



Where now?

Evaluation and evidence-based decision making

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Impact Planning and Improvement, Global Development

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Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Opportunity**
- **Questions for you**

Introduction

Who am I?

- **New to the foundation, not to evaluation**
 - **NGO evaluation question: what difference do we make?**
 - **International aid and the “evaluation gap”**
 - **Tried pilots and larger scale evaluations among them rigorous impact evaluations in very challenging environments**
- **Lessons**
 - **Not the evaluation approach, but the purpose and the questions**
 - **Evaluation design is essential, but also how to use the findings?**
 - **Randomization is not the hard part**

Introduction

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- We invest in opportunities to take innovation to scale
 - What works and how can solutions be brought to scale ?
 - What makes people change their behavior?
 - Is it the evidence? Is it the timing of the evidence?
- We value sustainability
 - How can we ensure that changes endure?
 - How can we spur big changes in complex systems?

Introduction

Evaluation at the Foundation

- **A priority...**
 - **Link to strategy: Impact Planning & Improvement**
 - **Leadership: Sponsorship from the top**
 - **Practical : “Actionable Measurement”**
- **Big questions remain**
 - **How much to wade into RCTs?**
 - **What burden of proof is necessary?**
 - **How to walk the intersection between practicality and rigor?**

The Opportunity: Evaluating Global Development

- Focused discussion at high levels about evaluation and evidence-based decision making
- Recognition that “impact” is a term to take seriously
- Evaluators with theoretical and field experience
- Applied research in social science increasingly focused on development
- Awareness that data is a public good (LSMS)
- Initiatives (3IE, NONIE and others) seeking to build up evidence base

Opportunity today

To listen to and learn from you

- **How do you envision the relationship between the need to answer specific questions about ‘what works’ and the need that users/practitioners/policymakers have to make timely decisions?**
- **Where is the balance between evaluating “impact” in terms of the net effect of a specific policy, innovation or intervention, and tracking the progress of development over time? How do we connect micro and macro?**

THANK YOU

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