



SESSION NUMBER & TITLE
Parallel Session 2: Building engaging and inclusive partnerships for ending hunger: Effectiveness of a child development program focusing on the mediating effect of religious belief.
SESSION TAKE AWAY
Participants will become aware of the strengths and weaknesses of partnership development efforts, and gain an understanding of the crucial role that partnerships may play in fostering sustainable and inclusive development. Participants will learn about examples of successful partnerships and lessons learned. They would also learn that engagement in mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships is essential to achieve truly inclusive and sustainable growth.
The Case Study on Child Development Program (CDP) by Center for International Development Evaluation (CIDE) would inform participants on the importance of religious belief and collaborative effort of the community in generating positive and significant influence overarching different sectors of child development.
SUBTHEME
Inclusive Partnerships
ORGANIZATION/S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Agriculture Organization • Seoul National University/Center for International Development Evaluation
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #1: [Serdar Bayryyev, Senior Evaluation Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)]
2 KEY MESSAGES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measuring behavioral change is crucial in evaluating the impact of human service programs, as many outcomes depend on participants' behavior. Cognitive behavioral theories can provide insights into how individuals change their behavior. 2. While randomized evaluations are rigorous, they may not always be feasible due to limitations in building mechanisms of impact. A triangulation of methodologies, including theory-based evaluation and other approaches, can help identify the mechanisms behind program impacts. Conducting evaluations after a program has been in operation for some time may be challenging but remains valuable for understanding impact and improving future interventions. Effective communication and shared opinions between partners are essential for enhancing the quality of partnerships and research.
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: [Sukwon Lee, Professor / Executive Director, Seoul National University / Center for International Development Evaluation (SNU-CIDE)]
2 KEY MESSAGES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional partnership approaches are insufficient for addressing current development challenges. Partnerships must set ambitious goals based on shared values and mutual benefits to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. 2. To foster and maintain partnerships successfully, dedicated resources and capacities are essential. Risk management and due diligence processes should be in place without unnecessarily restricting the partnership's purpose. Evaluation and research play a crucial role in informed decision-making for inclusive partnerships.
MODERATOR: [Ivan Scott, Regional Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation, FAO]

3 KEY MESSAGES

1. Behavioral change is a complex yet crucial aspect of evaluating the impact of human service programs. Understanding the cognitive and mental factors that drive behavior change, as explained by the cognitive behavioral theory, is essential for effective program evaluation.
2. While randomized evaluations are considered rigorous, they may not always be feasible, particularly in long-standing programs. Employing a combination of evaluation methodologies, including theory-based approaches and others, can help uncover the underlying mechanisms behind program impacts and improve data collection.
3. Conventional partnership development approaches are no longer sufficient for addressing contemporary development challenges. Partnerships should adopt more ambitious goals rooted in shared values and objectives, striving for systemic and transformative changes. Successful partnerships require dedicated resources and capacities, with a strong emphasis on risk management and due diligence. Furthermore, evaluation and research should hold a central role in making informed decisions when establishing and sustaining inclusive partnerships.

Q&A SUMMARY

1. Working with Private Sector in Long-Term Strategic Partnerships: FAO focuses on establishing a value proposition for private sector companies, emphasizing their potential contributions and benefits within partnerships. The aim is to cultivate long-term "monitored partnerships" guided by key performance indicators tailored to each year or mutually agreed-upon milestones.
2. Addressing Challenges in Risk Perception and Due Diligence: FAO's approach to partnerships has evolved into a "value proposition" that outlines benefits for all parties involved. It aims to streamline processes, reduce processing times, and improve due diligence and risk assessment mechanisms. Emphasis is now on open dialogue and engagement in partnership evaluation.
3. Collaborating with Civil Society Organizations: FAO acknowledges that working with civil society organizations can be complex, especially when their priorities don't precisely align with government agendas. An example from Kyrgyzstan illustrates how FAO helped an NGO become part of a network of organizations, allowing them to contribute to national programs and eventually partner with the government and other actors.
4. Diversity in Partnerships and Alignment with SDG 2: FAO's historical focus on government partnerships has shifted to a more inclusive approach involving all relevant actors. While the strategic framework aligns with SDG 2, the actual impact is measured at the country level. Progress is assessed by the evaluation office, considering contributions to SDG 2's goals.
5. Religious Beliefs and Education Impact: Research suggests that religious beliefs start forming around ages 10 to 13, emphasizing the importance of early engagement. Partnerships with churches impact education outcomes, with variations in the role of churches based on the country's context and size. The analysis model controls for various factors, but more data is needed to directly estimate program impact.
6. Managing Diverse Religious Beliefs: The program is Christian-based but respects diverse beliefs within the community. Religious activities are separate from educational ones, and there's no imposition of Christianity. The balance between religious diversity in rural settings and emotional education is managed through a nuanced approach.

EXPERIENCE

1. Clear communication of partnership value is vital for private sector engagement, requiring consistent methods and tools throughout the partnership to emphasize value strategically.
2. In Korea, the program is rooted in Christianity but respects diverse beliefs and maintains an open approach, finding a connection between Christian spiritual programs and education outcomes.

3. India's experience highlights the impact of government programs like scholarships and feeding initiatives on education outcomes. Partnerships with churches are less common due to a smaller Christian population.

SESSION COORDINATOR

Michelle Angieline Dantayana