Developmental evaluation

Inclusive eye health project
Nigeria

Gillian Mackay (MEL manager)
Sightsavers is an international non-governmental organisation that protects sight, prevents disease and campaigns for disability rights.

- Based in United Kingdom
- Operate in over 30 countries globally
- Low- and middle-income countries
- Large office in Nigeria
Inclusive eye health project, Kogi State, Nigeria

2.5 year project led by Sightsavers funded through UK Aid

Located in Kogi State, Nigeria

**Goal:** Improve access and quality of eye health services to people with disabilities

**Why?** Women and men with disabilities in Kogi face similar barriers experienced by people with disabilities in the rest of Nigeria and other developing countries, including limited access to education, employment and health services, and are exposed to worse health outcomes compared to the rest of the population.
What is “being developed” in your programme?

Innovation: adaptation, application and testing of Sightsavers’ inclusive health model in the context of the Kogi State MoH’s eye care programme. The model comprises health worker training, social and behavioural change, accessibility improvements, inclusive protocols, inclusive governance, and advocacy.

Will also identify what components can be scaled up ± across Nigeria or elsewhere within the health system.
Developmental evaluation for the inclusive eye health project, Kogi State, Nigeria

The main reason we have selected developmental evaluation

To support adaptive management and innovation on a complex project

What are your expectations, what can be achieved

Real time feedback

Critical friend providing support to project team, focusing on achievement of outcomes

Support collaborative learning
Introducing developmental evaluation

MEL identified approach > Project team buy in > Build our own capacity / understanding of DE > Held sessions with project team on DE to build their understanding > Embedded evaluator into project team

Testing approach of DE and building capacity to undertake DE internally

Different to traditional evaluation

In most situations we appoint an external evaluator (time and volume) and independence. A lot of time international expert who may use an in-country team for data collection but generally international. Very standardised templates, proven methodology based on simple / complicated projects

Already develop ToCs and learning questions and rigorous MEL plan
# Developmental evaluation for the inclusive eye health project, Kogi State, Nigeria

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Well</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<td>Supportive donor, contracting mechanism and project team ± also acceptance that there is a role for evaluator (learning, ToC reviews)</td>
<td>In-FRXQWU\HYDQXDW\RURH[SULHGFH\GDW\LWGX\H\RIWHUVNLILQGVFRSLQJH[HULVFH\FX0\QG\WILQG\WKHF\KDQJHGFRQW international technical expert (guide and mentor) and in-country consultant</td>
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<td>Appetite to trial a new approach (DE) and want to learn about innovations in real time</td>
<td>Adapting activities uncomfortable</td>
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<td>General acceptance of evaluator in project team ± helped that they were recognised as an expert and had worked with us before and good softer skills</td>
<td>Some confusion over toles and responsibilities between SBC, MEL team etc and DE</td>
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<td>Involvement of broader stakeholders</td>
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<td>Timing ± longer and more focus on building capacity to undertake DE (also cost)</td>
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<td>Contracting - adaptive</td>
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How has DE made a contribution to your programme (if at all)? What have you gained that you could not have gained from traditional evaluation?

Lot more expensive and time consuming so it depends on your needs

Too early for contribution to programme ± definitely helped incorporate learning discussions, helped understand design of the project what is adaptive and when can we adapt and what is probably not going to adapt ± set expectations of team. Also surfaced further areas of learning.
Developmental evaluation for the inclusive eye health project, Kogi State, Nigeria

What are preconditions for using DE successfully? For which kinds of programmes, people, institutions, circumstances would you recommend it?

Buy in from project team ± want it

If can find a skilled DE

Money, time

Simple reporting and contracting mechanism

People ± comfortable with change and improvement mindset
What are limitations for using DE? For which kinds of programmes, people, circumstances would you recommend it?

Focus scope ± longer duration but cannot evaluate everything
Thank you

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