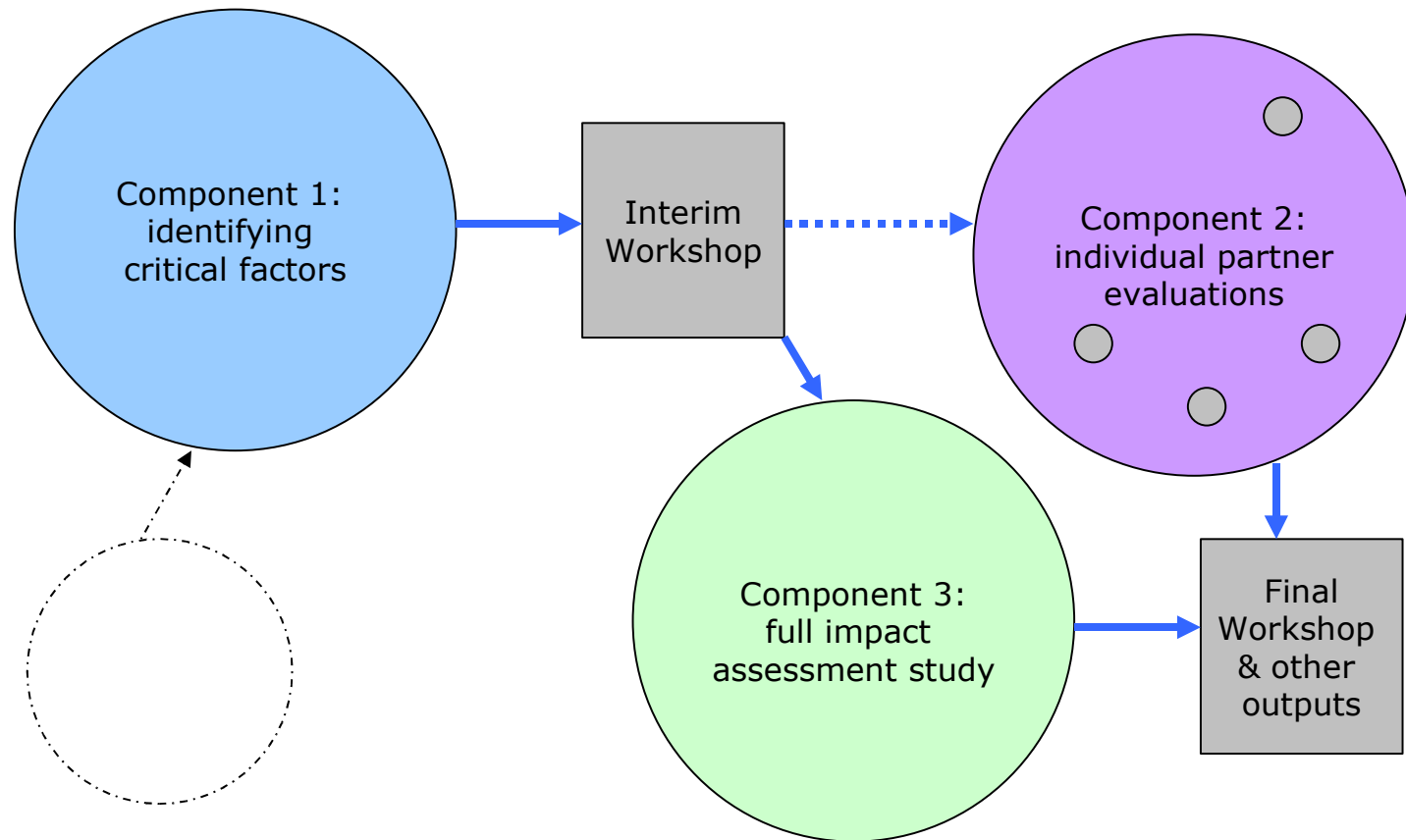


BCO Impact Assessment Component 3 Scoping Study

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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?

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

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

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."

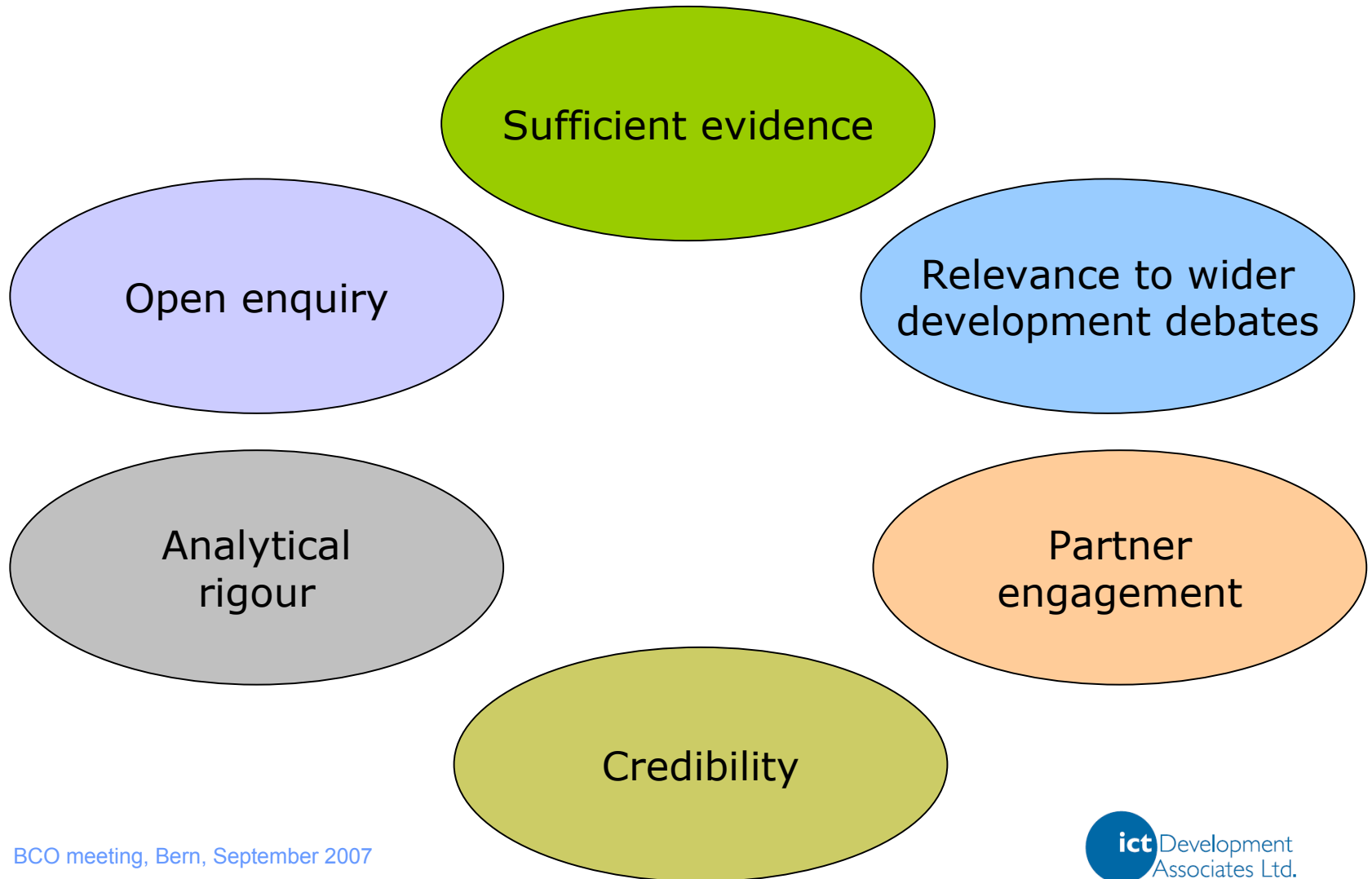
Investigation 4:

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

Following discussion of partner 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



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 assess the relationship between access and use of ICTs within this context

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

External expert profile (*ictDA* 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

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