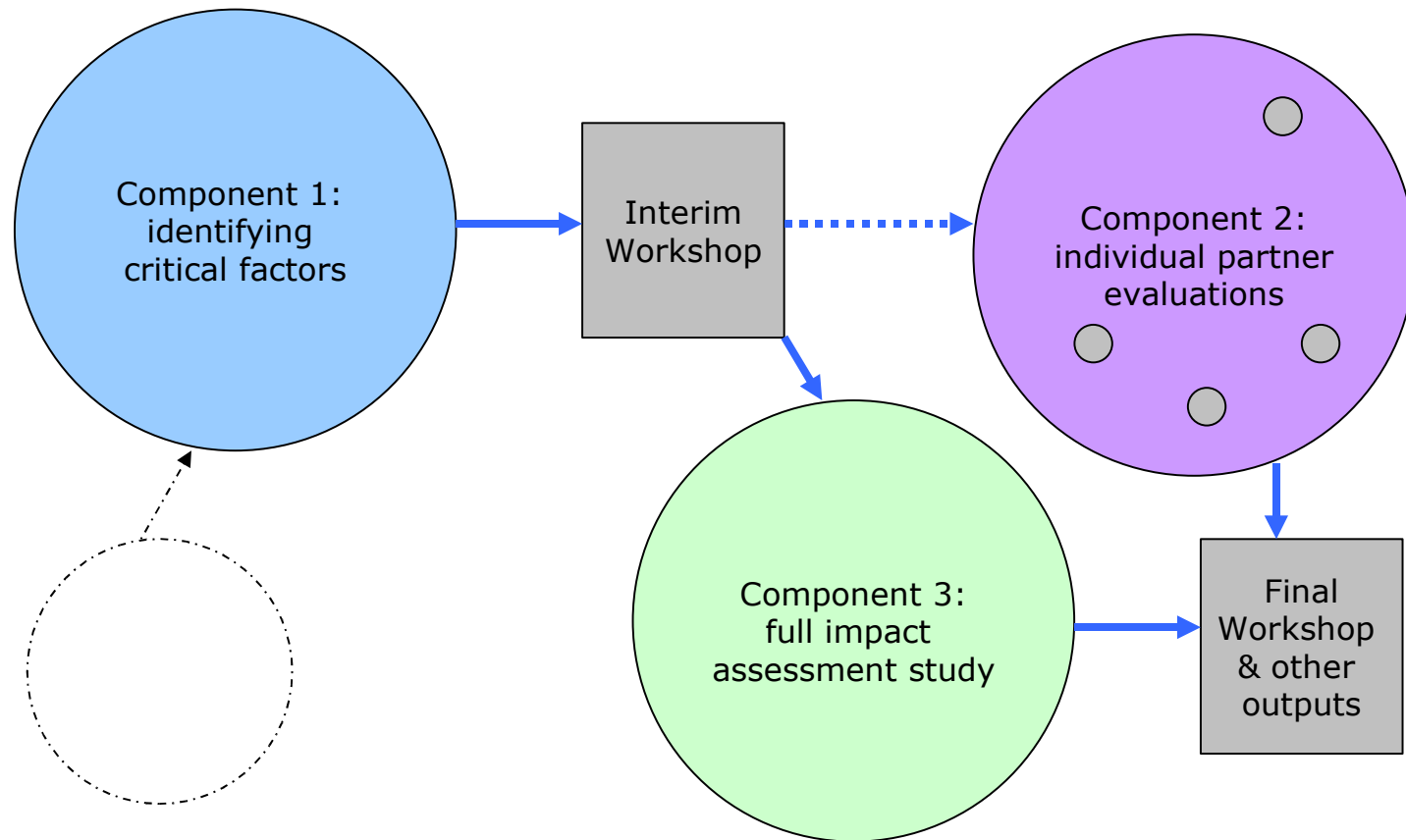


BCO Impact Assessment Component 3 Scoping Study

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BCO Impact Assessment



Objectives of IA / C3 investigations

How do communications for development contribute to poverty reduction through strengthening the voices, capacities, communications and networking of the poor and the marginalised, and enable them to influence decisions that affect their lives?

Suggested C3 objectives:

to identify where BCO experience can significantly and credibly contribute to the overall evidence base on ICD
to increase understanding of the issues surrounding impact assessment of ICD and the questions that might enhance this

to enable improvements in the future evaluation and impact assessment work of BCO partners and other ICD actors

Possible approaches to C3 (12/07)

Approach	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
A country perspective	Ecuador	Nepal	Uganda
An “objectives” approach	Mainstreaming	Voice	Poverty impact
A thematic approach	Radio	HIV/AIDS	Gender
A methodology approach	Radio	Capacity-building	Multistakeholder processes (e.g. roundtables, media dialogues)
An hypothesis approach	“Inclusive and participatory communication has an impact on poverty.”	“An enabling policy and regulatory environment is essential if ICTs are to achieve impact.”	“Impact is only achieved where interventions have sufficient scale, involve multiple stakeholders and/or draw on diverse technologies.”
An outsider’s perspective	The viewpoint of the PRS management team	The viewpoint of the bilateral or multilateral donor	The viewpoint of the newspaper editor.

Hypotheses (12/07)

Core objective: Mainstreaming

"Informed, inclusive and participatory communications reshape policy agendas and improve the delivery of services critical to people's lives."

(This hypothesis to be considered with specific reference to the health sector.)

Core objective: Voice

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen democracy and enhance democratic institutions."

Core objective: Poverty reduction

"ICTs help to make markets work for the poor."

Since December 2007

January/February 2007 – Initial C3 workplan

March/April 2007 – Revised C3 workplan

May/June 2007 – Scoping study

Scoping study

– commissioned in May 2007

to consider:

options for Component 3 based on the “hypothesis approach” discussed by partners in December 2006

allowing exploration of:

- a) impact *per se*
- b) methodological challenges of evaluation and impact assessment

in both individual and group formats

in light of:

output from Component 1
BCO partner preferences
available timescale and resources

Potential approaches to C3:

collective investigation of all hypotheses
individual partner activities
hybrid of collective and individual activities

Scoping study methodology

Telephone discussions with individual BCO partners concerning:

- partner understanding of hypotheses
- preferences for participation
- potential resources and availability

Consideration of potential approaches to C3:

- collective investigation of all hypotheses
- individual partner activities
- hybrid of collective and individual activities

Development and circulation of scoping study report

Subsequent discussions with BCO liaison (AE, LF, KW)

Summary of initial outcome : potential investigation hypotheses/themes

Hypothesis 1 : Mainstreaming

"Informed, inclusive and participatory communications reshape implementation strategies and improve the delivery of services critical to people's lives."

Hypothesis 2 : Voice

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen people's ability to influence their circumstances and participate in democratic processes / political change."

Hypothesis 3 : Poverty reduction

"ICTs help to make markets work for the poor."

Hypothesis 4 : Policy influence, advocacy and networking

"Policy advocacy and networks influence and reshape the agendas of ICT and ICD policy-makers and development practitioners."

Investigation 5:

Approaches to monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment

Key criteria for investigation viability

To be viable, investigations must:

focus on issues of importance to one or more BCO partners, and to BCO members collectively

have sufficient evidence from within BCO to enable substantive analysis and conclusions

address experiences which have sufficient coherence and longevity to enable focus and analytical rigour (and only such experiences)

have sufficient relevance to wider debates within development policy (within and beyond ICD)

have sufficient commitment from partners concerned to participate fully in investigative work

have sufficient available resources (financial and investigative)

Potential investigation subjects

Hypothesis 1	Mainstreaming	Work around HIV/AIDS activities, focused in particular on the impact of Panos programmes
Hypothesis 2	Voice	Work around the impact of radio, focused in particular on the impact of radio in Nepal
Hypothesis 3	Poverty reduction	Work around ICTs and financial livelihoods, focused on the impact of Hivos and IICD programmes in Ecuador
Hypothesis 4	Policy influence, advocacy and networking	Work around the efficacy of networks in influencing policy
Approaches to evaluation and impact assessment	Evaluation and impact assessment	Work around approaches to evaluation and impact assessment aimed at developing methodologies for application by BCO partners in the future

Initial assessment of partner participation

	AMARC	APC	Hivos	IICD	One World			Panos	
					A	SA	AL	Lon.	SA
Hypothesis 1					Light Orange	Yellow		Red	Light Orange
Hypothesis 2	Red				Red	Red		Red	Red
Hypothesis 3			Red	Red			Yellow		
Hypothesis 4	Red	Red		Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Eval. & I.A.	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange

Discussion of partner preferences

Illustrated in spreadsheet distributed with scoping study report

Key points:

Some major “mainstreaming” experiences excluded by partners (*e.g.* Global HIV/AIDS programme; IICD roundtables)

Significant interest in “voice” experiences

IICD and Hivos proposed joint participation inquiring into “poverty reduction” hypothesis

Substantial interest in “impact of networking” issues (not in original hypotheses)

Difficulty of achieving coherent inclusion of more diverse partner suggestions

Following discussion of partner participation

	AMARC	APC	Hivos	IICD	One World			Panos	
					A	SA	AL	Lon.	SA
Hypothesis 1					Yellow	Yellow			Yellow
Hypothesis 2	Red				Red	Red		Red	Red
Hypothesis 3			Red	Red			Yellow		
Hypothesis 4	Red	Red		Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Eval. & I.A.	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange

Comparison of possible investigations

		Partner spread	Geographical spread	Main ICT focus	Main relation to other development areas	Complexity / difficulty
Hypothesis 1	Mainstreaming	Minimal	Very limited	Various	Mainstreaming; service delivery	Very difficult due to lack of large-scale activity to assess
Hypothesis 2	Voice	Three partners	One country	Radio	Empowerment; political change	Relatively self-contained
Hypothesis 3	Poverty reduction	Two partners	One country	Business information	Livelihoods; small business development	Complex issue and narrow geographical range will make analysis difficult
Hypothesis 4	Networks	All but one partner	All countries	Focus on organisations rather than technology	Advocacy; political change	Complex and difficult; requires high level of external expertise
Evaluation and Impact Assessment		All partners	All countries	All	Evaluation and impact assessment	Complex but builds on extensive existing resources

Outcome of partner discussions and dialogue with BCO liaison

Insufficient resources are available within the IA budget to undertake more than four investigations

Investigations need to be built around at least one substantial experience – and any associated experiences need to be substantially related to these

H1 lacks sufficient substance for investigation without a major programme such as Panos' Global HIV/AIDS

Partner preferences focus H2 and H3 options tightly around individual country experiences

H4 and E/IA investigations enable broad participation

Summary of outcome : potential investigations

Hypothesis 1 : Mainstreaming

"Informed, inclusive and participatory communications reshape implementation strategies and improve the delivery of services critical to people's lives."

Hypothesis 2 : Voice

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen people's ability to influence their circumstances and participate in democratic processes / political change."

Hypothesis 3 : Poverty reduction

"ICTs help to make markets work for the poor."

Hypothesis 4 : Policy influence, advocacy and networking

"Policy advocacy and networks influence and reshape the agendas of ICT and ICD policy-makers and development practitioners."

Investigation 5:

Approaches to
monitoring,
evaluation and
impact assessment

Summary of outcome : proposed investigations

Investigation 1 : Voice hypothesis

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen people's ability to influence their circumstances and participate in democratic processes / political change."

Focus : Nepal

Investigation 2 : Poverty reduction hypothesis

"ICTs help to make markets work for the poor."

Focus : Ecuador

Investigation 3 : Networks hypothesis

"Policy advocacy and networks influence and reshape the agendas of ICT and development policy-makers and practitioners."

Investigation 4:

Approaches to
monitoring,
evaluation and
impact assessment

Comparison of possible investigations

		Partner spread	Geographical spread	Main ICT focus	Main relation to other development areas	Complexity / difficulty
Hypothesis 1	Mainstreaming	Minimal	Very limited	Various	Mainstreaming; service delivery	Very difficult due to lack of large-scale activity to assess
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Evaluation and Impact Assessment		All partners	All countries	All	Evaluation and impact assessment	Complex but builds on extensive existing resources

BCO Impact Assessment

Component 3 Scoping Study

... continued ...

Summary of outcome : proposed investigations

Investigation 1 : Voice hypothesis

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen people's ability to influence their circumstances and participate in democratic processes / political change."

Focus : Nepal

Investigation 2 : Poverty reduction hypothesis

"ICTs help to make markets work for the poor."

Focus : Ecuador

Investigation 3 : Networks hypothesis

"Policy advocacy and networks influence and reshape the agendas of ICT and development policy-makers and practitioners."

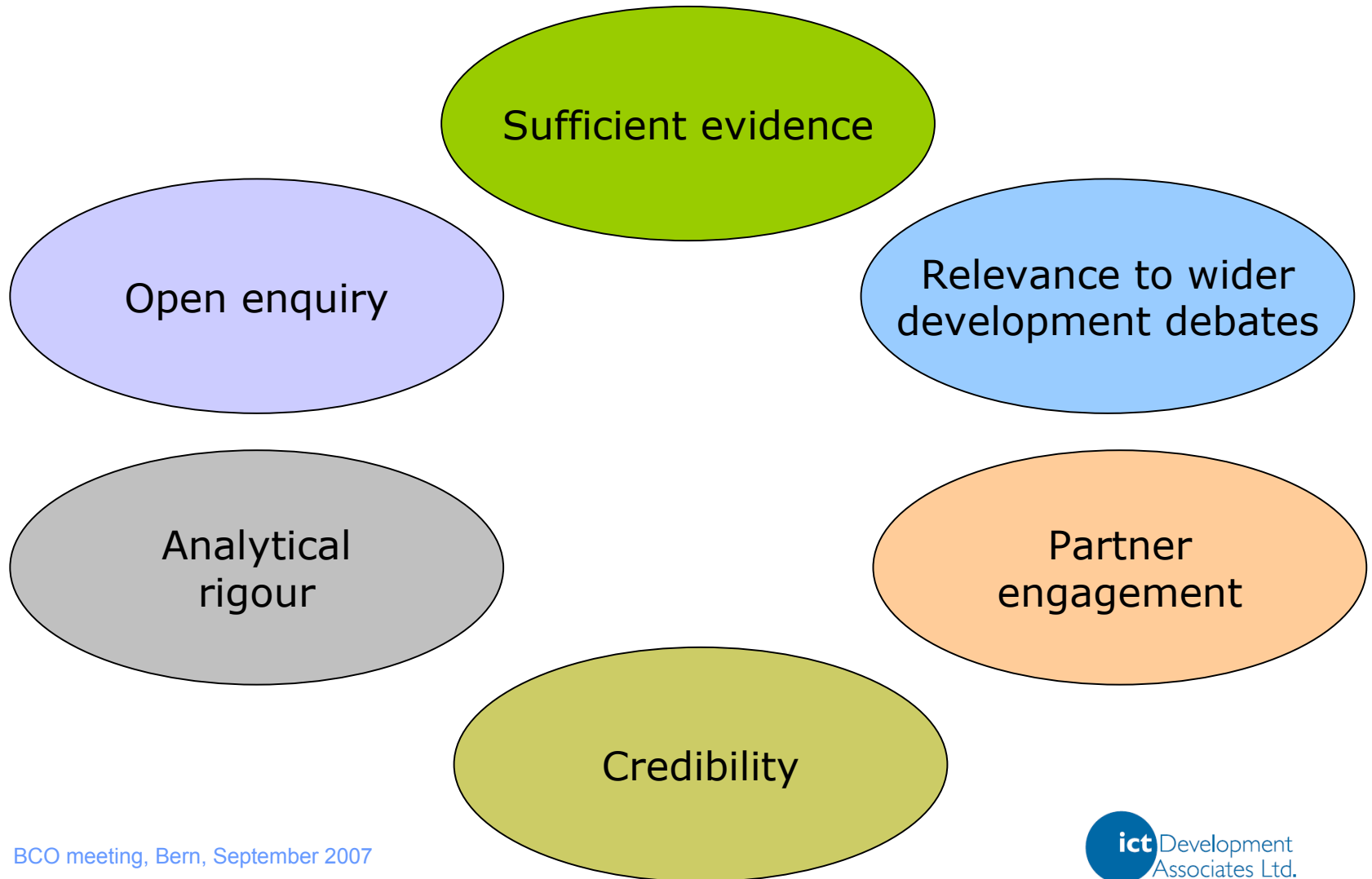
Investigation 4:

**Approaches to
monitoring,
evaluation and
impact assessment**

Participation

	AMARC	APC	Hivos	IICD	One World			Panos	
					A	SA	AL	Lon.	SA
Investigation 1									
Investigation 2									
Investigation 3									
Investigation 4									

Six principles for successful investigations



Six principles for successful investigations

That they should only address questions and experiences where there is *sufficient evidence* to generate substantive outcomes - and should avoid including experience which are insufficient in scale or evidence

That they should be undertaken in a spirit of *open enquiry* - to find out and to learn, not to prove assumptions or justify expenditure

That they should be *relevant to wider development debates*, not just internally to ICD

That they should be conducted with *analytical rigour*

That they should be undertaken in partnership between BCO agencies and external IA experts, with substantial BCO *partner engagement* at all stages

That they should aim to reach conclusions which will have *credibility* in the wider development and ICT communities, and which raise questions as well as seeking to provide answers

Scope and terms of reference

Detailed terms of reference will be worked out by investigation teams, *i.e.* in partnership between the IA team leader and expert involved and the BCO partners in each investigation

The following slides illustrate the scope of proposed investigations

Investigation 1 : scope

Hypothesis:

"Information and communication resources and capabilities among the poor and marginalised deepen people's ability to influence their circumstances and participate in democratic processes / political change."

Scope:

To explore the evidence concerning the hypothesis in relation to participation and recent political change in Nepal, using:

- evidence from BCO partner activities
- other evidence

To assess the impact to date of [radio, and other media in relation to radio,] including in particular broadcast radio, on participation and political change in Nepal, and to relate this to other contextual factors

To compare this evidence with experience in other countries and contexts

To assess what the Nepali experience offers for general understanding of the hypothesis, and identify questions which should be incorporated within evaluation and impact assessment in this and other contexts

To help BCO partners and other agencies identify and understand other potential change processes involving mass media

Investigation 2 : scope

Hypothesis:

“ICTs help to make markets work for the poor.”

Scope:

To explore the evidence concerning the hypothesis that “ICTs help to make markets work for the poor” from Hivos and IICD work in Ecuador

To assess this evidence in relation to market dynamics, including issues such as:

- the relationship between markets and information

- the relationships between producers, intermediaries and consumers

- the distributional impact of the benefits of market information

- overall impacts on poverty and livelihoods

To compare this evidence with development experience in other countries and contexts

To assess what the Ecuadorian experience offers for general understanding of the hypothesis, and identify questions which should be incorporated within evaluation and impact assessment in other contexts

Investigation 3 : scope

Hypothesis:

“Policy advocacy and networks influence and reshape the agendas of ICT and development policy-makers and practitioners.”

Scope:

To explore evidence concerning the value of networks and networking in relation to the quality and impact of ICT/D organisations on policymakers and other stakeholders, using:

- evidence from BCO partners

- evidence from other ICD agencies

To compare this experience with that in other development sectors, in order to assess whether and where specific factors relating to the ICD sector can be identified

To place this evidence within broader development understanding of policy influence and communities of practice

To identify factors which the evidence suggests tend to increase or reduce the influence of networks

To assess, where possible, the relationship between impact on policy and impact on poverty

Investigation 4 : scope

Purpose:

To contribute towards improved processes for monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment

Scope:

To review the approaches to evaluation and impact assessment which are used by BCO partners and other ICD agencies

To compare these with approaches to evaluation and impact assessment which are used in other development organisations, including both donor agencies and mainstream development NGOs

To assess whether, how and where the evaluation and impact assessment requirements of ICD activities differ from those of other development contexts

To identify measures which BCO partners and other ICD agencies can take to improve the quality and value of their monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment

Methodology

Selection and appointment of external experts (investigation leaders)

Investigation leader to propose methodology in conjunction with IA team leader (to ensure consistency)

Investigation team to finalise research content, methodology, resources and detailed ToRs in online meeting

Desk research into wider international and development experience

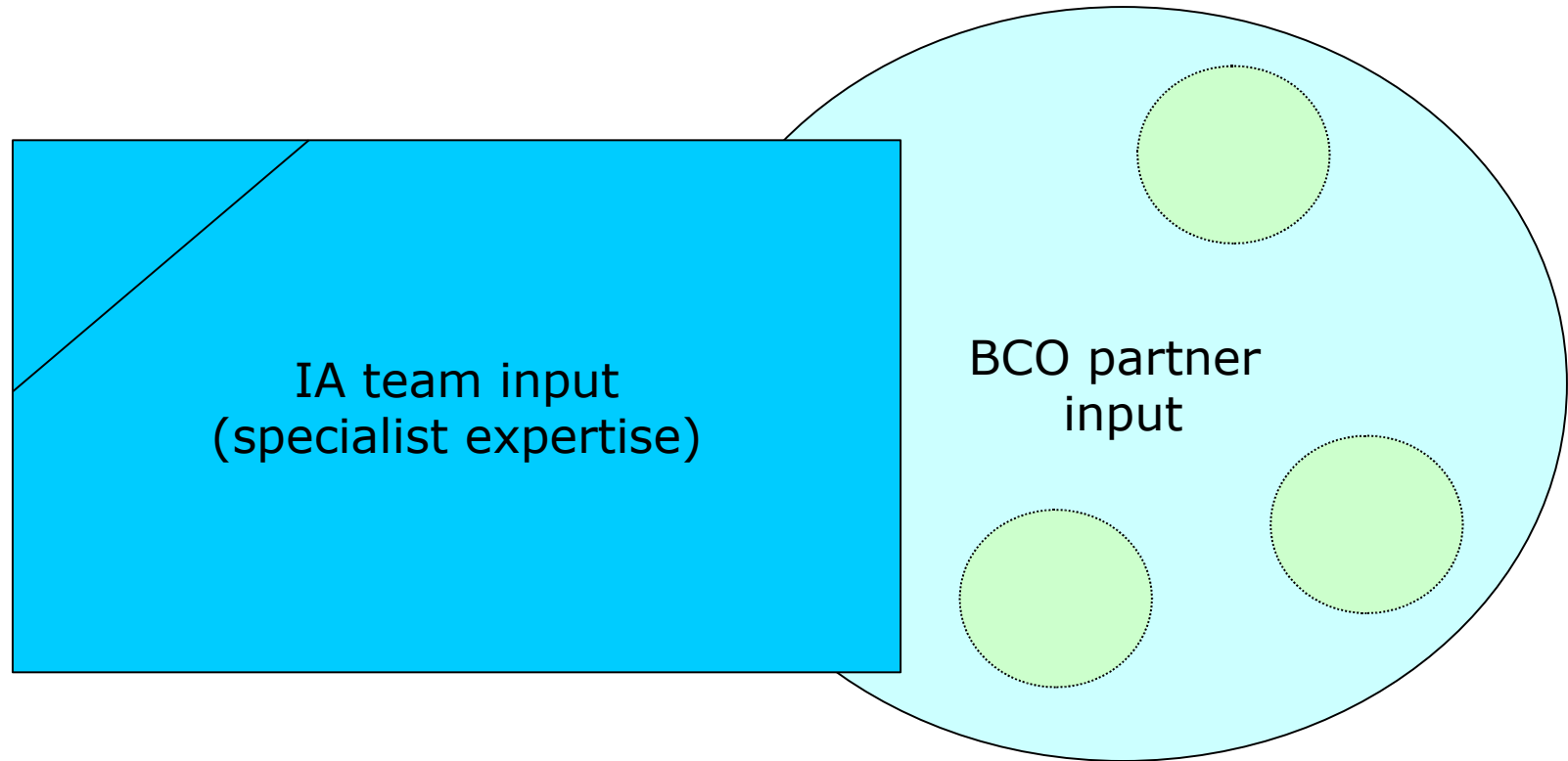
Local research into specific BCO experience

Consultation with key stakeholders

Investigation workshops (in some cases)

Development of investigation report

Investigation teams



External expert profile (*ict*DA subcontractors)

Able to reach beyond the specific experiences of BCO partners in order to relate these experiences:

- to those in other countries and contexts

- to those in the wider development context overall

Able to develop insights and recommendations which will add to the understanding which BCO partners have of their own activities and areas of work

One or two persons working in team

High level of expertise in relevant development issues

Extensive knowledge of relevant professional (academic and practitioner) sources

Understanding of relevant ICD and/or media issues

Credibility with international academic and practitioner communities (beyond the specific ICD community)

Ability to undertake work during remainder of 2007

Time requirements

Overall outcome from investigation depends on BCO partner input as well as IA expert

Proposed expert time requirement = approx. 25 days per investigation

Time requirement would be lower if partners take responsibility for local research process (but this requires careful integration)

In the case of Investigations 3 and 4, additional time would be needed for investigation workshop

Investigation workshops

It would be particularly valuable during some investigations to bring together in a workshop:

- the investigation team

- some representatives of other relevant partners

- up to three outside specialists in the relevant field

This would be most useful for:

- Investigation 3 – networks hypothesis

- Investigation 4 – evaluation and impact assessment

Investigation reports : suggested outline

1. An outline of the questions raised by the hypothesis
2. An account of the investigation methodology
3. A summary account of the literature and other experience relevant to the investigation (including a review of the quality of the existing evidence base)
4. A summary of current development thinking
5. Description and analysis of the BCO experiences investigated
6. Assessment of the successes, challenges, problems and weaknesses of these BCO experiences
7. Assessment of learning experiences from these BCO activities, for both BCO partners and the wider development community
8. Recommendations to BCO partners and other actors

Final outputs

Learning output:

focused on improving the effectiveness of BCO partners' own programme design, management and implementation; and their future monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment

Consideration to be given to outreach output:

whose purpose, if agreed, would be to use BCO evidence as a means of promoting the role of communications/ICTs in development, and engaging in debate with the wider development community

Timetable

Scoping study had envisaged agreement on C3 process in June 2007

Timetable now proposed:

September : agreement; recruitment of experts

October to December : investigations

December : reports and completion workshop

BCO has suggested extension to March 2008

DFID response unclear