

OVERARCHING TOPICS – SITUATIONS, FUNCTIONS

Sustainability	
Workshop title	Two routes to designing for sustainability: Evaluative Thinking and Sustained Impact Evaluation
Trainers	Jindra Cekan, Guy Sharrock
Affiliation	Independent consultant, Catholic Relief Services
Target level	Beginner
Workshop content	Over the past 20 years, the focus in M&E has been on a results-based system that emphasizes predictability and measurability in a world that is complex and often unpredictable. The development sector is now moving towards applying complexity thinking to M&E. A key feature of interventions in the 'complex space' is that they produce unintended consequences; while we know in advance that this will happen, the precise nature of the outcome can only be known after the fact. The challenge then is to determine the best response. Evaluative Thinking (ET) involves identifying assumptions, posing questions, valuing evidence, and making informed decisions and encouraging staff and partners to see themselves as capable decision-makers using monitoring as evaluation. This workshop will first discuss ET before discussing the benefits of Sustained and Emergent Impact Evaluation.
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon successfully completing this course, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluative Thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand the concepts of Evaluative Thinking, Reflective Practice and Reflective Practitioner. ○ Know how to practice ET and develop ET skills. ○ Be familiar with Theory of Change (ToC) models and how they can facilitate evaluative thinking and M&E work. ○ Make a personal plan for incorporating ET habits and routines into participant's own work • Sustained and Emerging Impact Evaluation (SEIE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be familiar with the body of work of post-project evaluations to date and outline evolution to SEIE. ○ Understand the lessons from field examples of participants monitoring outcomes and impacts (Ethiopia, Niger) ○ Know how SEIE is done and issues to consider in designing such evaluations. • Discuss with others how to launch such processes in attendees' own organizations.