# getting Oxfam GB's effectiveness Reviews to lead to more effective programming

**InterAction Webinar on Promoting Evaluation Use** 

Karl Hughes Program Effectiveness Lead November 28 2012



## **PRESENTATION OUTLINE:**

Part A: Oxfam's Effectiveness Reviews	<ul> <li>What are they for and how do they work</li> </ul>	
Part B: Increasing the Likelihood of Use	<ul> <li>Efforts to ensure ERs inform decision- making</li> </ul>	
Part C: Reality check on actual use	<ul> <li>Positive and negative examples from the field/HQ</li> </ul>	
Part D: Going forward	<ul> <li>Additional strategies to facilitate use</li> </ul>	



#### **PART A: OXFAM GB'S EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS**



#### SUMMARY OF 2011/12 FINDINGS AND KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Twenty-six of Oxfam GB's projects were randomly selected and evaluated in 2011/12 under six thematic areas - humanitarian support, adaptation and risk reduction, livelihoods, women's empowerment, citizen voice, and policy influencing. While the sample of projects is too small to make broad generalisations about our overall effectiveness, the results for this particular cohort of projects are mixed. In general, the results for most projects are positive in some areas and negative in others. In addition, there is evidence of significant impact

for several of the projects (for example, the Pakistan Disaster Risk Management and Livelihoods Programme and the Indonesian Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Campaign) and no evidence of impact for others (for example, the Mali Cotton Programme and the Northern Karamoja Development Project).

Again, given the small samples of projects reviewed under each thematic area, it is not possible to draw out general thematic lessons. Nevertheless, there are a



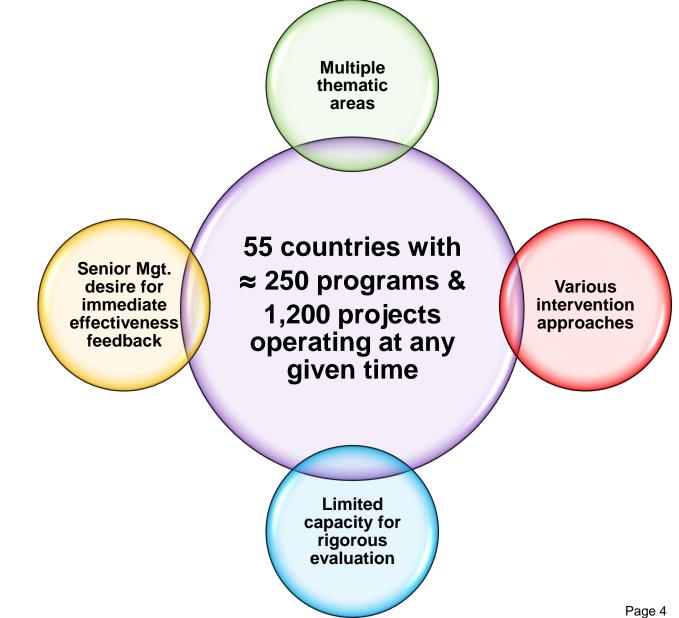
EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW SAMPLE 2011/12 BANGLADESH BOLIVIA COLOMBIA MOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONCO ENGLAND ETHIOPIA GEORGIA GUATEMALA H HONDURAS INDONESIA KENYA LIBERIA MALI NICARAGUA NIGER PALESTINE VARISTAN PHILEPINES SONALA SOUTH HARICA UGANDA ZAMBIA ZIMBABWI



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#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT**



**OXFAM** 

### **A NEGOTIATED COMPROMISE**

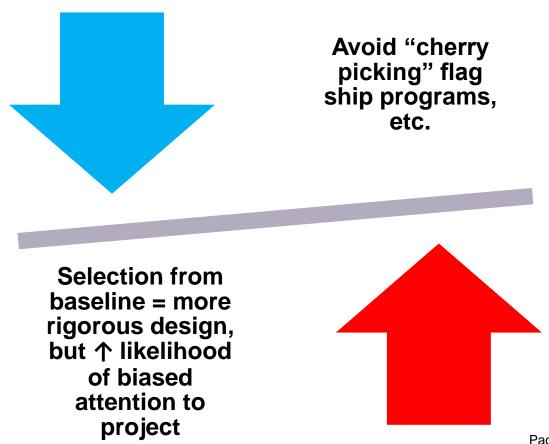
Senior Mgt. push: global outcome indicators for all country programs Technical push back: resource, time intensive & unfit for purpose

**Compromise:** collect output data on all projects & evaluate random sample of "mature" projects as rigorously as possible within existing resource constraints



## WHY RANDOM SELECTION & WHY PROJECTS IN MATURE PHASES?

To get a better sense of the organization's true effectiveness





## **APPROACHES USED:**

Thematic area:	Humanitarian	Community Development	Citizen Voice/ Policy Influencing
Core focus	Adherence to quality standards	Change at individual/ household level	Change in policy and/or duty bearer practice
Core method	Documentation review & key informant interviews	Comparison of project and non- project groups using advanced statistical methods	Evidencing the extent outcome change has taken place & the factors responsible
Conducted by	External humanitarian consultants	Oxfam GB HQ quant. advisers with national consultants	External qualitative researchers
<i># carried out in 2011/12</i>	5	12	9

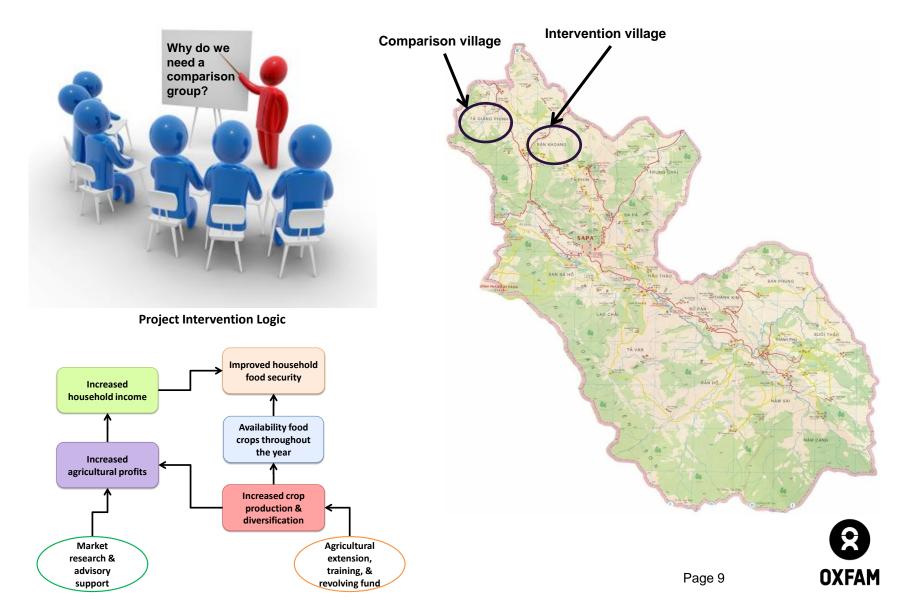


#### PART B: MEASURES TAKEN TO PROMOTE USE OF EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW FINDINGS





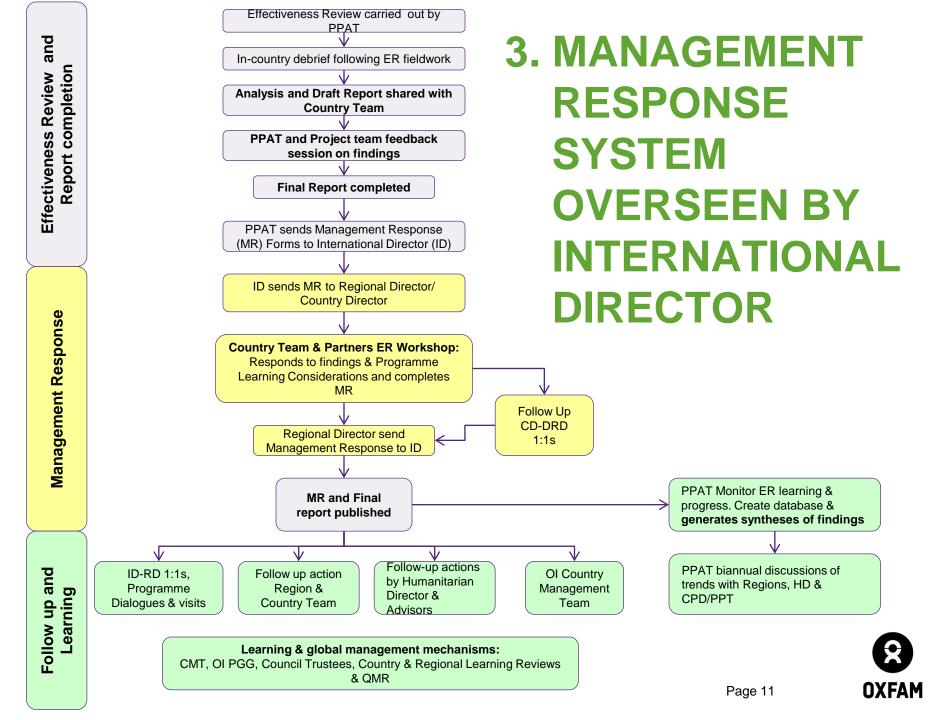
#### 1. ATTEMPTS MADE TO INVOLVE PROGRAM TEAMS & PARTNERS IN THE PROCESS



#### 2. ERS IMBEDED IN MANAGMENT LINE







#### 4. SHORTER, LESS TECHNICAL REPORTS CREATED AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS USED

# <text>

#### The We Can Campaign: Bangladesh 2011/12

The We Can Campaign seeks to transform deeply ingrained attitudes and practices that endorse gender discrimination and violence. The primary drivers of the campaign's activities are change makers. These are both women and men that purportedly have both desire and interest in tackling issues relating to violence against women (VAW) in their communities. Newly recruited change makers first undergor training and are encouraged to reflect on and change their own behaviour and then encourage others to do the same.

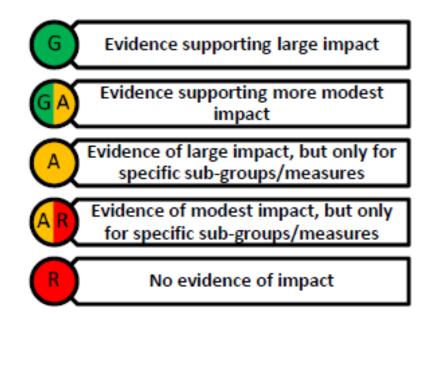
After undergoing this initial "conscientisation" process, change makers are accuraged to form committees at Ward level and are supported by local partner organisations to carry out VAW campaigns in their communities. Through their campaigning and personal interaction with others, two things are intended to happen. First, more women and men are to sign up as change makers and, in turn, also experience deep rooted personal transformation. However, levels of awareness among those that do not become change makers also increases, and they too come to recognise that VAW is unacceptable. Popular beliefs and atitudes are, consequently, improved. Men are thus motivated to change their behaviour, and both women and men take action to stop VAW. The final result is decrease in the prevalence of VAW.

"Each change maker commits to never tolerating or perpetrating violence against women in their own lives and to reach out to ten others in an attempt to influence their attitudes and practices regarding ender discrimination and gender-based violence."

EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW SAMPLE 2011/12: BANGLADESH BOLIVIA COLOMBIA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONSO ENCLAND ETHICIPIA GEORGIA GUATEMALA HATI HONDURAS INDONESIA KENYA LIBERIA MALI NICARGULA NICER PALESTINE PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES SOMALIA SOUTH AFRICA UCANDA ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE

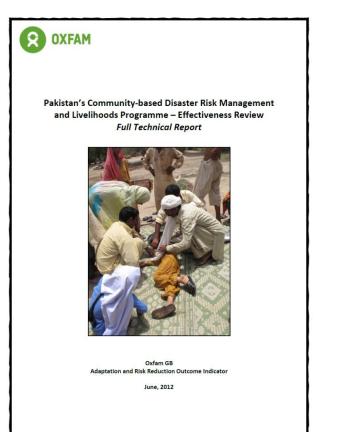


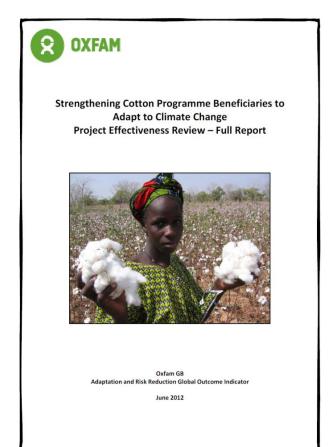
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#### 5. PLANNED EFFORTS TO DRILL DOWN ON SURPRISING/UNEXPECTED RESULTS WITH QUALITATIVE METHODS







#### PART C: REALITY CHECK ON UPTAKE OF ER FINDINGS





## **POSITIVE EXAMPLES**



#### We Can Campaign, Bangladesh:

- □ ↑ popular attitudes & ↓ reported intra-marital violence only in district with intense implementation
- □ Using findings to strengthen existing campaign & inform design of a new nation-wide popular mobilization campaign



### Sustainable Livelihood Development in Lao Cai Province, Vietnam:

- **No impact on agricultural production, income or food security**
- Realization that negative result likely due to low intensity of project; more work in future on improving nutrition



#### **Strengthening Civil Society for Change in Occupied Palestine**

- □ Interventions not well joined up as part of a long-term strategy
- Undertaking action research with partners to develop a longer-term planning approach that is workable within the complex and dynamic context



## **NOT SO POSITIVE EXAMPLES**



#### North Karamoja Development Project, Uganda:

- No impact on income, food security, self-reported agricultural production, etc.
- Findings not really accepted belief that the results tainted by "strategic response bias" given culture of dependency among targeted population



#### **Guatemala Highlands Value Chain Development Alliance:**

- Positive results on women's empowerment measures but not on livelihood measures
- Project selected too immature, so activities of older project looked at, but country team could still not accept findings. Program funding also wanted to discontinue fundraising for the newer project



## **SURPRISING & MIXED CASES**



#### Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets of the Manobo Tribe:

- Initial strong reluctance to engage with effectiveness review process
- Now interested in replicating the ER methodology on a completed project, as well as pursuit of differencein-difference design for new big program



#### **Programme Leadership Team Meeting:**

- Used effectiveness reviews extensively to inform discussion/decisions – Good
- Took some of the findings out of context, as well interpretation and extrapolation problems – Not so good



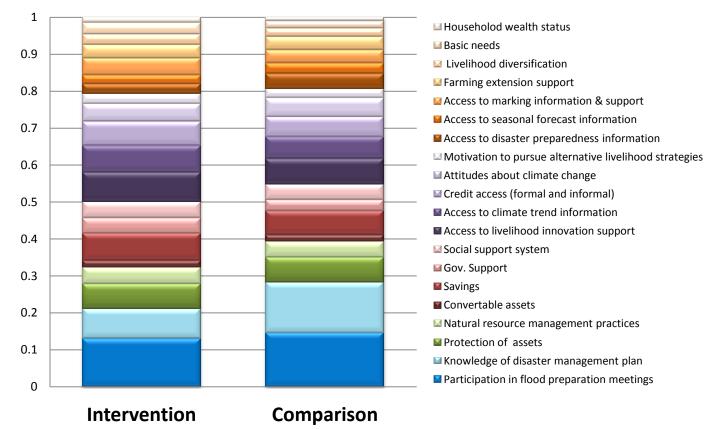
#### **PART D: GOING FORWARD**



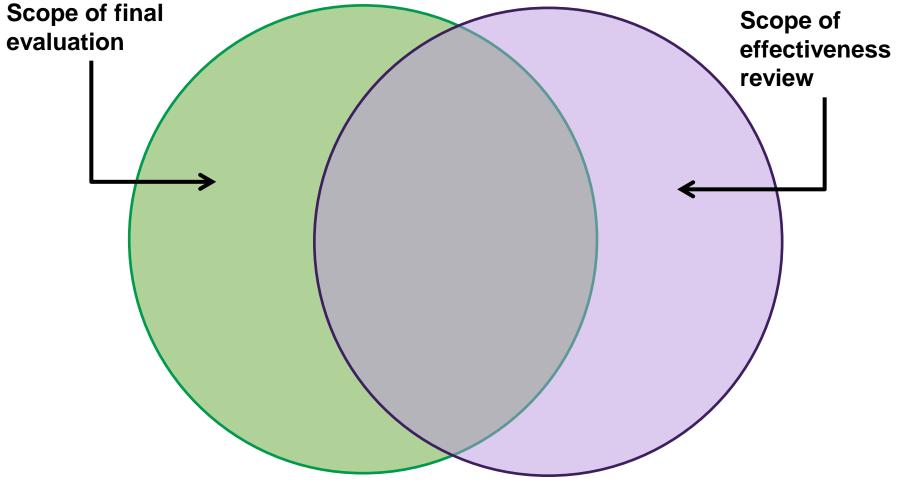


#### 1. MAKE MEASUREMENT MORE INTUITIVE AND PROGRAMMATICALLY USEFUL





#### 2. INTEGRATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS WITH FINAL EVALUATIONS





### 3. EXPANDED STAFF AND PARTNER TRAINING





### 4. WORK TO BETTER ENSURE THAT INFLUENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF ARE INVOLVED IN PROCESS





## 5. MONITOR AND SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT RESPOSES





#### 6. BETTER COMMUNICATE ER FINDINGS & MORE SYNTHESIS WITH INCREASING NUMBERS OF ERS



