



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEL IN CONFLICT- AFFECTED SETTINGS

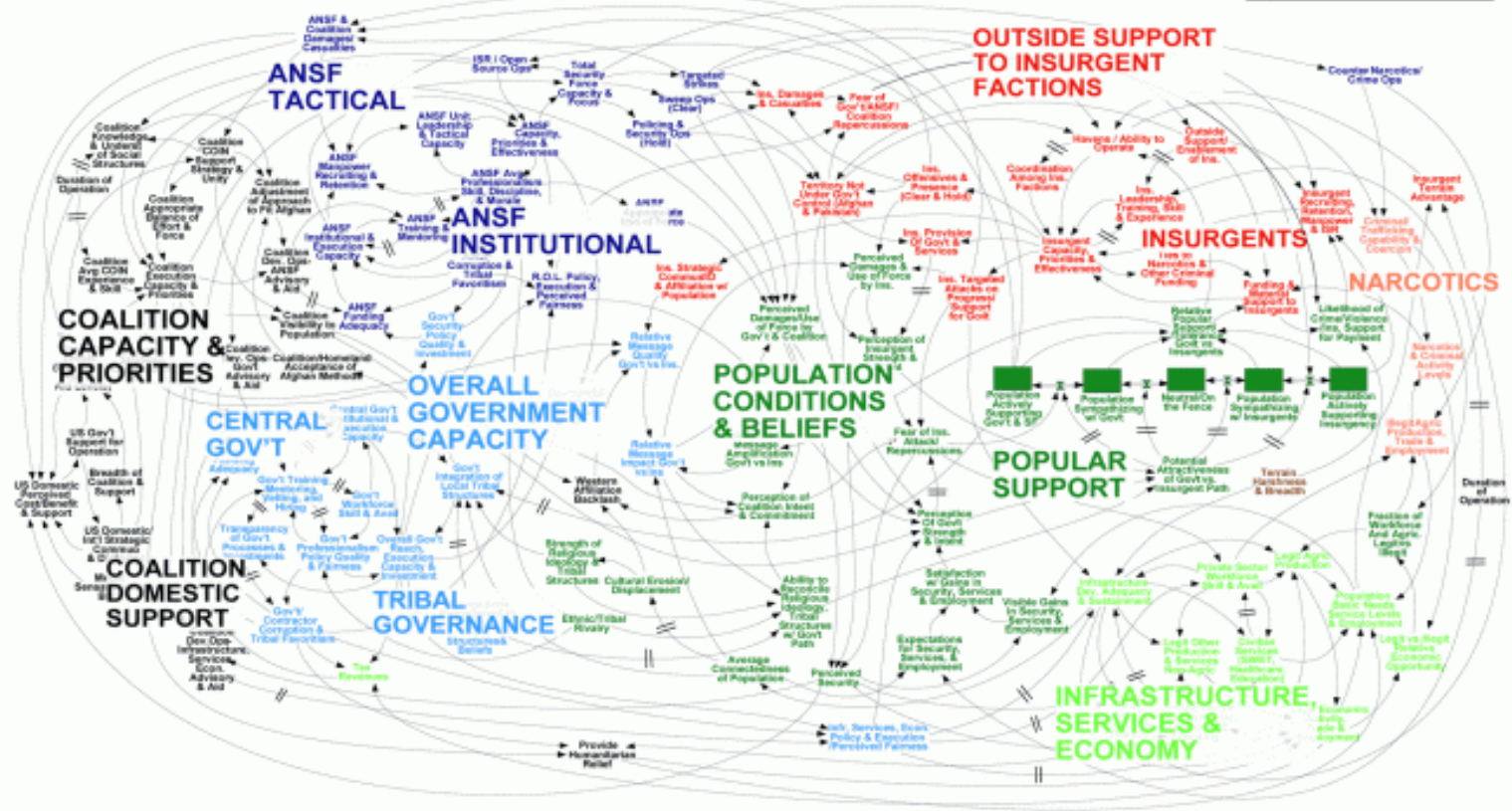
REMOTE MONITORING OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN

Ulla Keech-Marx (Coffey) and Sarah Ransom (DFAT)
AES Conference, Wednesday 18 September, 2019

Afghanistan Stability / COIN Dynamics

= Significant Delay

- Population/Popular Support
- Infrastructure, Economy, & Services
- Government
- Afghanistan Security Forces
- Insurgents
- Crime and Narcotics
- Coalition Forces & Actions
- Physical Environment



WORKING DRAFT - V3



M&E LAB PRINCIPLES

- **Realism** about the outcomes, level of data and reporting that can be expected.
- **Partnerships** of high quality with reputable, trusted partners.
- **Fewer, higher quality indicators** - acknowledging there is a high cost, beneficiary impact and security risk in collecting data.
- **Using innovative confirmation methods** in complex environments.
- **Monitoring for unintended consequences** - horizon scanning to ensure we are doing no harm.
- **Collaboration with others** in monitoring and sharing of information.

SENTINEL INDICATORS

- Used as a 'bellwether' for indicating that greater changes are occurring within a complex system
- NOT a performance indicator used to measure intended results (no targets)
- Signals need for further analysis and investigation
- Informs decision making in iterative, adaptive management approach

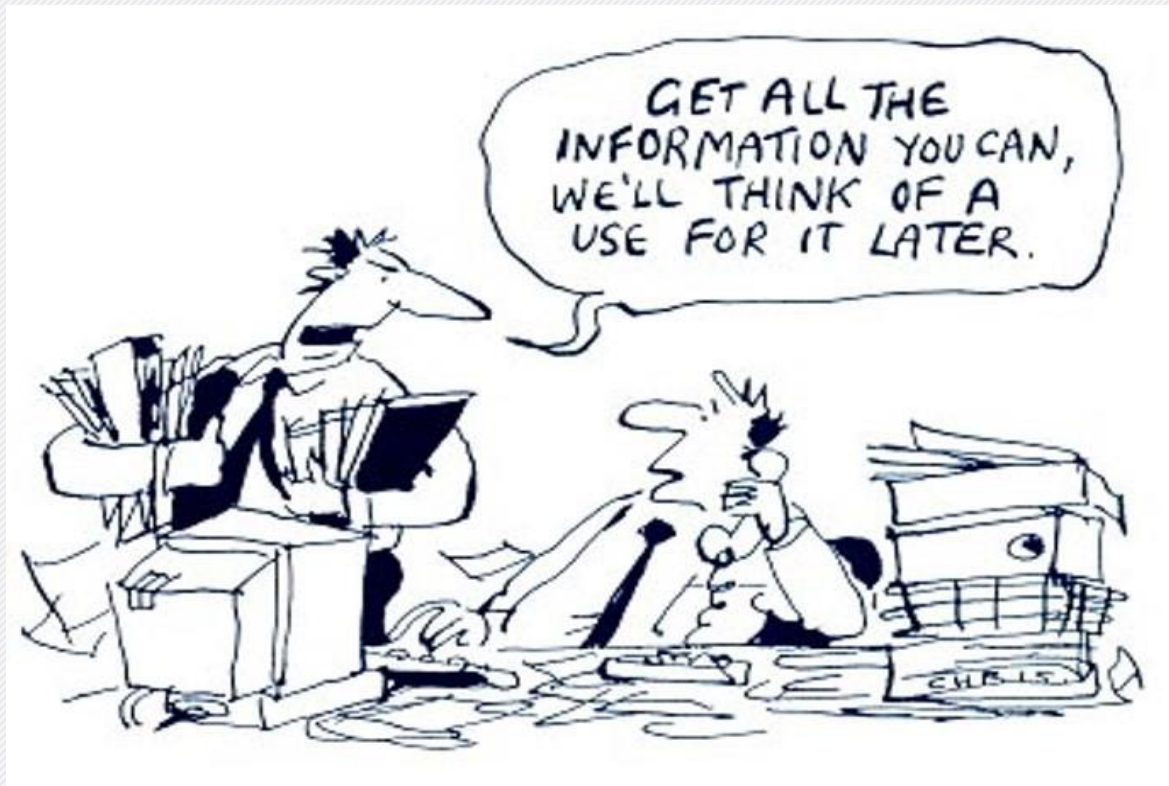
ICT & BIG DATA

- Satellite imagery and mobile phone / banking big data identified as potential options
- Exploring feasibility of using mobile phone big data or banking data to develop proxy indicator for women's mobility, status or economic empowerment
- Strong emphasis on ethical considerations

ITERATIVE, ADAPTIVE APPROACHES

- Integrating iterative, adaptive management approaches at the investment level and management-based monitoring for complexity, e.g. Strategy Testing
- Emphasis on testing assumptions and horizon scanning for potential unintended consequences
- Emphasis on process indicators, e.g. to monitor health of partnership

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KEY LEARNINGS

- Need to tread carefully, keeping a strong focus on ethical considerations and Do No Harm
- Adaptive management approaches are critical in high-risk, conflict-affected environments
- It takes time to socialise and embed innovative approaches
- Tried and trusted partners are key
- There is great potential for application in other fragile, conflict-affected, remote or otherwise inaccessible contexts



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