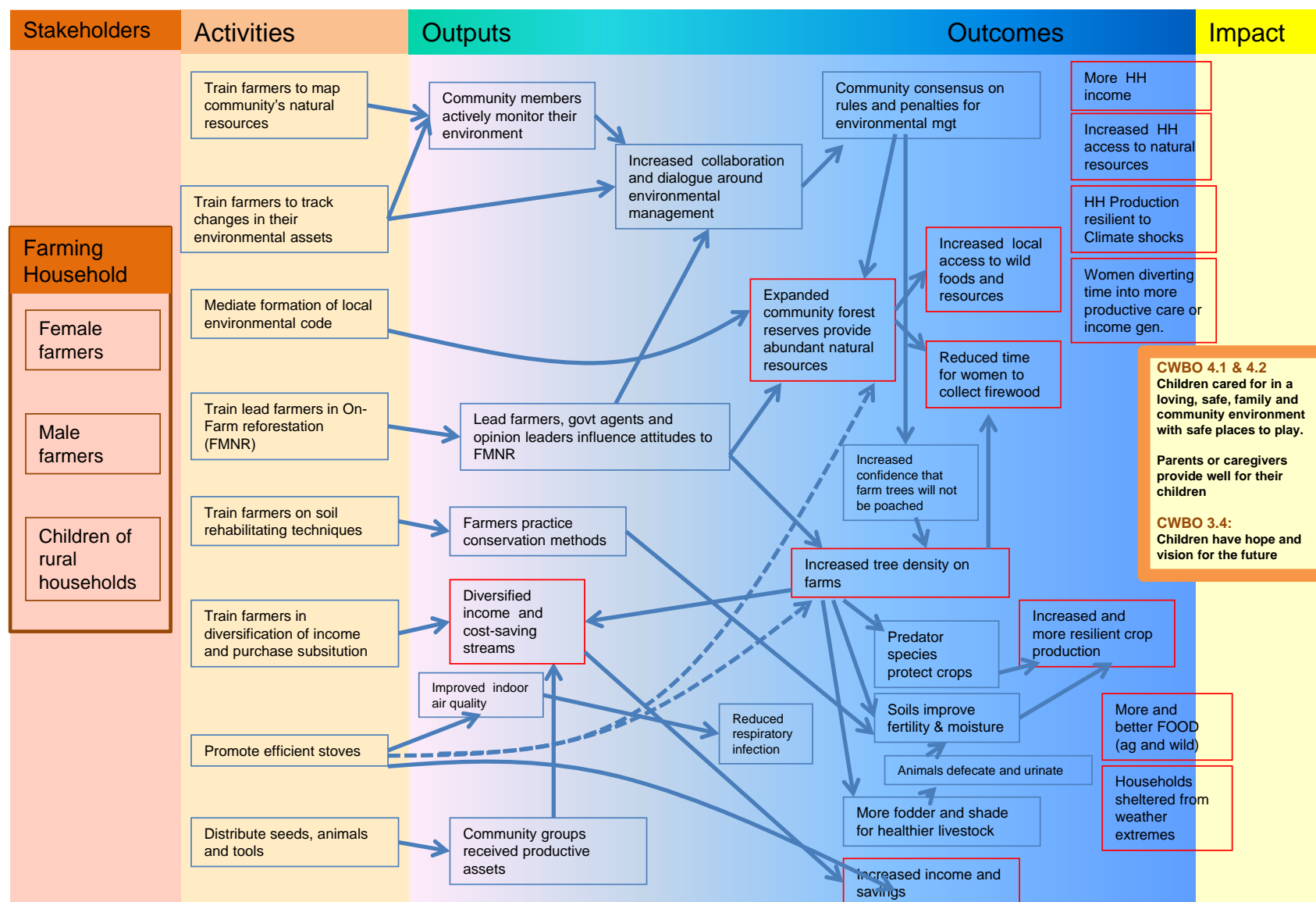


Training – NRM & forest products

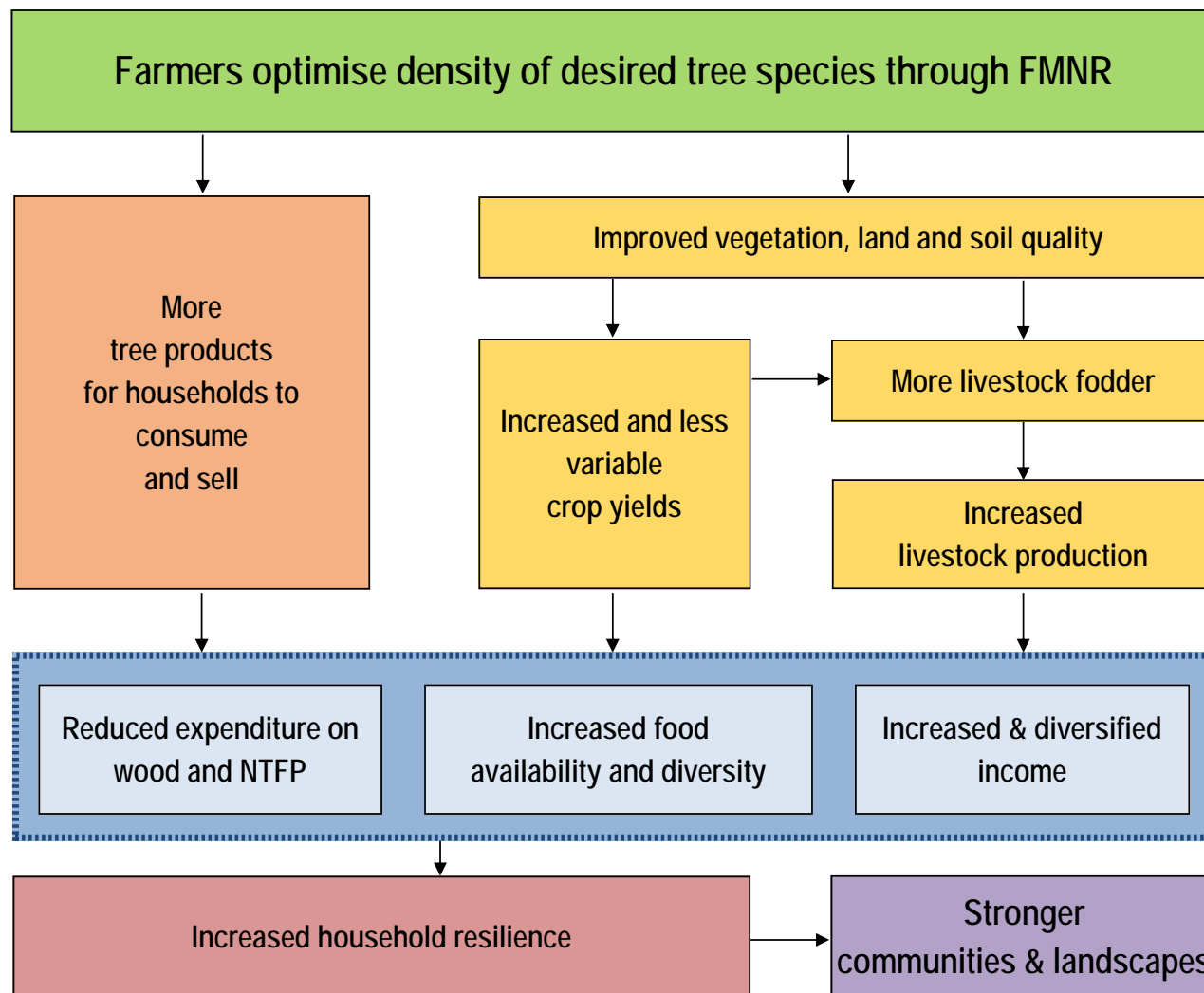


Theory of Change – Example

Talensi, Ghana



Simplified FMNR program theory



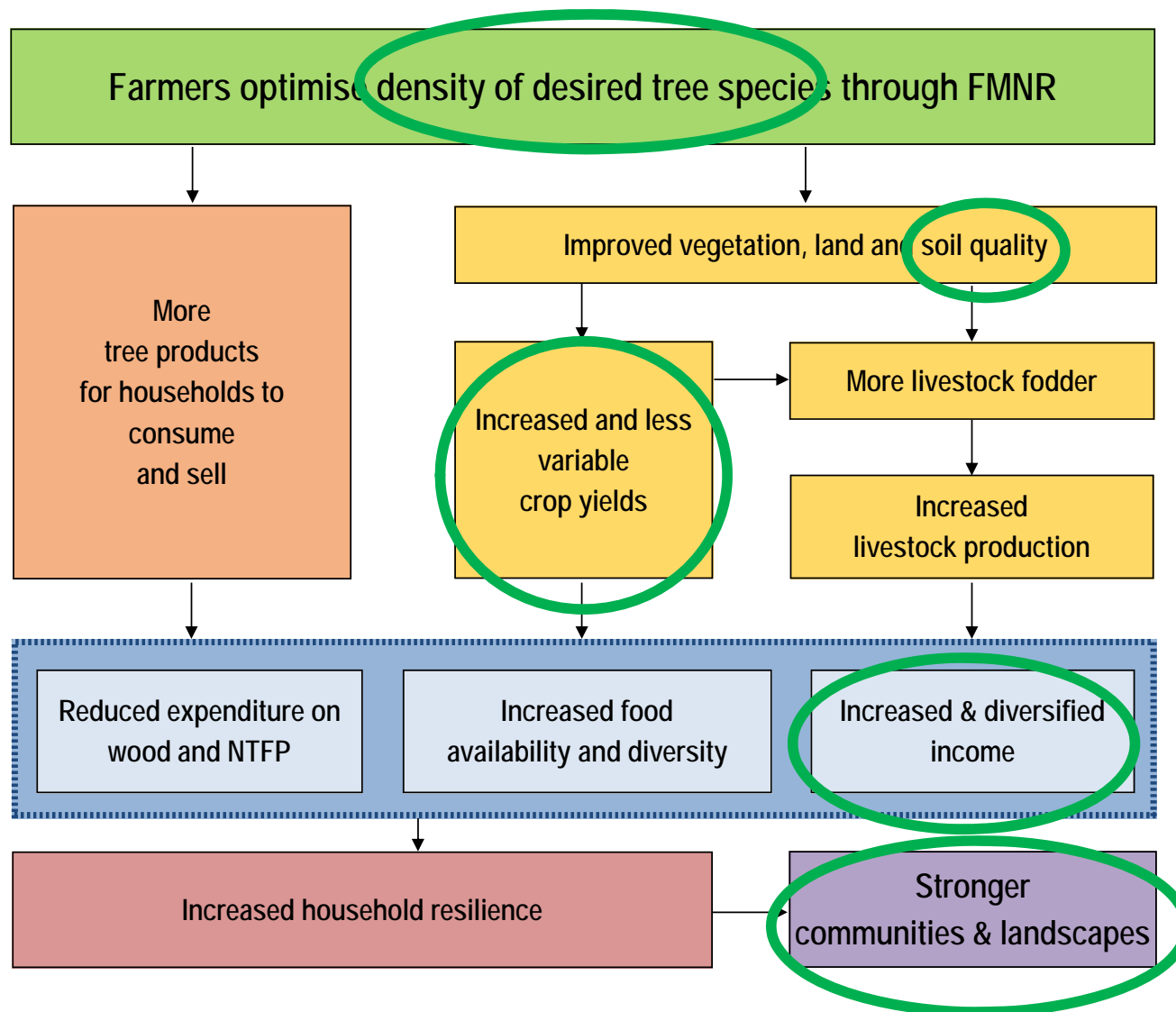
Key outcomes

- Increased tree cover*
 - Improved soil fertility
 - Increased crop yields
 - Increased household income & assets
 - Greater community empowerment*
 - Other gender outcomes
- Gender lens**

*Core to the FMNR project model



Simplified FMNR program theory



□

Summary of [approach name]'s benefits and sources

List of Journal papers and reports reviewed

Author Last Name, Name Initial (year), Name of Document, Source or Editorial.

External evidence (*see examples below*)

Authors	Peer reviewed? Strong evaluation?	Location	Research design	Type of Benefit	Quantification?
Binam, J.N., Place, F., Kalinganire, A., Hamade, S., Boureima, M., Tougiani, A., Dakouo, J., Mounkoro, B., Diaminatou, S., Badji, M., Diop, M., Babou, A.B., and Haglund, E. (2015a) Effects of farmer managed natural regeneration on livelihoods in semi-arid West Africa. Environmental Economics and Policy Studies . (Authors' copy – check page numbers)	Yes, peer reviewed	Rural households in Sahelian and Sudano-Sahelian ecozone of West Africa Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal)	1080 households, 4 countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal) Applied a decision tree to categorize farmers' practice of FMNR as low, new/young and continuing/always FMNR. Livelihood benefit variables include crop production (quality of cereals harvested), household income and food security (food consumption scores) and coping strategy index. Also contextual factors (climate, market access, pattern of FMNR, management systems) and types of households (eg female headed HHs, poorer HHs, HHs with smaller farms). Quant tree data including species, #, age.	Increased household income Increased value of tree products Increased diet diversity Use of fertiliser trees (<i>faidherbia</i> and others) 'to foster the widespread dissemination and enhance the capacity of farmers to increase, diversify and sustain tree-based production systems, an enabling institutional, technical and policy environment needs to be promoted.'	FMNR practised continuously, increased HH income as follows: Burkina Faso \$4/capita; \$32,000/1000 HH Mali \$5/capita; \$80,000/1000 HH Niger \$6.3/capita; \$76,000/1000 HH Senegal \$4/capita; \$48,000/ 1000 HH The Sahel globally \$5/capita; \$72 per household; \$72,000/ 1000 HH FMNR practiced continuously increased value of tree products Burkina Faso 36% (\$32/ha) Mali 38% (\$60/ha) Niger 36% (\$76/ha) Senegal (\$76/ha) The Sahel globally 34%

The evidence base

- 12 journal papers specific to FMNR
- 21 Reports (including World Vision evaluations)

Region	Papers	Reports
West Africa	9	12
East Africa	3	7
Southern Africa	-	-
SE Asia & Pacific	-	2

- Also broadened scope to key agroforestry papers



Approach

- Described each key outcome and identified indicators
- Evidence was organised by internal and external sources
- Our Gender specialist also reviewed the literature, with a specific focus on outcomes for women (in addition to the 5 we had focused on)





Evidence Gap Analysis

Evidence Gap analysis

Very good evidence for West Africa. Gaps elsewhere.

Outcome	Further evidence required
Tree cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More quantitative data required – tree cover is integral to FMNR.• Strengthen tree monitoring protocols.• Every project requires both area of FMNR as well as tree density – baseline and endline.
Crop yields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve measurement of crop yields in farmlands with FMNR through household surveys – main staple and cash crop.• Partner with others for experimental research – beyond scope of WV.

Evidence Gap analysis

Outcome	Further evidence required
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More sex and age-disaggregated quant & qual data.• Longitudinal studies of impact of FMNR on firewood collection time.• Impact of FMNR interventions on changes in women's status within household and community.• Implications of saved time from FMNR for women, girls, men and boys.



Benefits of doing an evidence gap analysis

Approach

- Identified gaps in our project model, especially around gender and consistency of indicators
- Update evidence

Programme Improvement

- Were able to make recommendations following the meta-analysis of implementation
- Developed specific gender-related recommendations following new insights

Evaluation planning & prioritisation

- Identified regions/ contexts where evidence was scarce
- Provided excellent summary underpinned by detail regarding our program approaches



Recommendations for doing an evidence gap analysis

Approach

- Use a qualitative analysis tool such as NVivo from the outset
- ‘Clear the decks’ to allow a decent time commitment to this task
- Have a project champion – but also draw in relevant technical expertise (eg Gender)

Sustainability & Utilisation

- Develop a strategy to incorporate future evidence
- Implement feedback mechanisms for programming and M&E





The next steps...