Key Elements of Evaluation at MCC

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June 9, 2009
Coverage

- Some form of credible evaluation of impact for every activity

- Strategic investment of Impact Evaluation funds
  - As part of program design
  - Where opportunities to learn are greatest

- Lessons:
  - Resources – funds, time, people, guidance – need to be made available
  - Always easy to let evaluations slip – institutional commitment to evaluation is essential
Objective Framework

- Quantitative projection of impact before funding decision
  - Explicit framework linking investments to measurable impact
  - MCC measures dollars, but every sector needs metric

- Quantitative framework → attribution and rigor
  - 50% of MCC activities subjected to rigorous IE
  - Others will have “next best” evaluation compared to output and outcome estimates in pre-investment projections

- Lessons:
  - Pre-decision estimate of impact creates framework for M&E
  - Single measurable metric should guide decisions
  - Need a sense of best, better, and acceptable methods
Independence of Analysis

- All Evaluations will be conducted by credible private evaluators with specialized skills and experience

- MCC retains the right to comment on drafts, but evaluators have final editorial control and dissemination rights

Lessons:

- Use of external evaluators establishes independence directly

- Internal evaluators possible, but
  - Should not be implementers – not fair, not credible
  - Need evaluation to be primary function
Transparency

MCC documenting all evaluation work on website

- Sector strategies and institutional portfolio
- External evaluators, their workplans and timelines
- Final reports and all supporting data

Lessons:

- Transparency helps “protect” evaluation work
- Accountability and learning intertwined
Thank You!