

# 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



- **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)?

## Feasibility



- **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?

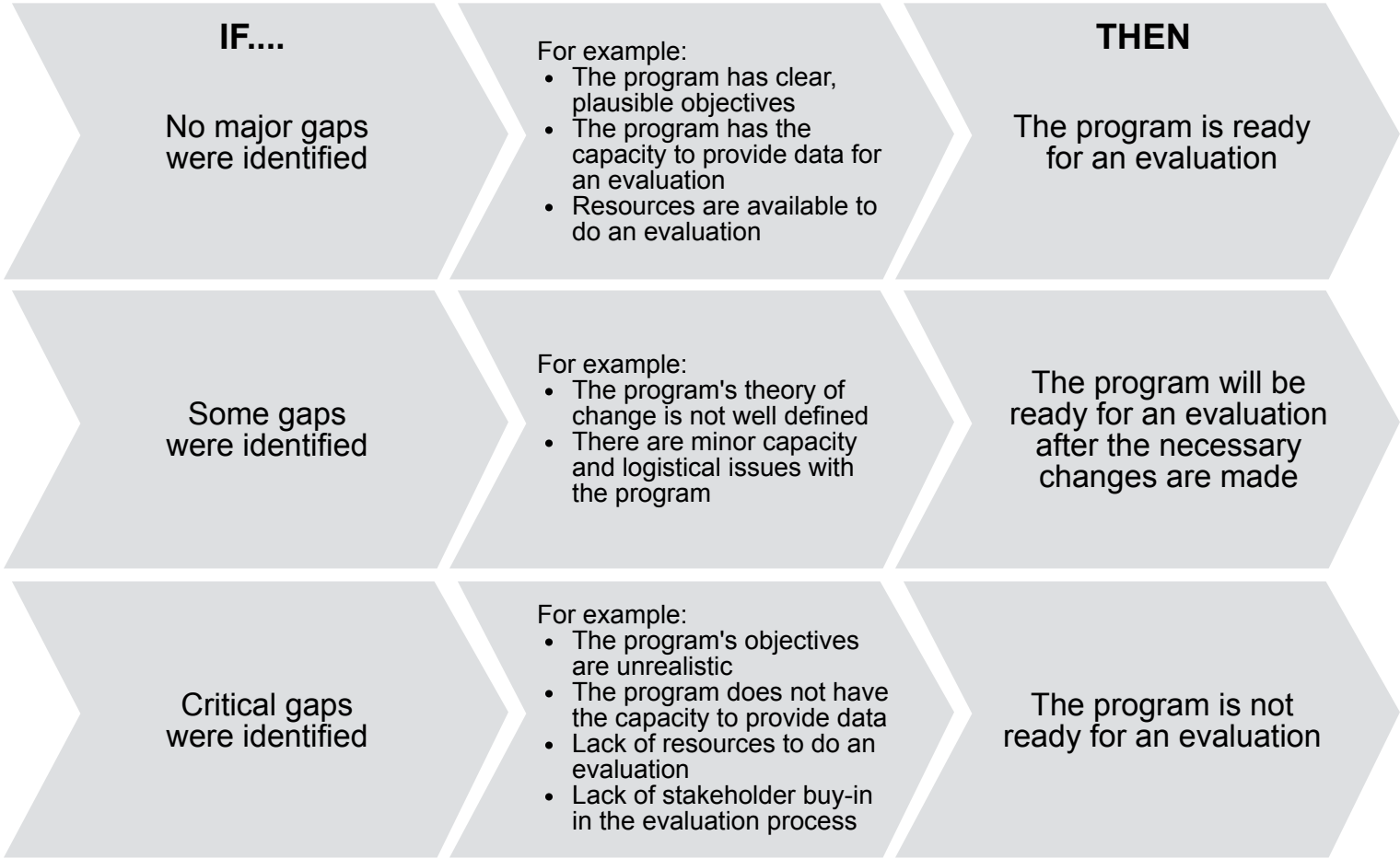
## Utility



- **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:



### References

Davies, R. (2013). *Planning evaluability assessments. A synthesis of the literature*. Retrieved from <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08a0d40f0b652dd000534/61141-DFIDWorkingPaper40-finalOct13.pdf>

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. (2003). *Evaluability assessment: Examining the readiness of a program for evaluation*. Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center. <http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/juv-justice/evaluability-assessment.pdf>

Peersman, G., Guijt, I., & Pasanen, T. (2015). *Evaluability assessment for impact evaluation: Guidance, checklists and decision supports*. Retrieved from <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9802.pdf>