

Introduction to Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

**Poverty Alleviation and Shared Growth:
Program Design and Evaluation**

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What is M&E?

- Monitoring and evaluation are tools that make it possible to identify and measure the results of projects, programs or policies

Why the Concern?

- To evaluate and adjust strategies and activities
- To report on progress to interested parties, clients, taxpayers and the general public
- To identify and share with others best practices and lessons learned
- To improve the programming of new interventions and strategies

Monitoring

- Provides regular information on how things are working
- Defn: A continuing function that uses:
 - A) systematic data collection and analysis of specific indicators of progress.
 - B) Provides management with indication of extent of progress towards goals
 - achievement of deliverables
 - use of resources.
 - C) Contributes to performance improvement.
 - D) Conducted by business unit.

Evaluation

- Evaluation can only be done after a certain time and requires more thorough investigations
- Conducted by independent evaluators.
- Defn: A systematic and objective measurement of the results achieved by a project/program/policy in order to assess its relevance, the efficiency of implementation, its effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

Monitoring vs Evaluation

- Monitoring assesses progress in implementation of ongoing programs
- Evaluation provides a snapshot against some benchmarks at a point in time of programs that may or may not be continuing
- Monitoring looks at progress relative to targets and assumes there is causality
- Evaluation seeks to prove causality

Monitoring and Evaluation - Rationale

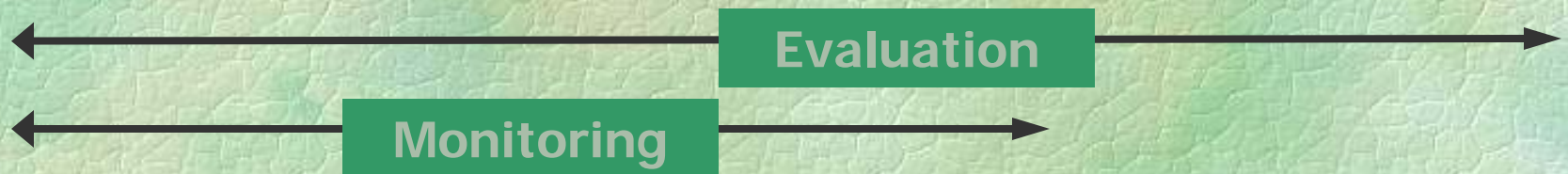
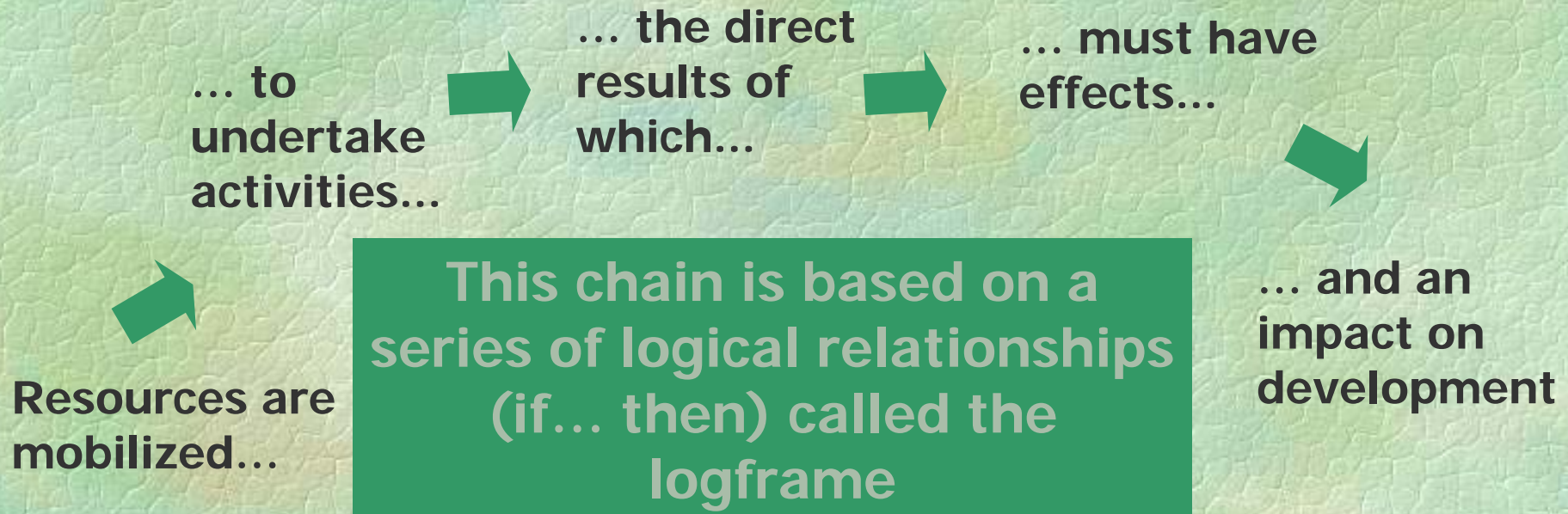
■ Monitoring

- Holds implementers accountable for delivery of inputs
- Provides basis for corrective action
- Provides assessment of continued relevance

■ Evaluation

- Accountability - was money well spent?
- Learning - what could we do better next time?

Monitoring and Evaluation, and the Chain of Results



Logframe of a Project or Program

Resources are mobilised → ... to undertake activities... → ... the direct results of which... → ... must have effects... → ... and an impact on development



Allocation

Inputs

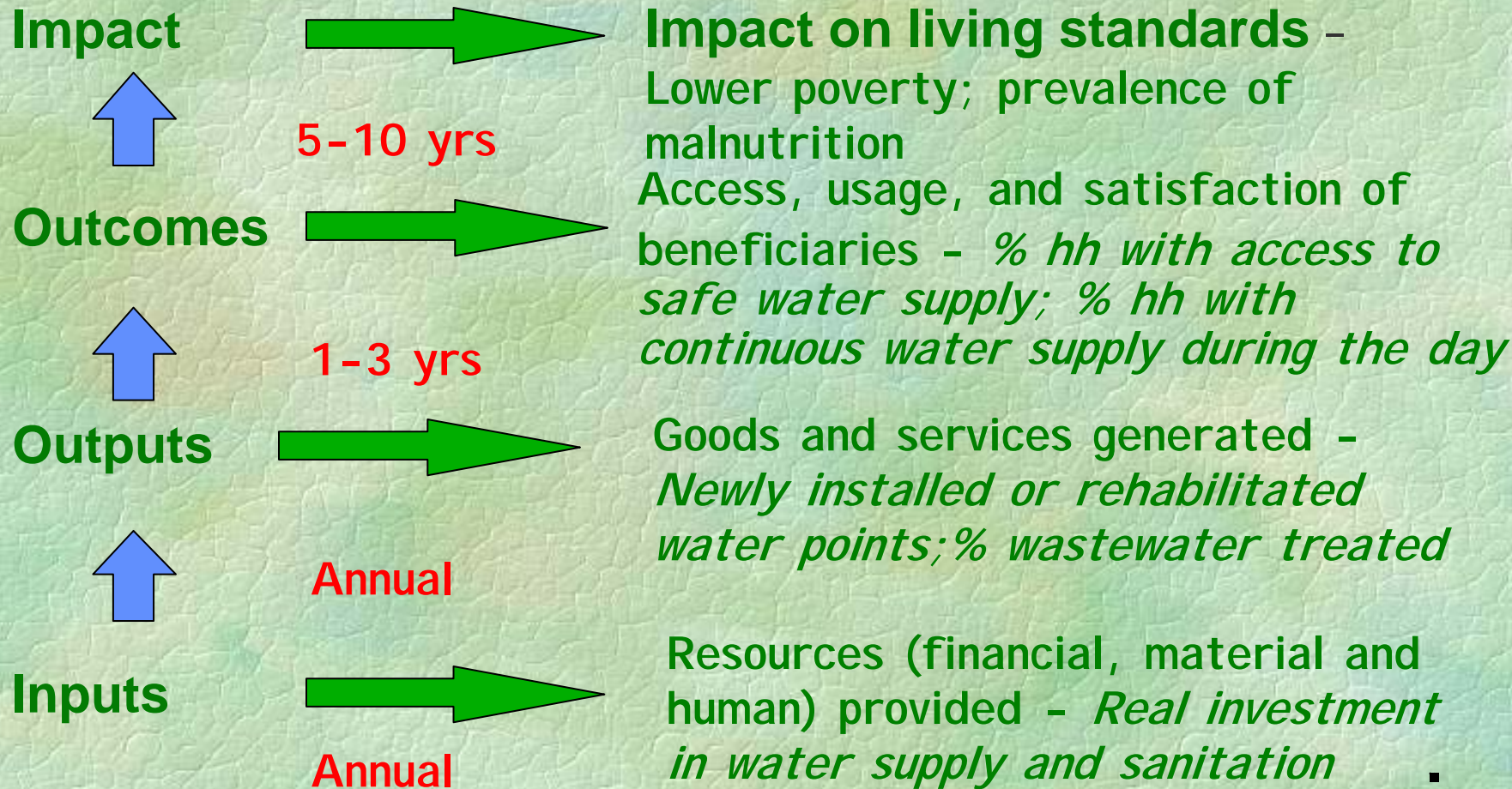
Outputs

Outcomes

Impact

What Type of Indicators Are Needed?

GOAL: Improve the health status of the population through improved water supply



What to Monitor

- Identify few indicators, measure them well, and use the results for policy makers
- A prioritized list of input, output, outcome and impact indicators for monitoring
- Develop a data collection system to institutionalize a monitoring system: budget and administrative data, facility and other survey data.

How to Monitor

- Manage a monitoring system that integrates a variety of different types of information: MIS, surveys and censuses, and participatory exercises
- Draw up a monitoring matrix which identifies:
 - Data sources for each indicator
 - Frequency of measurements
 - The organization responsible for collecting information.
- Collect information in a sequence that maximizes the complementarities between different types of data.
- Outputs:
 - Annual progress report
 - Database for continuous monitoring
 - Desk studies

Features of Good Indicators

- Relevant; measure factors that reflect objectives
 - e.g. Number of eggs produced vs. Poverty incidence
- Direct and unambiguous measure of progress
 - e.g. % Hh expenditures on health care vs. Immunization coverage
- Varies across areas, groups, over time; sensitive to changes in policies, programs and institutions
 - e.g. Life expectancy vs. Infant mortality rates
- Can be tracked frequently; not too costly
 - e.g. Iron deficiency in pregnant women vs. Pre-natal care visits
- Consistent with the decision making/budgetary cycle

How Many Indicators Should Be Monitored?

- There is not a general rule but...
- It is more useful to identify a small number of indicators, measure them well and use the results for policy-making than to enumerate a long list of indicators, measure many of them badly and not use the results for policy decisions at all

At What Level of Disaggregation?

- Aggregate indicators are useful for giving an overall picture of country situation or cross-country comparisons
- However, they tend to mask differences across areas, gender, or social group
- Appropriate level of disaggregation depends on country conditions and the indicator itself

Types of Disaggregation

- Geographical
 - Rural/urban
 - Administrative units (states, districts, municipalities, etc)
 - Geoclimatic zones
- Gender
- Income or consumption level
- Socially defined groups

Experience to Date

- Lack of consistency between goals and indicators for monitoring
- Multitude of indicators without clear prioritization
- Unbalance between intermediate (input/output) and final (outcome/impact) indicators
- Inadequate/unclear indicators

Monitoring poverty requires

- Measuring poverty
- Understanding poverty reduction strategies
- Monitoring outcomes and impacts—goes beyond project-based monitoring
- Evaluating m&e system and its capacity

Measuring poverty

- Poverty is a multi-dimensional concept—income, consumption, health, education, water, housing, sanitation, capability and empowerment
- Poverty is also dynamic—vulnerability and coping mechanism
- Poverty is also gender, caste, ethnic, and geographical based

Measuring poverty and data quality

- Tools: - A good household survey (there are various options - HBS, LSMS etc.)
- Measuring poverty is a data hungry exercise (means and distributions)
- Household Consumption (If you're going to measure it - do it properly)
- Sampling and non-sampling error
- Monitoring over time compounds the error problem

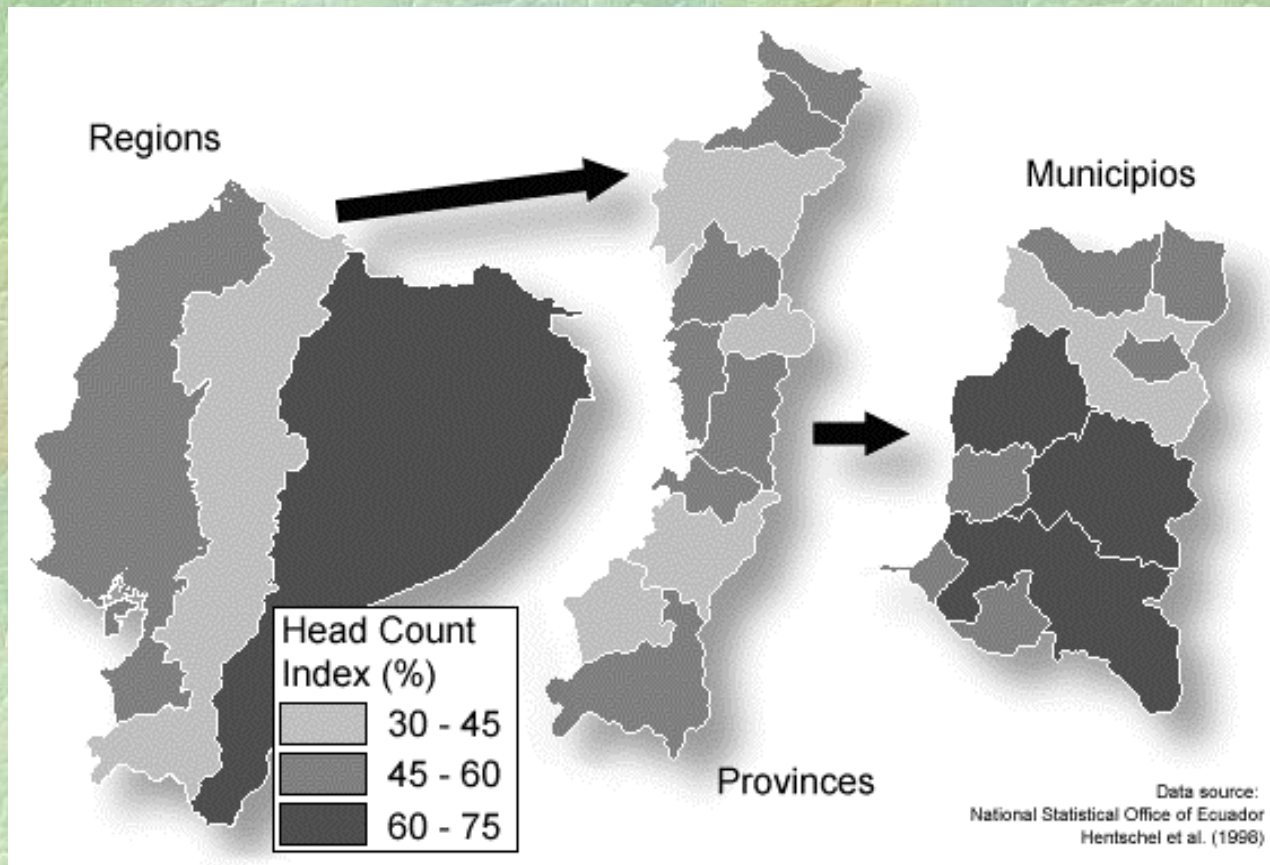
Monitoring changes over time

- Tools: Administrative data/MIS; Institution-based surveys; household surveys
- Monitoring leading indicators (Service Delivery)
- Key attributes of an 'indicators survey'
 - **Simple to execute**
 - **Rapid reporting**
 - **Disaggregatable to low levels**
- Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ)

Monitoring Spatial/regional differences

- Main source of information on distributional outcomes - household surveys - permit only limited disaggregation.
- Very large data sources (e.g. census) typically collect very limited information on welfare outcomes.
- Impute a preferred measure of welfare (e.g. comprehensive real consumption) from household survey into census, using statistical prediction methods

What are Poverty Maps?



Participatory Poverty monitoring (listening to the poor)

- Limitations of statistical information
- Qualitative and participative approaches
- Complementary not alternative approaches

Defining Resource requirements

- National budgets
- Coordinated donor support through national budgets
- Statistical capacity-building trust fund

Key messages

- Monitoring poverty reduction goals goes beyond selection of indicators and measuring inputs and outputs
- A range of different monitoring tools are required
- Poverty monitoring goals should include statistical capacity-building
- Must be a national commitment to funding monitoring and statistical systems
- Feedback into budgeting and policy process is essential