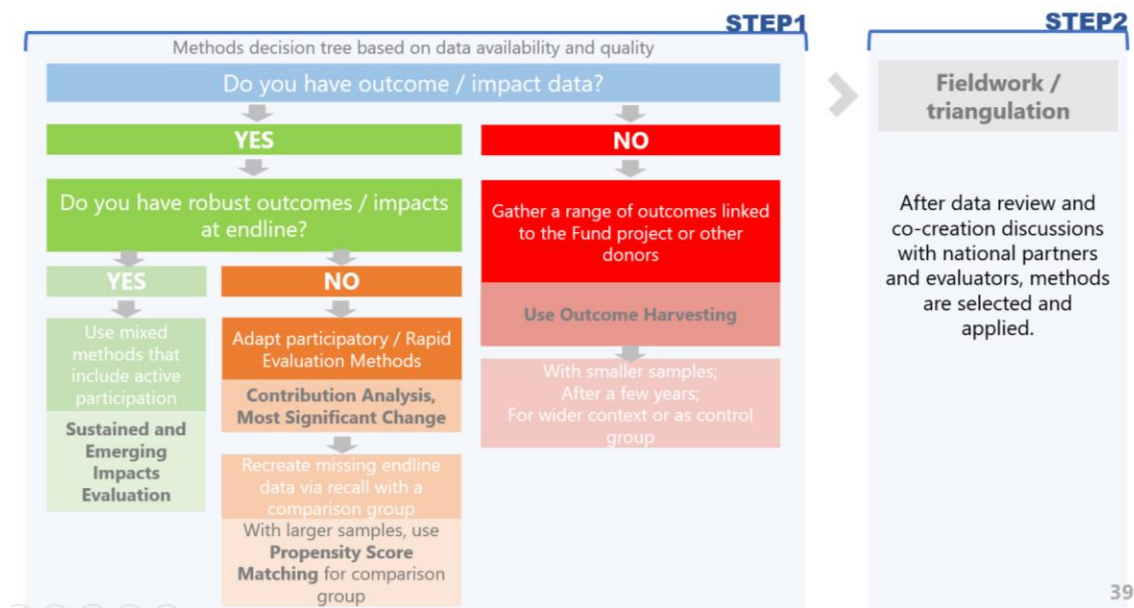


## Training handout – METHODS SELECTION

Given the different data and project specifics of the shortlisted projects, several methods were selected. Depending on the method, different requirements may be needed for the analysis to be robust e.g. Propensity Score Matching requires quite large samples. As a result, a decision tree was made to help national evaluators choose methods



### Methods:

A. Where project final evaluations document robust outcomes data, where possible, mixed-methods that included active participation can effectively evaluate a mix of human and natural systems will be suggested. One set of qualitative/ quantitative tools is a population-based evaluative method, [Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluation](#), which examines the degree to which measurable outcomes and impacts have continued, as well as processes/ideas and what emerged from local efforts.

B. Where there is an unclear Theory of Change and weak outcomes or only outputs, [Contribution Analysis](#) or [Most Significant Change](#) can help identify locally-prioritized outcomes and trace the duration of outcomes to the AF-funded project.

### Comparison group methods:

C. When a population-based comparison group is not large enough, we suggest you innovate by using [Outcome Harvesting](#) among comparable former participants from elsewhere than the selected ex-post evaluation sites.

D. Contribution Analysis is preferable to [Outcome Harvesting](#) for the main ex-post evaluation, where direct contribution *could be* but also *could not be* traced to the AF-funded project.

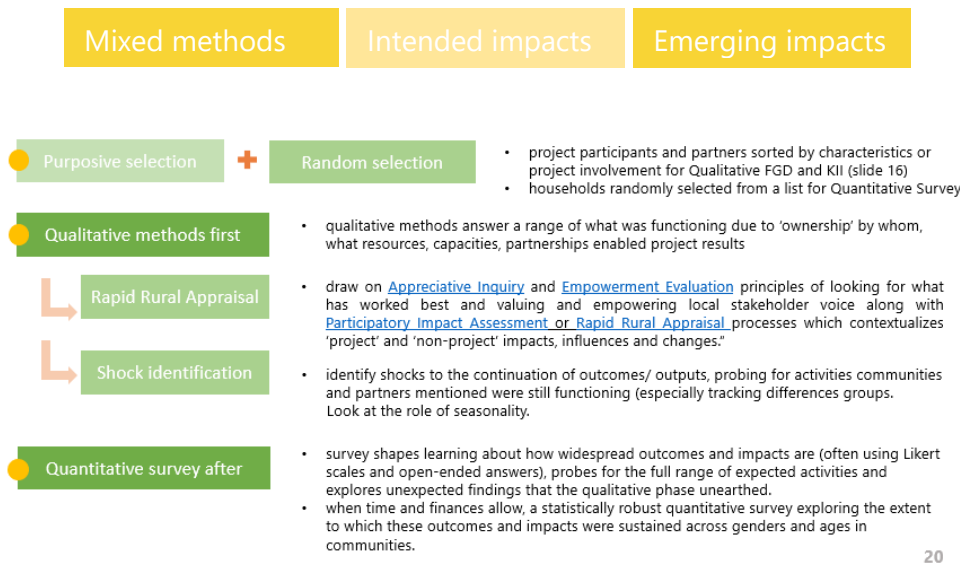
E. Where a comparison group is possible, given a statistically significant large-enough sample, and data needs to be re-created with these methods and randomized with [Propensity Score Matching](#).

## Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluation



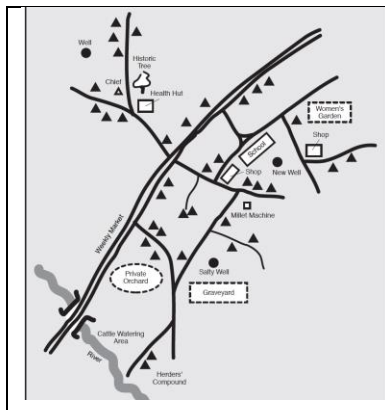
**Sustained and Emerging Impacts Evaluation** refers to an evaluation that focuses on outcomes and impacts for some time after the end of an intervention (which might be a project, policy, or group of projects or programmes) or after the end of participants' involvement in an intervention. It traces what emerged from local efforts to sustain results.

It uses mixed methods to examine the extent to which intended impacts have been sustained, as well as any emerging impacts that have emerged over time (positive and negative).



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SEIE fieldwork involves qualitative evaluation with a range of stakeholders that is followed by quantitative evaluation with communities. The qualitative enquiry uses a community-wide Rapid Rural Appraisal to first gather all outcomes and sustained and emergent impacts and look for who enabled them, probing for those expected by INGO compared to others we find.



### Toolbox: [INGO PRA/ RRA Manual](#)

- understand why the situation stands as it is in terms of sustainability (or not), what role the project had to play, or should have played
- look for other contextual factors that could affect project sustainability including the presence of other partners that intervened since closeout, new government regulations,
- assess the strength of the government to carry activities on given the current conditions and the role of youth in sustaining activities for decades to come.



## Contribution analysis (CA)



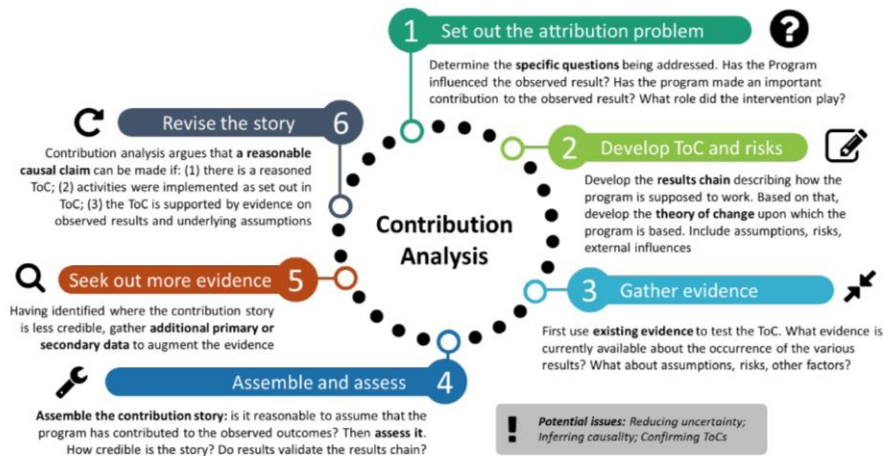
**Contribution analysis** assesses causal questions and infers causality in real-life programme evaluations. It offers a step-by-step approach to help managers, researchers, and policymakers arrive at conclusions about the contribution their programme has made (or is making) to outcomes.

It reduces uncertainty about the contribution of the intervention to observed results through increased understanding of why the observed results have occurred (or not) and the roles of the intervention, and other internal & external factors.

Causality

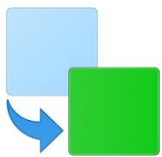
Step-by-step approach

Internal & external factors



Source: Authors' elaboration from Mayne (2008) and Betterevaluation.org

## Most Significant Change (MSC)



**Most Significant Change** involves generating and analyzing personal accounts of change and deciding which of these accounts is the most significant – and why. It follows three basic steps:

- deciding the types of stories that should be collected (e.g. stories about practice change or health outcomes or empowerment)
- collecting the stories and determining which stories are the most significant
- sharing the stories and discussion of values with stakeholders and contributors so that learning happens about what is valued.

Personal stories

Most significant

Discussion of values



## Steps for Most Significant Change:

**STEP 1-** Introduce a **range of stakeholders** to MSC and foster interest in and commitment to participating

**STEP 2-** Identify the **domains of change** to be monitored

**STEP 3-** Decide how **frequently to monitor changes** taking place in these domains

**STEP 4-** **Collect stories** from those most directly involved, such as participants and field staff.

**STEP 5-** **Analyze the stories** and filter them up through the levels of authority typically found within an organization or programme. Every time stories are selected, the criteria used to select them are recorded and fed back to all interested stakeholders, so that each subsequent round of story collection and selection is informed by feedback from previous round.

**STEP 6-** **Produce a document** including all stories selected at the uppermost organizational level in each domain of change over the given period

**STEP 7-** Verify the selected stories by **visiting the sites** where the described events took place

**STEP 8-** **Quantify** the account of change

**STEP 9-** **Monitor the monitoring system** itself, which can include looking at who participated and how they affected the contents, and analyze how often different types of changes are reported

**STEP 10-** **Revise the design of the MSC** process to take into account what has been learned as a direct result of using it and from analyzing its use

## Outcome Harvesting (OH)



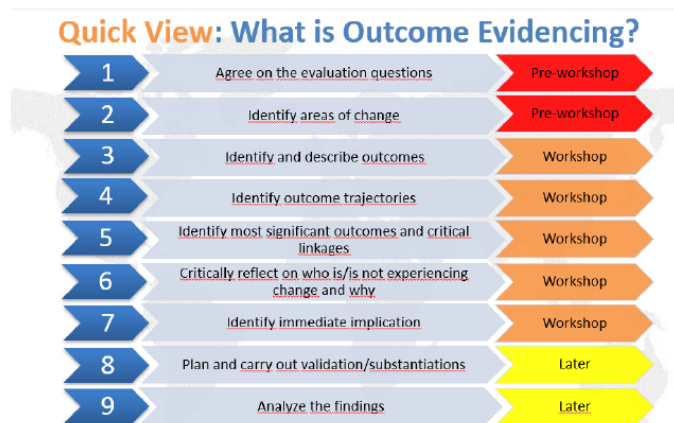
**Outcome Harvesting** collects (“harvests”) evidence of what has changed (“outcomes”). Unlike some evaluation approaches, it does not measure progress towards predetermined objectives or outcomes. Rather, it collects evidence of what has changed and then, working backwards, determines whether and how an intervention contributed to these changes. The outcome(s) can be positive or negative, intended or unintended, direct or indirect, but the connection between the intervention and the outcomes should be plausible.

Evidence of change

Working backwards

Contribution

*Key process steps to applying outcome evidencing (Source: FAO)*



*Modified key process steps to applying outcome evidencing based on Paz-Ybarnegaray, R., & Douthwaite, B., 2017 (Source: FAO)*



## Propensity Score Matching



Recall methods and Propensity Score Matching creates sets of participants for treatment and control groups.

A matched set consists of at least one participant in the treatment group and one in the control group with similar propensity scores.

The goal is to approximate a random experiment, eliminating many of the problems that come with observational data analysis.

Similar characteristics

Treatment/ control group

Random experiment

Steps for PSM simplified:

- 1 First you need a database about your population**
  - Should have data about treated and untreated population
  - Should have enough details about both groups' characteristics
- 2 Choose the criteria for matching** (these will be the characteristics that will make both groups alike = covariates)
  - When choosing the confounds, choose characteristics that could have an effect on your results e.g. age, residence, etc
- 3 Pair up as many people as possible based on the covariates**
  - The main difference should now be the allocation of treatment or not
- 4 Test your hypotheses (statistical analysis)**

