



Lessons from Conducting Evaluations in Afghanistan and Somalia

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Evaluation of the **Somali** Joint **Health** and Nutrition Program



Programme budget: USD236 million
Programme duration: 4,5 yrs (2012-2015)
Geographic coverage: 9 regions

Children under 5 and women out of total population of 5,9 million
Ministry of Health on several levels

Evaluated period: *whole duration*

Evaluation of the Basic **Education** and Gender Equality Programme in **Afghanistan**



Programme budget: 140MSEK
Programme duration: 6 yrs (2010-2016)
Geographic coverage: 10 provinces

2,3 million students
Ministry of Education on several levels

Evaluated period: 3,5 yrs (2013-2016)

Evaluation conditions

Evidence base
for decision
making

Somalia

Purpose: "to provide concrete and realistic recommendations with regard to future implementation and management of the programme."

Budget: 1,5MSEK

Duration: 6 calendar months

Resources: 125 man-days

Afghanistan

Purpose: "to provide findings, conclusions and recommendations for Sida to use in the upcoming assessment of continued support"

Budget: 1,5MSEK

Duration: 6 calendar months

Resources: 153 man-days

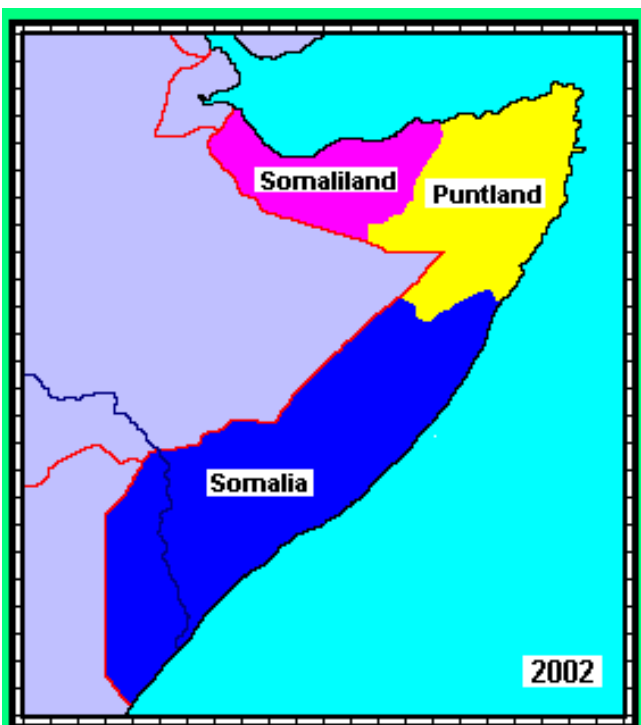
Tight timelines

Tight human
resources

Tight budgets

Broad scope

Visited 4 regions
26 schools
Interviewed 550
informants



Visited 6 provinces
36 health facilities
Interviewed 408 informants

Approach

- National partner: University & consultancy company
- National data collectors; male and female covering all local languages
- Required extensive collaboration and logistical from implementing agencies (UNICEF and JCU)
- Agreement with Ministries at every step
- Do no harm

Methods

Selection criteria:
representativeness
and accessibility

Qualitative data collection (primary):

- Site visits and observations
- Interviews with service providers, state officials, donors, religious leaders
- Focus group interviews with service users (patients and students)

Quantitative data collection (secondary):

- Available monitoring data from programmes (3rd party)

Internal challenges & limitations

Capacity and
availability of national
data collectors

Lack of time and
budget for preparatory
visits

Documentation of
collected data
(quality)

Logistics dependency

Recruiting evaluators
and data enumerators
willing to travel

Managing sensitivities
and behavior of team
members (cultural,
disregard for security)

External challenges & limitations

Accessibility to sites
and informants due to
security concerns

Tight timeframe: lead
time for planning the
evaluation field work
(block out periods)

Blockages of
Government
stakeholders

Stakeholder
expectations

Precise data of
program activities and
sites

Somalia >Afghanistan

Dependency on the
evaluated
stakeholders for site
selection and itinerary

Everything takes
much longer

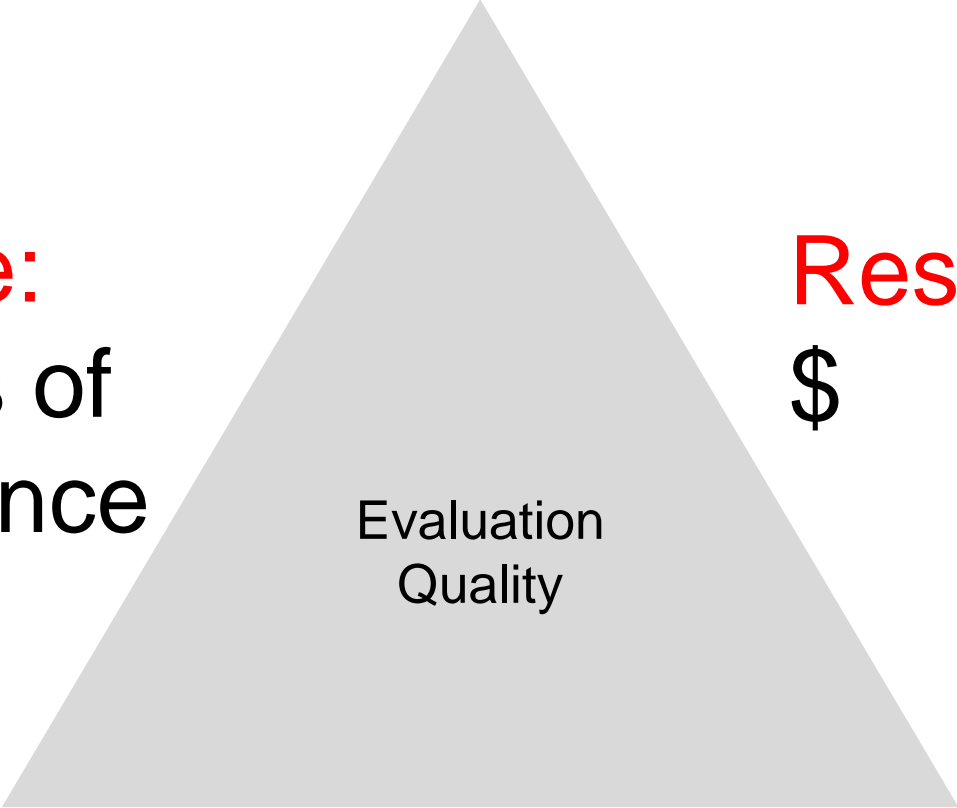
High resource costs
for field work limited
time in the field

Quantity of visited sites
and interviewed
informants less than
planned

Evaluation parameters

Scope:
Terms of
reference

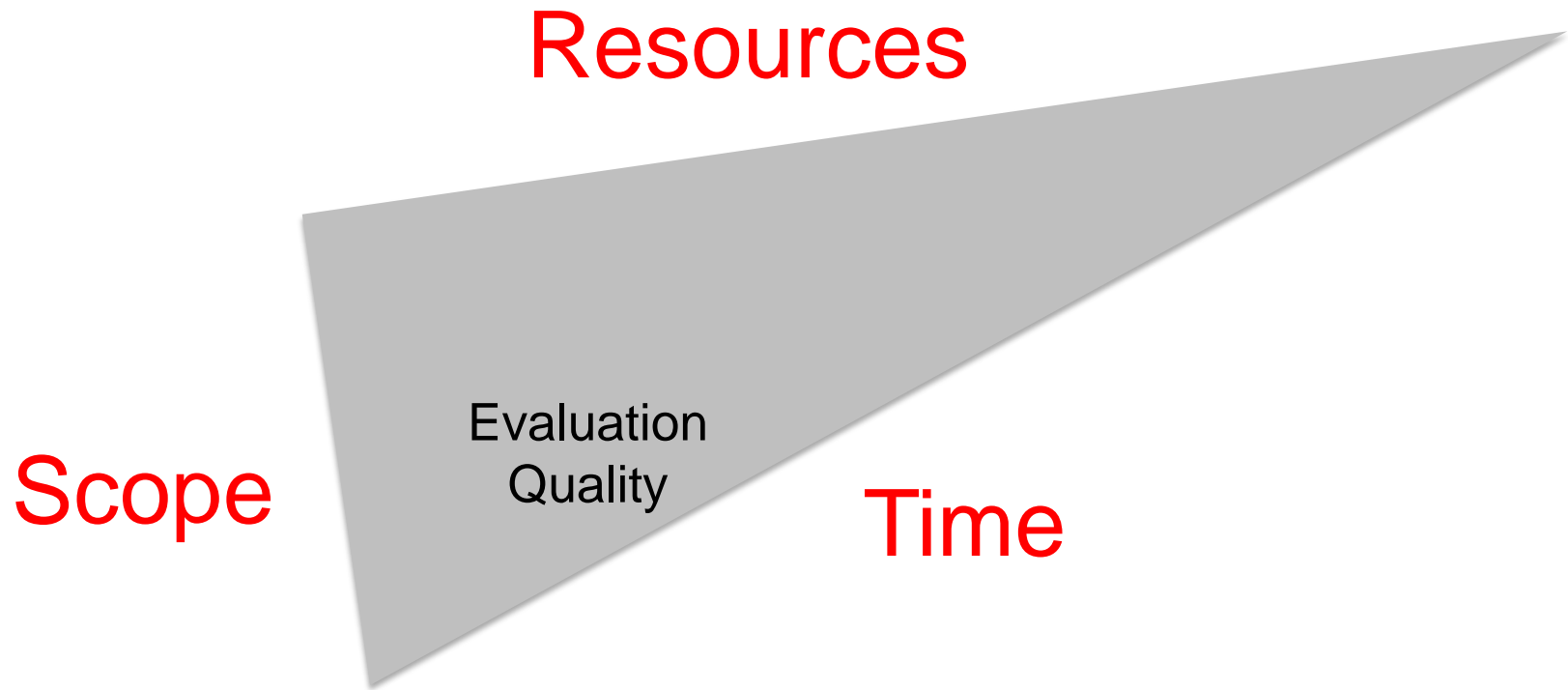
Resources:
\$



Evaluation
Quality

Time:
Set dates

Evaluation parameters in fragile contexts



Evaluation quality principles in a fragile context

Independence

Credibility

Utility

Main Lessons

1. Sufficient lead time and calendar time is vital
2. Bring all stakeholders on board for realistic planning
3. Continuous transparency regarding selection bias and limitations
4. Manage expectations throughout the process