

Lessons arising from DFID's interim evaluation



Presentation at IOM workshop, Washington DC, 30 April
2007, Julia Compton

The UK's Taking Action strategy

- Launched by UK Prime Minister in 2004. Runs to 2008.
- A cross-UK Government strategy
 - DFID lead with >90% funds, but some key inputs from others e.g.: research, international trade, code of conduct for recruitment of health workers
- Six priority areas for UK action:
 - Closing the funding gap
 - Strengthening political leadership
 - Improving the international response
 - Supporting better national programmes
 - Taking Action in the long term
 - Translating strategy into action



NOT A TRADITIONAL 'DONOR PROJECT' APPROACH

The Evaluation Design

- An interim evaluation (after 2 years)
- Objective - recommendations for:
 - Improving implementation
 - How to measure success: indicators
 - Future UK strategy on HIV and AIDS
 - Other UK government strategies
- Design: 13 questions linked to these
 - Agreed after wide consultation
 - Specific decision questions, e.g. on experience from 'country-led approaches' and usefulness of AIDS spending target
- Looks mainly at inputs and processes
- A learning evaluation, with benefits from the process



Lessons and thoughts for discussion

- Clarify the decision question(s): who needs the information and what information do they need and when?

For example: What works and what doesn't and where: this is clearly a critical question, but who is it that needs to know the answer to take their decisions?

- How you do the evaluation is as important as the information you collect. (utilisation/minimise harm)
- Complex sets of interventions are not so amenable to a snapshot, 'big project' approach



The “big project” approach

Inputs



Outputs



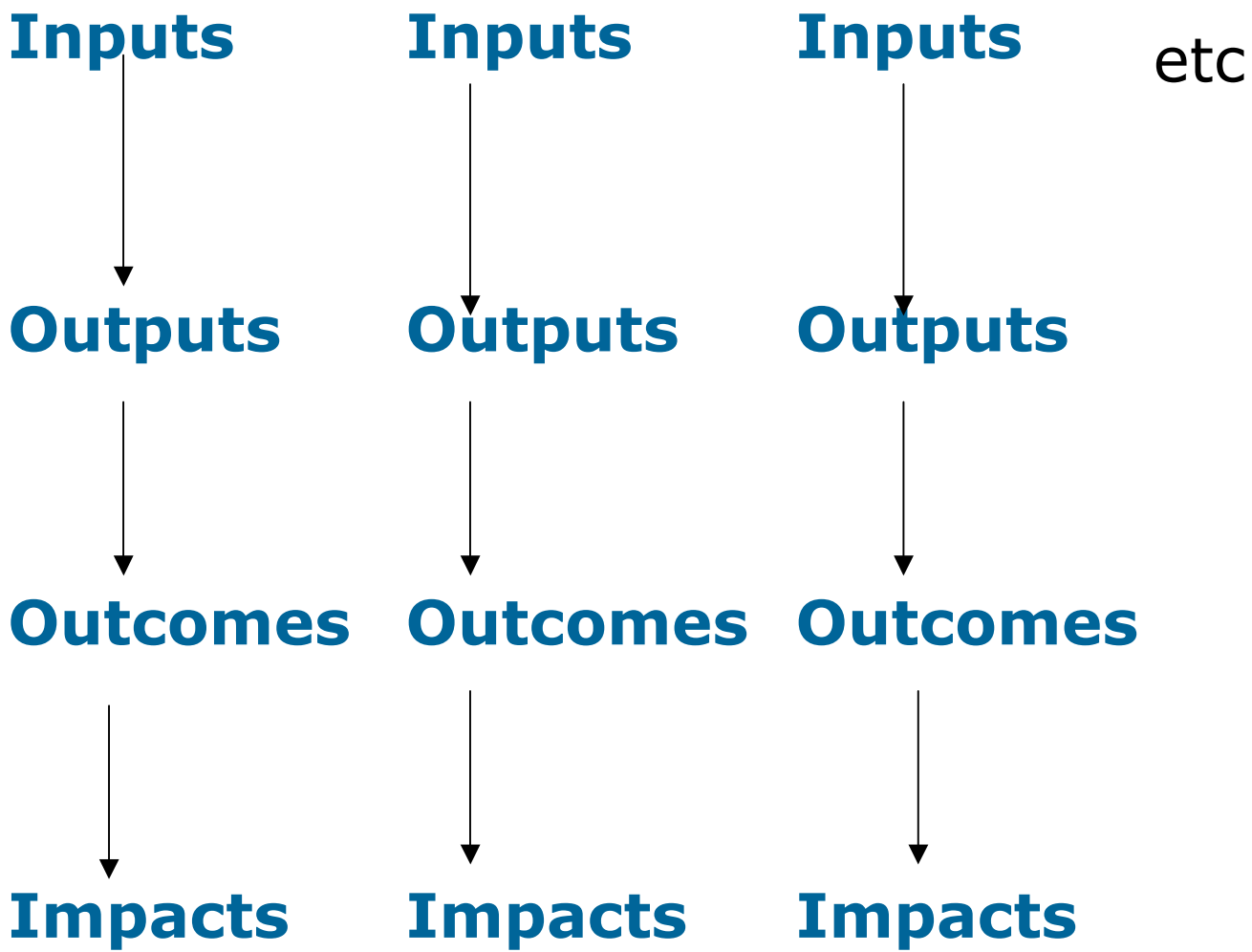
Outcomes



Impacts

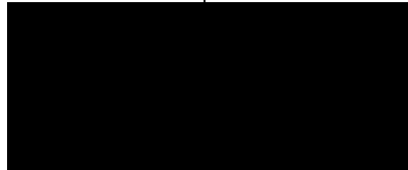


Aggregating:

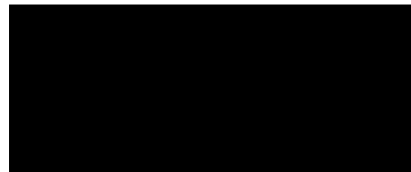


The snapshot problem

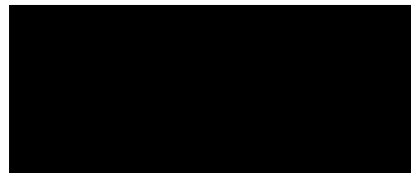
Inputs



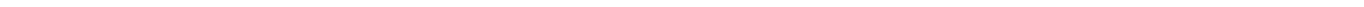
Outputs



Outcomes



Impacts



Inputs

Timeliness,
quality, etc

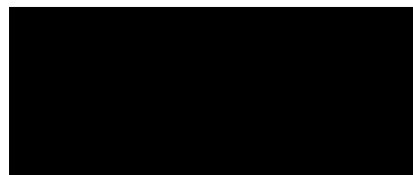


Outputs

Quality, Access,
Follow-up etc



Outcomes



Impacts



Other challenges for the 'big project' approach

- Attribution/contribution
- Unintended effects
- Sustainability
- Setting borders
- Is it really answering the right question for decision-makers?



The “sustainable system” approach

Evaluation question: are reliable and sustainable partner institutions in place at all levels who can:

- Collect information and use it to make good decisions
- Plan and budget efficiently
- Implement effectively and efficiently
- Monitor and evaluate (getting reliable numbers)
- If not, what needs to be done (by PEPFAR? By others?)



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DFID: www.dfid.gov.uk

Taking Action:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/hivaidstakingaction.pdf

The interim evaluation:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/performance/evaluation-news.asp

