

The Evidence Principles: experiences from a pilot tool

Jo Jeans

CAFOD, UK

jjeans@cafod.org.uk

Piloting the BOND Evidence Principles

- Brief introduction to BOND & the Effectiveness Programme
- Introduction to Evidence Principles
- Introduction to Check-list
- Developing the principles and check-list
- Examples of how it has been used by CAFOD, World Vision and Christian Aid
- Observations

BOND Effectiveness Programme

Improve It
Framework

NGO Evidence
Principles &
Checklist

Organisational
Health Check

The Principles

Voice and Inclusion	Ensuring the perspectives of people living in poverty, including the most marginalised, are included in the evidence, and a clear picture is provided of who is affected and how
Appropriateness	Ensuring the evidence is generated through methods that are justifiable given the nature of the purpose of the assessment
Triangulation	Ensuring the evidence has been generated using a mix of methods, data sources, and perspectives
Contribution	Ensuring the evidence explores how change happens and the contribution of the intervention and factors outside the intervention in explaining change
Transparency	Ensuring the evidence discloses the details of the data sources and methods used, the results achieved, and any limitations in the data or conclusions.

The Checklist

Principle: Voice & Inclusion

Are the perspectives of beneficiaries included in the evidence?

Weak Evidence (1)	Minimum Standard (2)	Good Standard (3)	Gold Standard (4)
No beneficiary perspectives presented	Beneficiary perspectives presented, but not integrated into analysis	Beneficiary perspectives presented and integrated into analysis	Beneficiary perspectives presented and integrated into analysis, and beneficiaries have validated the findings

Are the perspectives of the most excluded and marginalised groups included in the evidence?

Are the findings disaggregated according to sex, disability and other relevant social differences?

Do beneficiaries play an active role in designing the assessment process?

Developing the principles & checklist

2011

- Autumn - initial discussions between small group of BOND members

2012

- April - consultation with 30 NGOs, Comic Relief, DEC & DfID
- May/June – piloted by seven NGOs
- July - second consultation with 28 NGOs to develop criteria
- July – decision taken to develop scale descriptions for criteria
- August – criteria developed by consultant and agreed by pilot group

2013

- December to May - Open pilot - available online
- May 8th - launch

Using the principles and checklist



Internally at World Vision



With peers CAFOD and World Vision



With a Christian Aid partner

The results have also been used to

- ✓ Structure and guide feed-back to partners, staff and senior management
- ✓ Strengthen internal guidance on annual review process at Christian Aid and new Evaluation TORs at CAFOD
- ✓ Structure and guide internal reflection on impact assessment
- ✓ Identify common areas of weakness to address in systems
- ✓ Provide feed-back to BOND !

Observations: The checklist....

- ... is good for ensuring solid PME process to produce good evidence
- ... is useful when preparing evaluation TOR to ensure high quality evidence
- ... is useful for comparing best practice PME with own internal systems
- ... is useful for comparing across reports and evaluations within own organisation in a consistent way
- ... promotes a consistent message
- ... encourages a strong focus on community participation, ownership, validation etc. for ensuring robust evidence

Other observations

- Completing the checklist can be time consuming depending on the length of the evaluation!
- The tool should be used wisely when reviewing written documents e.g. the quality of the written report and process presented is important but so is consideration for the quality of the data collected and analysis carried out and language, culture and context within which it is written.
- Care must be given to identifying an omission rather than something that was not an issue e.g. conflicting findings or bias
- Authors must be given checklist before carrying out a piece of work, as not all is necessary in a written document
- There is scope for prompts could be adapted and contextualised as long as consistency is maintained.

Thank you for listening!

<http://www.bond.org.uk/pages/the-ngo-evidence-principles.html>