To evaluate or not to evaluate?

A conversation starter

for ideas for evaluating the Friends of Aileu program

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WE MONITOR. Why evaluate?

▶ **Monitoring** relates to the ongoing review and collection of data, which will help to determine whether anticipated outcomes are being met.

▶ **Evaluation** refers to the systematic collection of information conducted during or after a project in order to make judgments about effectiveness against anticipated outcomes and to help inform decisions about future interventions.

When you hear the word evaluation what do you think of?

▶ **Problems, don't find anything new, too much work, not enough resources, A lot of work, telling what you already know, expensive**

▶ **Identifying the way to the future, basis for decision making, opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, build ownership, find information on the unexpected impacts**

▶ **Poorly done evaluations can raise more questions without providing answers**

What do effective evaluations do?

- **Help with choosing the program that aligns best with your mission…**
  - **Improving or changing your program**
  - **Making a case for a new program**
  - **Being accountable to your donors and / or funders**
  - **Improved understanding of what is being achieved, independent evidence, credibility for FoA, data and analysis that is appropriate to stakeholders, information that you can share.**

Not just one way to evaluate

- **Formative evaluations**

- Needs assessments and baselines

- Process Evaluations – assess the processes involved in organising and/or implementing the project. The focus here is on evaluating organisational and project capabilities rather than results. ABCD?

- **Summative evaluations**

- Impact Evaluations – assess short term objectives which suggest that your larger goals are being achieved. Impact evaluations are much easier to measure because they consider benefits in terms of changes in beliefs and attitudes, skills, behaviour and/or policies, structures and systems.

- Outcome Evaluations – assess how effective you have been in meeting big picture goals. The difficulties associated with outcome evaluations include:

Friends of Suai Evaluation

- http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/default/Friends_of_Suai_Evaluation_Report_final1_CHarlock(1).pdf

- The purpose of the evaluation is to explore and describe the factors that have contributed to the strength of the Friends of Suai/Covalima partnership and to demonstrate the strengthened capacities and impacts in the Covalima Community.

- **The objectives are to:**

- understand the key features of the friendship model and approach to development

- outline the outcomes of programs and projects undertaken in the Suai community

- assess the legacies and wider impacts on the Covalima community

- make suggestions on how to ensure the partnership continues to be strengthened and sustained.

What do we want to evaluate?

▶ Analyse the data: Do we know what has had a positive impact? How and why?

  ▶ *Relevance*

  ▶ *Effectiveness*

  ▶ *Efficiency*

  ▶ *Impact*

  ▶ *Sustainability*

▶ Be accountable: Share the findings with stakeholders

▶ Use the findings to inform future programming and ways of working.

Evaluation stages

I Focusing the evaluation	II Collecting information	III Analysing information	IV Think about how to use information
Questions: What do you want to know? Indicators How will you know it? Who will conduct evaluation? Keep it participative! Keep it simple!	Think about: Sources Methods (qualitative, quantitative, participative) Timing Samples Instruments	Analysis Interpretation	Disseminate and share lessons learnt (both good and bad!) To whom? When? How?

Goals

- Goal 1 – Communities and Friendship: To provide opportunities for the people of Moreland, Hume and Aileu to strengthen their communities by contributing to the development of the friendship relationship

- Goal 2 - People and Organisations: To support the people of Aileu in their own development and that of their local government and community organisations

- Goal 3 - Programs and Projects: To support community development programs and projects in Aileu identified in agreement with our Aileu friends and partners

- Goal 4 - Partnerships and Networks: To develop and maintain partnerships, collaborate with others and participate in networks that support the friendship relationship, focussing on the achievement of Goals 1 to 3

- Goal 5 - Capabilities and Resources: To maintain and develop the capabilities and resources of the Friends of Aileu and individual members and supporters to contribute towards achieving Goals 1 to 4

What information?

► Do we know specifically what FoA has achieved over the last 20 years?

► Is our information from all the key stakeholders?

► Are we looking at positive changes in both Timor-Leste and Moreland/Hume?

► Are we asking the right questions about impact rather than outcomes?

► Does the information we have indicate that there have been positive impacts or not?

	Qualitative Research	Quantitative Research
Questions asked	Who, what, how, why?	How much, how many?
Question type	Open-ended	Closed
Interaction	Dialogue or observation through: film, video, theatre, mapping, etc	Question-answer
Form	Semi- or unstructured	Controlled
To whom?	Purposeful sampling. A small but representative sample is selected.	Formal sampling. Larger numbers are randomly selected. Statistical probabilities can be assessed.
Level	In-depth	Surface-accessibility
Analysis	Interpretation	Formalisation and statistical analysis
Common methods (participative techniques should be used across both categories)	Interviews: – individual, depth interviews – narrative – critical incident – focus group Written text: – diary methods – archival e.g. health service and notes Media analysis: – press articles – drawings, photographs – videos Observation: – participant observation – non-participant observation Project techniques: – responses to presented stimuli – word association – role playing	Survey – questionnaires – cross-sectional (picture at one point in time) – cohort (follow one group over time) Controlled trials – random – quasi-experimental Archival data (secondary data) – further analysis of existing statistics Observation – counts e.g., patients in a clinic

Next steps?

Obrigada barak!