

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PROGRAM EVALUATION:
NEW PARADIGMS FOR EVALUATING
DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
June 8-9, 2010

Programs Track

PowerPoint presentation from workshop on
Experience Conducting Evaluation Assessments of Anti-
Trafficking Programs

Session transcript:
<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/rls/rm/2010/148062.htm>

Experiences with Conducting Evaluability Assessments of Anti-Trafficking Programs

*The State Department's Third Annual
Conference on Program Evaluation
June 8-9, 2010*

*U.S. Department of State Office to
Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons*

Westat

Urban Institute



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE



U.S. Department of State
Office to Monitor and Combat
Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP)

*Conducting Evaluability Assessments of
Anti-Trafficking Programs*

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Workshop Goals

- Provide an overview of the benefits of evaluability assessments (EA) and G/TIP's experience implementing them
- Discuss factors to consider when selecting programs to undergo an evaluability assessment
- Describe key steps in planning and conducting evaluability assessments



Why Evaluability Assessments?

- Dramatic increase in resources and programming to combat human trafficking globally
- Little empirical data to answer key questions for policy makers and donors:
 - Does a program work?
 - Does a program have the intended beneficial effects on the outcomes of interest?
- G/TIP is committed to evaluating program effectiveness and impact
 - First step: assess whether a program is ready for evaluation
 - Well designed, sufficiently developed and documented
 - Are program goals and objectives clear, defined, and realistic?
 - Is program performance data available?



Two EA Projects Funded in 2009

- G/TIP published an RFP focused solely on EAs
- Two organizations selected: Urban Institute and Westat
- Both organizations given four programs selected by G/TIP
- Criteria for selection of programs:
 - Project significance—scope of practice and policy likely to be affected
 - Project design clearly linked to objectives and outcomes
 - Type of activity—direct services and prevention programs included
 - Geographic range—6 bilateral projects in 4 countries; 2 regional projects

Methodology for Conducting Evaluability Assessments of Four G/TIP-Anti Trafficking Projects

Beth Rabinovich, Suzanne Essama-Bibi, Frances Gragg, and
Jessica Harrell
Westat

Overview of Presentation

- Background on G/TIP projects involved in the EAs
- EA research questions
- EA methodology
- Technical assistance needs
- Next steps

Background on the Four G/TIP Projects

- Regions: Near East Asia (NEA), Western Hemisphere and the Americas (WHA), and South and Central Asia (SCA)
- Each project has several objectives
 - *NEA project (domestic migrant workers)*: rescue, shelter, comprehensive services for trafficked workers, training of security staff, hotline, seminars for new migrant workers, collaborate with national agencies and NGOs to effect policy and procedural changes.

Examples of Project Activities

- *WHA project*: Train project directors, on changing norms about the use of sex workers, train-the-trainer workshops, peer training; public awareness.
- *SCA project*: rescue of forced laborers, aftercare services (including 2-year followup), casework assistance, training of investigators and lawyers, and structural change in the criminal justice system.
- *SCA project*: rescue and rehabilitation of labor/sex slaves through actions by community committees; mobilize and train law enforcement, transport officials, border security; comprehensive care and follow-up of survivors; and increase capacity of NGOs to rescue and reintegrate victims.

Examples of Evaluation Questions

- Project Design
 - To what extent are the project goals realistic given the activities, inputs, and time frame?
 - To what extent are project performance targets sufficiently ambitious yet realistic, given the environment?
- Project Implementation
 - To what extent is the project implemented as planned?
 - What adaptations are necessary?
 - What are the facilitators and constraints to implementation?
 - To what extent is planning for sustainability part of the project design?

Examples of EA Research Questions (Continued)

- Measurement
 - What are the indicators to measure inputs and activities?
 - Did the project collect baseline data?
 - To what extent and how are project participants tracked?
 - What methods are used to collect, store, and analyze project data?
 - To what extent are the data appropriate for measuring project impact?

Methods

- Letter of introduction sent to projects involved in the EAs.
- Review of project documents:
 - Proposals
 - Other project documents (e.g. case studies, reports of training, benchmarks for project activities)
 - Logic models
- Prepare EA logic models

Methods (continued)

- Design data collection tools
- Conduct key informant telephone interviews with NGO headquarters' staff members and in-country project directors
- Plan site visits
- Conduct Site visits
- Identify technical assistance needs
- Provide ongoing technical assistance

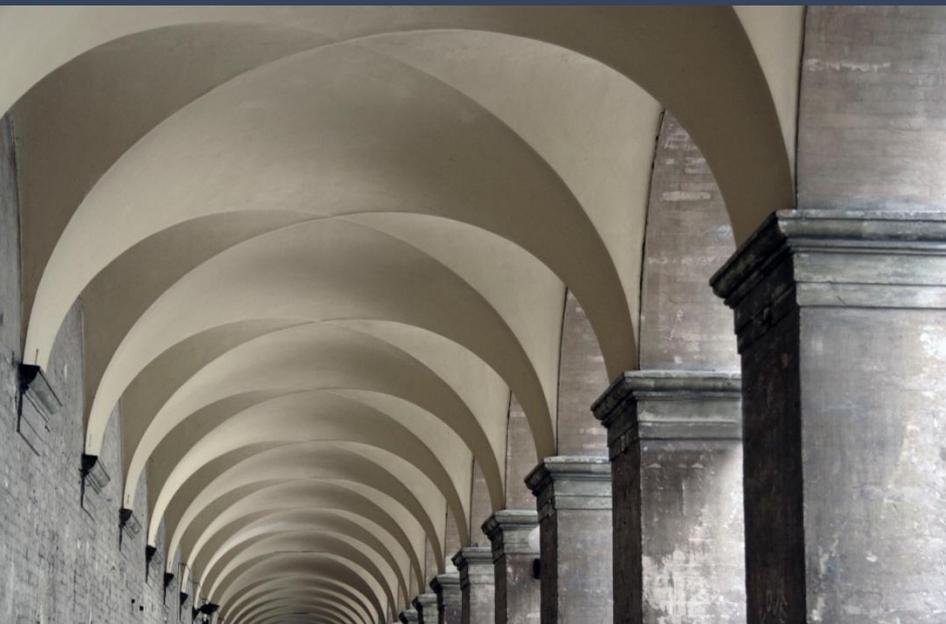
Prepare EA Logic Models

- Prepare or revise EA logic models
 - To ensure EA evaluators' understanding of project design.
 - To compare with project logic models (e.g., inputs versus outputs, and outcomes.)
 - To examine the fidelity of the implementation of the project.
 - Example of EA logic model (see handout)

Technical Assistance Needs and Next Steps

- TA is a combination of project requests and EA evaluators' recommendations
 - Examples of TA requests from projects
 - Review data collection efforts and provide feedback
 - Recommend an approach to measuring cost/benefit analysis
 - Examples of EA evaluators' recommendations
 - Clarify terminology (e.g., outputs versus outcomes)
 - Advise on ways in which existing data can be used to measure service utilization, outcomes, and outputs.
 - Examine project outcomes as a whole
- Identify promising practices

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMMING



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Paradigms for Evaluating Diplomacy in the 21st Century**

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URBAN INSTITUTE'S EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Task 1: Site Selection and Review Extant Program Materials

Task 2: Conduct Telephone Interviews and Develop Protocols

Task 3: Conduct Site Visits to Selected Programs

Task 4: Prepare Evaluability Assessment Reports

Task 5: Develop Technical Assistance Strategy

Task 6: Prepare Final Report

EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT SITES

Regions: South, Central Asia (SCA); Africa (AF)

- AF Project: Community sensitization; capacity-building; PSC training; mental health counseling.
- AF Project: Create/enhance networking and referral among anti-trafficking groups, service providers, law enforcement; review anti-TIP legislation; train criminal justice stakeholders; train service providers.
- SCA Project: Rescue; **rehabilitation**; reintegration. Rehabilitation (3 centers) includes healthcare, psychological counseling, vocational skills training, formal education, childcare and parenting skills.
- SCA Project: Policy advocacy; campaigns and networking; education and training, research, documentation and publication, empowerment of survivors.

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A FULL IMPACT EVALUATION

- Appropriate sample size and frame
- Program operates according to logic model
- Comprehensive data collection tools and processes
 - Informed by program logic model
 - Documents program activities
 - Capacity to collect over time (baseline and follow-up)
- Assessment of potential threats to validity
 - Co-occurring programming
 - Attrition (client and staff)
 - Inconsistent funding
 - Program buy-in
 - Inconsistent program dosage/activities

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CONDUCTING EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENTS IN SCA and AF

- Establish trust/relationships
- Define research objectives and roles
- Clarify expectations and timeline
- Interpretation/translation
- Adaptability while ensuring adherence to human subjects protections
- Anticipate additional costs and time

INTERIM FINDINGS: RESCUE AND REHABILITATION FOR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

- Three holistic victim centers
- Follow-up activities (up to three years)
- Comprehensive database
- Confidential and systematic forms
- Regular program-wide staff meetings
- Staff trainings
- Dedicated staff

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

- Assist logic model development
- Improve baseline and follow-up data collection
- Staff training on impact evaluation
- Ensure consistent delivery of services

OPTIONS FOR DELIVERING T&TA

- Deliver evaluability assessment and technical assistance strategy reports
- Solicit feedback on reports
- Communication with sites
- Longer term technical assistance built into future evaluation efforts

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Conclusions

- Lessons to be learned and next steps
 - EAs will be used to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts and provide key stakeholders with useful information
 - Information Dissemination
 - Lessons learned regarding program design, documentation, and data collection
 - Promising practices
- Plans for future evaluations
 - EAs serve as precursors to future impact evaluations
 - Research and evaluation in G/TIP's FY2010 solicitation
 - Impact evaluation projects currently under consideration

Thank You!