Evaluation Planning Brief: Types of Outcomes

Outcomes are an important part of your logic model. Outcomes define what the project is trying to achieve. It may be helpful to consider your outcomes as short-term, intermediate, or long-term and then focus your evaluation questions on the short or intermediate outcomes.

## Progression of Outcomes

Change and transformation takes times. There are often several steps in progressing change. For this reason, evaluators classify outcomes into short, intermediate, and long-term. Doing so allows you to reflect on the size and the scope of your project in order to define what success looks like and how you will evaluate that success.

### Short Term
- Changes in knowledge or skills.
- Necessary steps but not desired ends.
- Are important indicators of participants’ progress toward those ends.
- Example: pre- and post-test evaluations showed that knowledge on program topic areas among participants increased by 25%.

### Intermediate
- Changes in behavior that result from participants’ new knowledge.
- Usually carried out in a follow up survey that allows individuals time to implement their new behavior.
- Example: A post-program survey found that 60% of participants utilized their new knowledge for improved health behavior.

### Long-Term
- Meaningful changes, often in economic, social, or environmental well-being of participants.
- Often takes time for these changes to develop and requires well-resourced evaluations to measure.
- Example: A post-program survey found that changed behaviors led to decreased BMI among participants.