



Program development and change through evaluation – the potential of communities

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Purpose of today

- To present an idea
 - Research in Evaluation Methodology
- Discussion - I welcome your thoughts!

Overview

1. The Background/context of the idea
 - Developing community-based programs: Observations & learnings from projects conducted
 - What is known in the literature
2. The idea
3. Methods
4. Discussion questions



Evaluation Observations & Learning



- Program focussed at empowering communities and developing capacity and capability (train the trainer notion)
- Sustainability
- Volunteer /transient workforce = health committees, youth committees, champions, leaders
- Program operated in semi-structured space - churches





HVAZ

Evaluation Observations & Learning

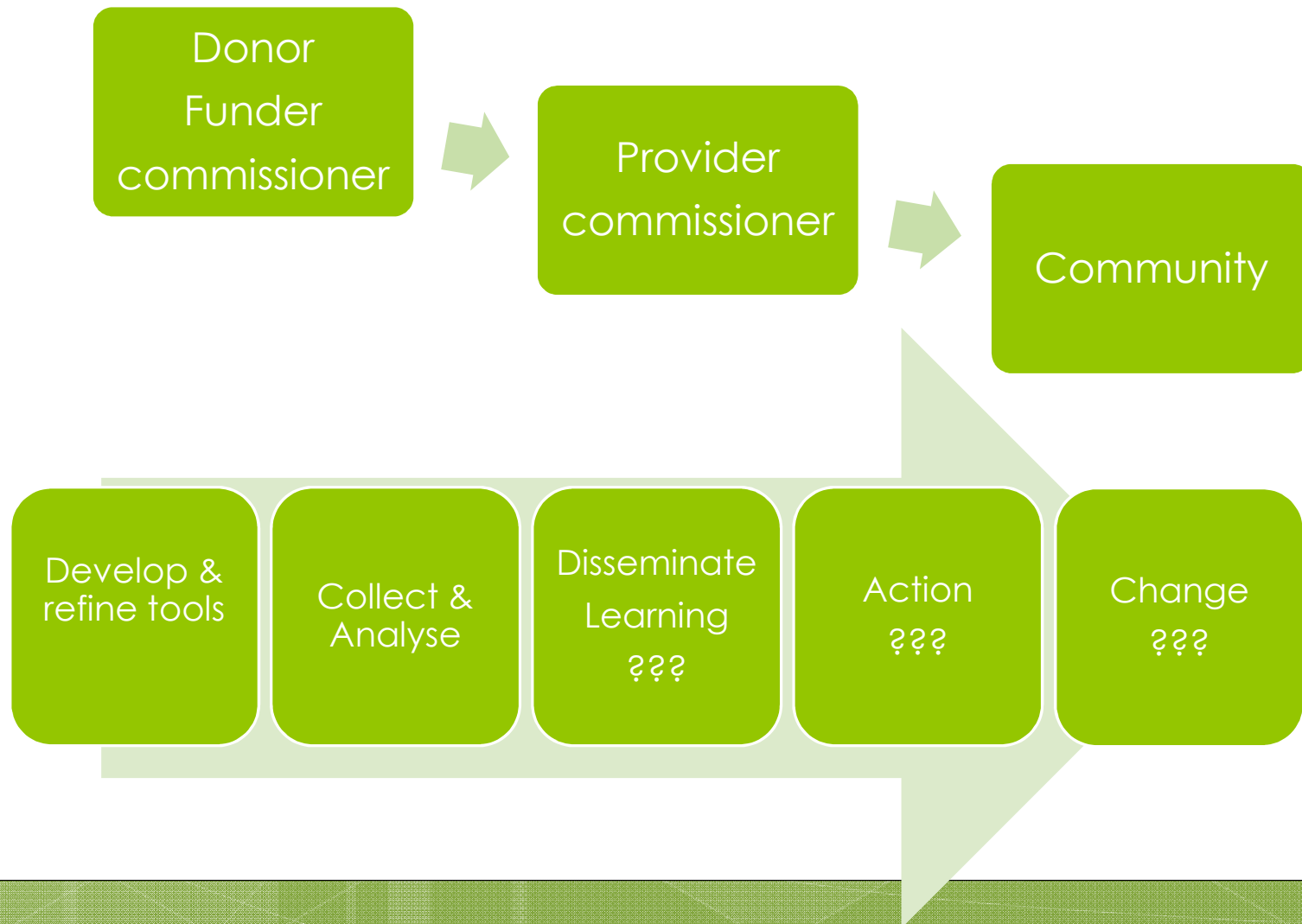


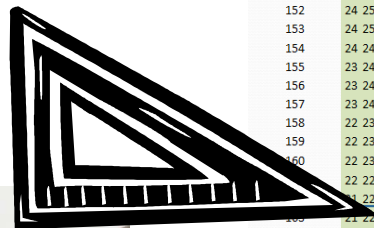
- Pacific a diverse community of varying cultural practices
- Varying level of readiness, development
- Funder, donors, providers requiring evaluations to parallel program activities, processes etc which often include capacity building and empowerment activities that were sustainable.

Evaluation Observations & Learning

- The challenge – designing an evaluation that aligned to this context while maintaining integrity, rigour and utility.
- Contractual and ethical responsibility forced us to be creative

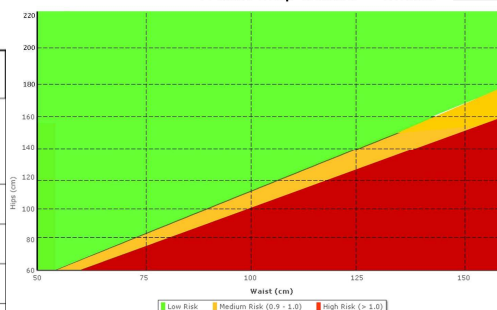
What we did – Involvement in evaluation



[illegible]

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CMS																								
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166	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	35	36	37	38	39
167	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	31	32	32	33	34	35	35	36	37	38	39

Waist Hip Ratio—Male



--- Lets get Active!

"I can do all things through him who gives me strength"
- *Philippians 4: 13*

Set your goals to achieve daily physical activity. This card will help you to reach your goals by tracking your daily physical activity. Its never too late! Start today and you will reap the benefits of a longer healthier and stronger life for you and your family. Set a goal today!



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"E sili le puipuia nai lo le togafitia"

Physical Activity Card



Reflections from evaluations conducted

- Community based workforce often are volunteers and transient
- Meaningful engagement (involvement in data) is costly in time and money
- Infrastructure (leadership, governance) enabled success of embedding evaluation
- Community have varying levels of engagement & readiness for evaluation
- Communities understanding evaluation (they have done this for long time (eg: village gatherings) – evaluation is a part of everyone life (capitalise on this)

Reflections from evaluations conducted

- Data collected and analysed is typically utilised commissioner level (donor, funder, provider) and rarely at community level but often not interpreted or actioned!
- Continuous regular feedback on data collected/analysed/interpreted (real time if possible) is vital for change
- Embedding evaluation into program (part of the intervention/program) and utilisation focused evaluation (focussed at community) appears to impact on program outcomes
- Bottom up approach = sustainable change
- Collecting authentic (what you can see) data is valuable for community, but must also be valuable to providers/funders

Literature - True impact of Evaluation



Literature - The world is pushing us to data

- Using data to promote action
- Data to knowledge
 - What do we need?
 - What are we doing?
 - How are we doing it?
 - What next?

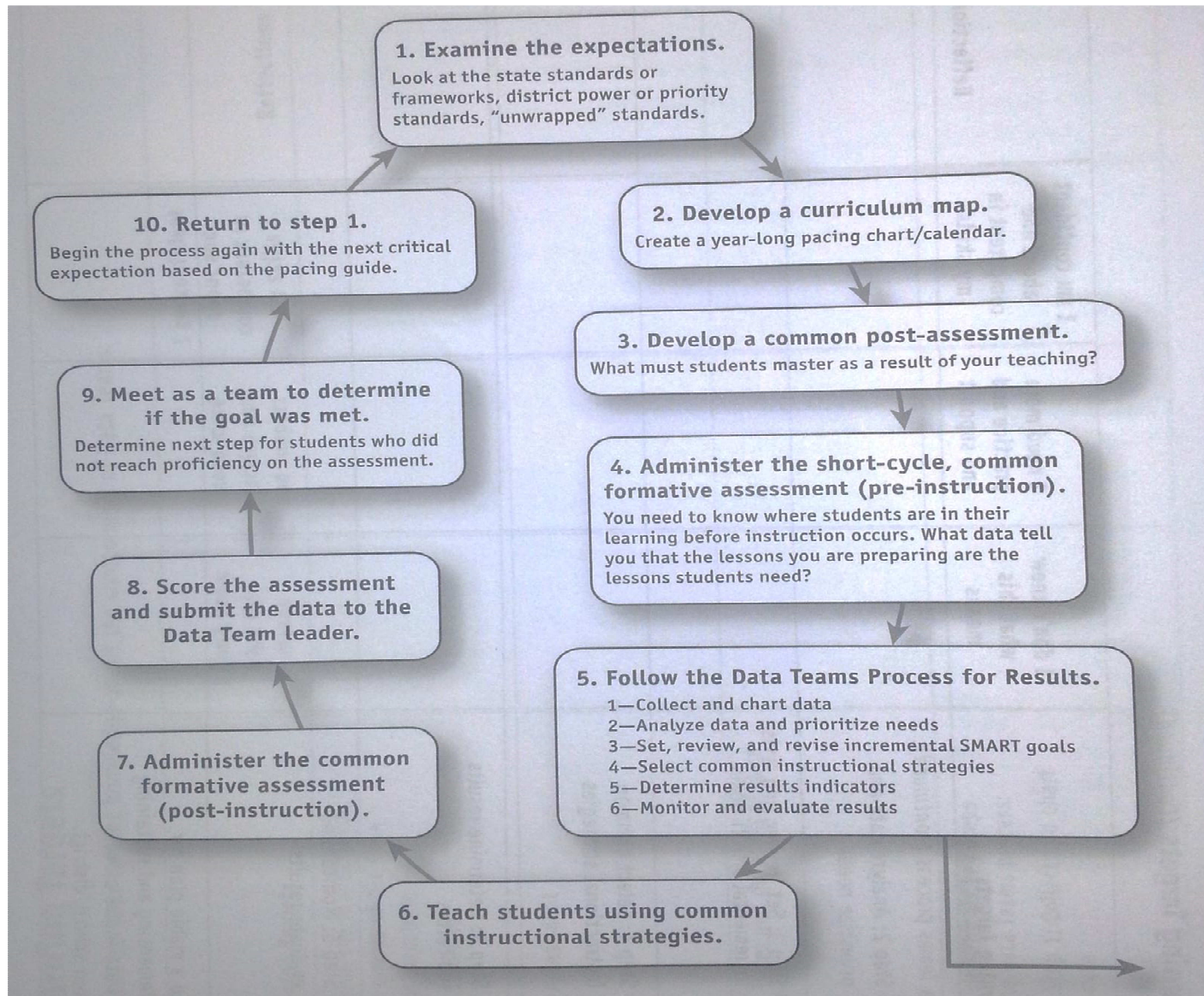
The world is pushing us to data

- System to promote
 - evidence base
 - equitable access to data
 - strengthening approach
 - capacity
 - sustainability
 - leadership and develop
 - adaptation and change
- Authentic evaluative information

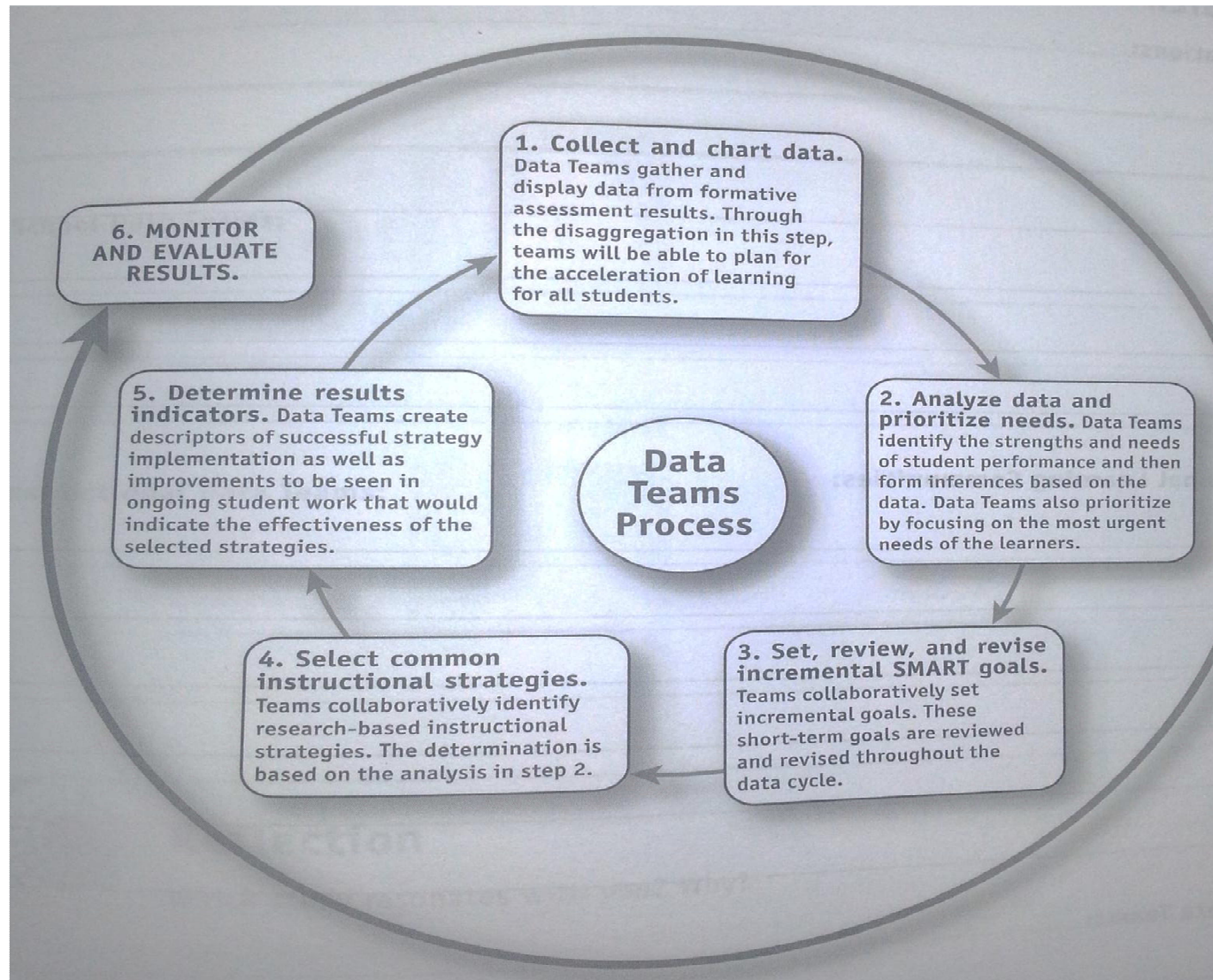
Data teams

- Data teams from the leadership and Learning Centre
- Data teams are a model for continuous collaborative action
- Teams are developed to examine formative assessment to drive instruction and professional practice
- Data teams have scheduled, collaborative, structured meetings that concentrate on the effectiveness of teaching and learning

Literature - Data teams



Literature - Data teams



Evaluation in Action Teams

Application to community settings and program development

CRITICAL ENABLERS

Leadership

Structure

Organization

Communication

PROCESS

1. Work with project team
2. Identify evaluation team
3. Evaluator leads and trains by modelling
4. Team establishes structure
5. Uses cyclic approach to team work
6. Identifies a leader
7. Identify team roles
8. Establishes a system of communication
9. Plans for
10. Monitoring
11. Celebration
12. Work on toolkit appropriate for context
13. Gradual withdrawal of evaluator



The idea

- Test the efficacy of the 'Evaluation into Action framework' in community-based settings
- Tools & Resources
- Aim - The Evaluation into Action framework to improve program's
 - adaptation
 - outcomes,
 - sustainability
 - rigorous authentic evaluation data

Method – how we are going to do this?

- Test the efficacy of the model at different sites of varying levels of readiness & development
 - Northern Territory – community school
 - Cook Island – Go Local, village
 - New Zealand – Pacific church-based programs
 - Comparison group (CPE projects)

Discussion

- We know this works and applicable to some settings eg: Education, Pacific communities
- However:
 - We haven't actually gone in embedded this approach during the initial stages of program development
 - We haven't gone in where existing structures were coordinated
- What are your thoughts?
- Will this be applicable to various communities, sectors?