

Selecting Programme Monitoring Indicators



Workshop on Outlining a Framework for the Education Sector

JAMAICA

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Outline

- ❖ What is an indicator?
- ❖ Relating program objective to specific indicators
- ❖ Features of good indicators
- ❖ Types of Indicators
- ❖ Summary

What is an Indicator?

- An indicator is a specific measure which reflects a larger set of circumstances.
 - The unemployment rate is an *indicator* of the strength of the economy.
 - The clarity of the water is an *indicator* of the purity.
 - The number of gray hairs on my head is an *indicator* of my age.
- Indicators will vary in their ability to accurately and consistently reflect 'reality.'
- The gas gauge in our cars, a good indicator

What is an Indicator?

Indicators can be:

- Quantitative
- Qualitative

Sources of Data

Primary Data Sources:

- Quantitative program data from services coverage.
- Qualitative data from program staff, key informants and direct observation.
- Surveys: demographic health surveys, epidemiological, behavioral and other studies (i.e., size estimation).
- Public Health surveillance data.
- Research and impact evaluations.

Sources of Data

Secondary Data sources:

- National response documentation, expenditures reports and program review reports.
- Comparative national and global reports
- Research articles published in peer-review, reputable journals

Relating Programme Objective to Specific Indicators

- Program goals and objectives may be vague or overly broad, making indicator selection difficult
 - Indicators should be clearly related to program goals and objectives
- Program objectives may have multiple indicators
 - Indicators are used at all levels of the programme implementation process
 - Monitoring indicators
 - Outcome indicators
 - Impact indicators

Relating Programme Objectives to Specific Indicators

- Specific issues to consider include:
 - How can the focus of the objective best be measured?
 - What practical constraints are there to measuring the indicator?
 - Are there alternative or complementary measures that should be considered?
 - What resources (human and financial) does the indicator require?
 - Do standard (validated, internationally recognized) indicators exist in relation to the specific objective?
 - How will the results not captured by the selected indicator be measured? - Indicators are imperfect

General Criteria of Good Indicators

- Indicators should be expressed in terms of:
 - *Quantity*
 - *Quality*
 - *Population*
 - *Time*
- For example, an indicator written for the program objective of “**Increasing condom use**” might specify:
 - “Increase from 20% to 60% (*quantity*) condom use at last risky sex (*quality*) among male youth (*population*) by January 2005 (*time*).”

General Criteria of Good Indicators

- *Simple, clear and understandable*
- *Useful - # tiles in your office vs # education sessions conducted*
- *Valid – does it measure what it is intended to measure and nothing else*
- *Specific – Should measure only the conditions or event under observation*
- *Reliable – should produce the same result when used more than once to measure the same event*

General Criteria of Good Indicators

- *Relevant – related to your work*
- *Sensitive – will it measure changes over time*
- *Operational – should be measurable or quantifiable using definitions and standards*
- *Affordable – should impose reasonable measurement costs*
- *Feasible – should be able to be carried out using the existing data collection system*

Measuring Performance

- Once the results and outcomes of the strategy are identified, how should performance be measured?
- Performance of a particular strategy is measured through outcome **indicators** e.g. % young persons aged 12 – 17 yrs who reject myths about the transmission of HIV
- For each indicator we need to identify:
 - a **baseline** (what is the value now), and
 - performance **targets** (what value should one aim to achieve) over the **time period** of the strategy.

There are Different Types of Indicators to be included in the HIV/AIDS Strategy

➤ **Impact**

National Indicators are used for national and global reporting (MDGs, Universal Access)

➤ **Outcomes**

Program Indicators are used for strategy and programmatic reporting to national authorities and donors.

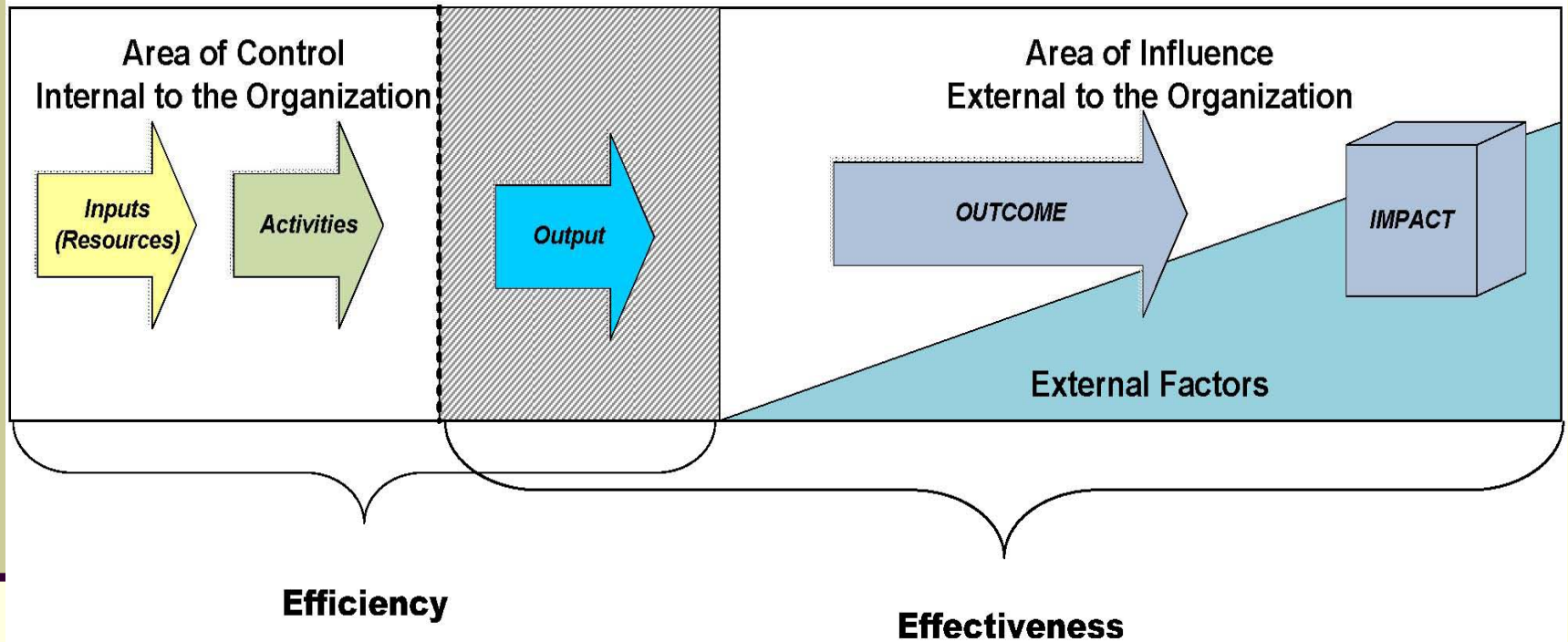
➤ **Outputs**

Selected **Critical Interventions Indicators** (such as approval of a policy, completion of a major study, or set up of a data system) are used for programmatic decision making. However, most of these types of indicators are more appropriate in the workplan.

➤ **Inputs**

Financial resource allocation indicators may also be included.

Results Based Chain



- Depicts the linkages between activities and the expected sequence of outputs and outcomes over the life of a policy, program or initiative

Levels of Indicators

1. What longer term improvements are you aiming at? (national goal) = **impact**
2. What improvements are aimed at by the end of the strategy period? = **outcomes**
3. What strategic programs and critical interventions should be the focus of the national response? = **outputs**
4. What financial, human, material, and technical resources are needed? = **inputs**

Indicator Examples

- Input: Total budget of activities for 2009
 - # staff members required to execute activities
 - # of posters, TV slots etc required for programme activities over the next 4 months
- Output: # sensitization sessions conducted on diabetes and hypertension in the past 6 months
- Outcome: % of young women aged 15 – 24 who never had sex
- Impact: % HIV-infected infants born to HIV-infected mothers

Summary

- The selection of appropriate indicators (relative to program objectives) is critical to the success of program monitoring
- Indicators should meet certain criteria and, when possible, be standardized with international standards
- Indicators have specific measurement protocols which must be respected