

HOW SUSTAINABLE?

- **Two years ago, the global aid community spent \$137 billion on development projects** to empower the 71% of the world's people who live on less than \$10 per day.
- Last year, the global community adopted the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), committed to a more sustainable, interconnected world and to shaping development aid until 2030.
- We work hard, and pour in millions of dollars and Euros into our projects and mark most projects as “sustainable.” We just don't really know for sure because we don't return to talk to our participants and ask them to evaluate continued success since we left.
- Despite our vast investments, **99% of projects are never evaluated after the project cycle ends.**
- This means only 1% of the time we return after projects close out and ask participants how sustainable and efficient our investments have been. Only 1% of the time we value our participants' and partners' voices enough to ask what they could sustain themselves, what they innovated beyond our project expectations, what they could not sustain, much less how can we work better together.

WHAT WE PROPOSE

- We need to **ask country nationals what they need from us to make results impactful, sustainable, and so they can take over as owners**
- We need to **lengthen the feedback loop to include our participants not only during implementation but also in our program cycle design and the post-project evaluation** that informs any new design and look not just at what we expected to find, but what we didn't expect.
- We call this process **full-cycle development.**

That's why we created Valuing Voices: to advocate for more effective *sustained and emerging impact evaluation of projects to bolster sustainability and efficiency and redesign.*

WE BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SHOULD

- **Be accountable to our participants and partners by asking for their input and partnership**
 - Our host countries are participants and our true clients, not just recipients.
- **Design for successful local sustainability**
 - Vital to sustainable program design and impact is ensuring local actors have the capacity and links to resources to continue to build on the work. This includes national data retention and analysis of new post-project learning.
- **Lengthen the accountability and feedback loop to 3-10 years**
 - In every other industry, the consumer and stakeholder feedback loop is considered integral to success, yet development projects end based on 1-5 year fixed-term funding. We must evaluate throughout the program cycle and beyond to truly test efficacy.
- **Streamline funding opportunities to encourage collaboration**
 - We want to make smarter investments by encouraging wiser investments. Being accountable for the billions spent and **practice effective altruism** means investing in projects designed for countries to self-sustain. This **creates funding efficiencies, with sustained impact, the true marker of success.**

WHO WE ARE

Valuing Voices is an **advocacy and evaluation** network that seeks to foster sustained impact by:

- **Advocating** for better standards and more funding by the development industry, to developing a rating system for sustainability;
- Generating a larger **evaluation evidence base** and create a repository of best practices surrounding post-project sustained impact; and
- Fostering country ownership of projects, through our **network** of local evaluator franchises and partners.

Our participants, taxpayers and investors deserve and **demand lasting impact** from every investment.

Join us and value the voices of those we serve.

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