Ex-Post Evaluation in International Development
Opportunities and Challenges
Introductions

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Ex-Post: Definition

- Only post-project
- Includes data collection post-project

Varies by Person/Organization

Our Definition

- Any evaluation incorporating data collection substantially after the end of the intervention
Ex-Post Evaluation at USAID

- USAID committed in the 2013-2018 Water and Development Strategy to examine the durability of its water and sanitation investments

- Commissioned a series of six ex-post evaluations in response on activities closed btw. 3-10 years
  - Utilizes qualitative and quantitative approaches

- Ex-post evaluations are conducted ad hoc and are not required per the USAID Evaluation Policy (2011)
Ex-Post Evaluation at MCC

- MCC is required to conduct an independent evaluation of all its investments.
- Final data collection is timed to when MCC expected, ex-ante, to see results.
- This will vary depending on the theory of change of the investment, but is typically 2-3 years after the end of the project.
Ex-post Evaluation at Social Impact (SI)

- SI is an M&E consulting firm conducting:
  - Impact evaluations
  - Performance evaluations
  - Monitoring, strategy, and capacity building support
- Ex-post evaluations vary by client
Example: Mongolia Vocational Education Project Evaluation

- Donor: MCC
- Evaluator: SI
- Conducted 5 years post-project
- Primarily qualitative approach
- Focused on entire program logic chain
Example: Millennium Water & Sanitation Program (PEPAM/USAID) Ex-Post Evaluation

- Donor: USAID
- Evaluator: SI (sub under USAID Water CKM Project)
- One in a series of six (available at globalwaters.org/resources/expostevaluations)
- Qualitative and quantitative approach
- Focused on level/status of service and factors affecting sustainability
Example: MCC Jordan Water Compact (water and wastewater infrastructure)

- Donor: MCC
- Evaluator: SI
- Quantitative data collection & analysis at baseline, midline and endline
- Impact evaluation (differences in differences)
- Focused on entire program logic chain, data collection powered to measure key economic benefits
Opportunities for Learning

- Examining long-term outcomes
- Assessing sustainability
- Translating lessons into change within the organization with implementers
Challenges:
Information Access

- Contacting stakeholders
- Accessing project documentation
Challenges: Data

- Respondent Recall
- Availability (and Quality) of Baseline and/or End-of-Project Data
Challenges: Facilitating Learning

Enabling learning when people are no longer engaged

Timeliness of findings
Recommendations for Enabling Ex-Post Evaluations

- Plan ahead!
- Keep good intervention records
- Have the same organization conduct/oversee all data collection
Recommendations for Enabling Ex-Post Evaluations

- Enable answering the “why” questions
- Have a strong and detailed program logic
- Encourage valuing of long term outcomes and sustainability over quick wins
- Allocate funding
- Weigh the potential learning with potential costs
Recommendations for Implementing Ex-Post Evaluations

- Allow prep time
- Know the context and literature
- Hire knowledgeable and connected local experts
- Be intentional with timelines
Ex-Post Evaluations: Challenges and Opportunities

Notable Challenges
- Access to information
- Data challenges
- Facilitating learning

Mitigation Strategies
- Requires work by donors, implementers, and evaluators

Substantial Benefits for Learning
- Examining sustainability
- Examining long-term outcomes
- Encouraging change
Questions?
Feedback?
Additional challenges?
Additional mitigation strategies?