Capacity Building for Monitoring and Evaluation in Pacific Development

DevNet Conference 2010

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Context and definitions

- What is capacity building?
- Why is it important in international development?
- NZAID MFAT strategy to increase the evaluation capability and capacity of development partners
- AusAID defines capacity building as:

"the process of developing competencies and capabilities in individuals, groups, organisations, sectors or countries which will lead to sustained and self generating performance improvement" (AusAID website)



Evaluation capacity building

- What is the 'gold standard'?
- Different approaches to evaluation capacity building
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation
- Role of external evaluators



Tackling complex issues



HIV/AIDS health message, Solomon Islands

"You! Take care. You can't tell who has HIV/AIDS" Mural, Nauru STI Clinic



UNGASS 2010

- Context of United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS
- Litmus assisted governments of Nauru, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands to prepare country progress reports
- 'Twinning' model of skills transfer



Diverse national starting points



UNGASS workshop with government officials in Port Vila

HIV/AIDS education session, Youth extension service, Nauru



UNGASS 2010 capacity building – how did we do?

- Technical assistance outcome achieved with excellence
- Twinning not formally achieved
- Capacity building through skills transfer partially achieved



UNGASS 2010 capacity building – how did we do?

Less integrated skills transfer

More integrated skills transfer

Consultant mostly working solo x 1 country

Some working with local counterparts x 2 countries

Closer participative working with local counterparts x 1 country



Challenges

- Capacity building not led by in-country partners
- Existing workload of local counterparts and organisations
- Timeframes
- Selection of 'twin' not easy or straightforward
- Relationships driven by contractor not Litmus



Challenges - communications and transport



Nauru



Flying into Funafuti, Tuvalu

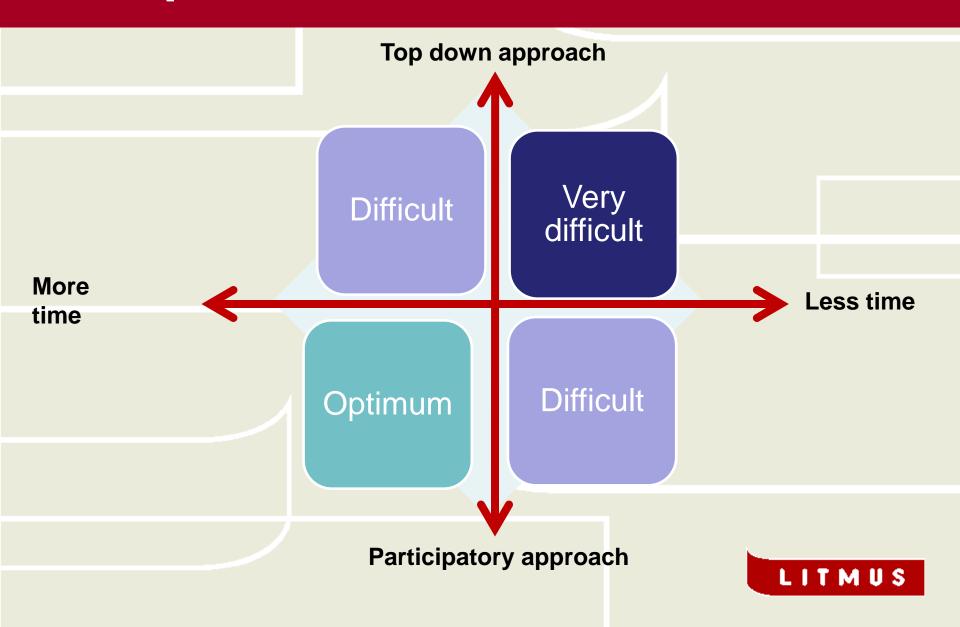
UNGASS 2010

Learnings

- Sufficient planning and resources
- Different types of evaluation and different types of capacity building
- Professional practice as evaluators
- Capacity building a multi-stranded process
- Recognising limitations



Good practice matrix



Critical Success Factors – a checklist

- Relationship building
- Time
- Partnership from planning stage onwards
- Capacity building an identified priority
- Clearly defined (and realistic) expectations and outcomes
- Learning from M&E



Maximising integrated capacity building

In-country partner

- •What, if any, capacity building do we need?
- What are our desired outcomes?
- How will we know capacity building has happened?

Evaluator

- Are the roles and responsibilities of each party clearly defined?
- •Is the scope realistic?
- •How do we plan to measure impact?

CAPACITY BUILDING

Commissioner/Donor

- •What are the capacity gaps?
- What are the most appropriate methods?
- •Does the in-country partner need support to manage the process?

