

Indicators

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Indicators measure change

Indicators are variables whose value changes

An indicator focuses on a single aspect e.g an input, output or overall objective.

Output

Indicators must be carefully identified and selected to act as parameters for measuring the achievement of particular levels of results

Outcome

Impact



OECD/DAC Definition

A quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor

(DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation, May 2002)

Considerations for Ensuring Quality Performance Indicators



- Endless process of improving indicators
- Without strong information on target group, values and timeframe and baseline, measuring progress is impossible.

Increased worker productivity means little without specifying the exact nature of productivity, and with how much it is supposed to increase for how many workers and within which timeframe.



Direct vs. Indirect Indicators

Direct indicators

which refer directly to the subject they have been developed for (increase in household income of beneficiaries)

Indirect indicators(proxy-indicators):

which only refer in an indirect way to the subject:

- qualitative subjects, (behavioural change, living conditions, good governance)
- More cost-effective



Darwin Indicator levels

- OUTCOME
- OUTPUT

Means of Verification linked to each indicator



Improve your indicators

• **SMART:** Specific, Measurable, Achievable and Attributable, Relevant and Time Bound

• **CREAM:** Clear, Relevant, Economic, Adequate and Monitorable



Indicator Activity

- Rate Indicators in terms of SMART criteria- giving each criteria a 0, 1 or 2 (full) (perfect score for each indicator is 10)
- Consider as well:
- WHAT (what can measure change)
- HOW MUCH (magnitude of change)
- WHO (Target)
- WHERE (Intervention area)
- WHEN (Time bound)