An Overview of Evaluability Assessment

Evaluability assessment helps identify whether an evaluation of a program* is justified, feasible, and likely to provide useful information.

Evaluability assessments are conducted through interviews with key informants, document reviews, and observations (e.g., site visits).

Assessment of evaluability is achieved by answering important questions about a program's **design**, the overall **feasibility** of conducting an evaluation, and whether and how an evaluation would be **useful** to program managers and stakeholders.

Design

Feasibility

- **Objectives:** Are the objectives of the program clearly stated, realistic, and achievable within the expected time frame?
- **Theory of change:** Does the program have a clear link from inputs to outcomes?
- Monitoring and evaluation system: Are the indicators specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART)?
- **Documents**: Are all relevant documents available and accessible? Are there any previous evaluation reports?
- Data: What data are collected? Does baseline data exist? Does the program have the capacity for data collection?
- **Resources:** Are there sufficient resources to do an evaluation?

*The term "program" is used broadly to refer to any group of activities intended to achieve specific outcomes; this includes projects, initiatives, interventions, policies, or strategies.

 Purpose: What is the purpose of the evaluation? Has it been discussed and



agreed upon by stakeholders?

- Demand and stakeholder buy-in: Who is requesting the evaluation? Are they willing to be part of the evaluation process?
- **Timing:** Will the evaluation inform decisions to improve the program in a timely manner?
- Ethical issues: Are ethical guidelines in place for participants and stakeholders?

Is the program ready for an evaluation?

After an evaluability assessment is conducted, one of three conclusions can be determined about the program:

IF o major gaps ere identified	 For example: The program has clear, plausible objectives The program has the capacity to provide data for an evaluation Resources are available to do an evaluation 	THEN The program is ready for an evaluation
Some gaps ere identified	 For example: The program's theory of change is not well defined There are minor capacity and logistical issues with the program 	The program will be ready for an evaluation after the necessary changes are made
Critical gaps ere identified	 For example: The program's objectives are unrealistic The program does not have the capacity to provide data Lack of resources to do an evaluation Lack of stakeholder buy-in in the evaluation process 	The program is not ready for an evaluation

References

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