An introduction to Outcome Harvesting Worksheets

project

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Introduction

In the past years during the implementation of the Health System Advocacy programme (2016-2020) Amref Health Africa has started to work with outcome harvesting to measure results of their interventions. The method has proved beneficial to capture small and bigger changes among the target groups during the implementation. When applied well, Outcome Harvesting helps the team to identify expected and unexpected outcomes, positive and negative outcomes, from local to global level.

Since Outcome Harvesting is of added value to the toolset for monitoring and evaluating projects, it is expected that this method will continue to be used by Amref Health Africa. Especially where change may be unpredictable and contexts dynamic.

To strengthen the understanding on Outcome Harvesting within the organisation and outside, a series of videos have been produced that explain the various aspects of the method.

The six videos subsequently cover the following topics:
■ Video 1: What is Outcome Harvesting – provides an overview of outcome harvesting.
■ Video 2: A Good Example – features Namono and how she is using outcome harvesting in her project.
■ Video 3: Preparation – discusses the first steps of the outcome harvesting process.
■ Video 4: Getting Started – shows the different choices to shape the outcome harvesting process.
■ Video 5: Quality - explains where to think of to improve the quality of the collected data.
■ Video 6: Analysis – highlights how the results of outcome harvesting can be used.

The intended audience for these videos is programme staff with different responsibilities (field officers, finance persons, M&E offices, project managers etc.) who are about to work with Outcome Harvesting for their project or programme. The idea of these videos is to show them to the audience and then apply the learnings to the project or programme at hand.
To deepen the learnings from the videos, this document contains a worksheet for each of the videos. The worksheets contain two sections:

1. A brief overview of the learning points of the video.
2. Several questions to apply the learnings to the project or programme of the participant.

The intention is to view one video and then refer to the worksheet that belongs to that video. Participants are given some time to answer the questions raised. A discussion will further improve people's understanding of the matter. The last step is to finalize the answers before moving to the next video. When these activities have been accomplished for all the videos, participants should have a clear understanding of outcome harvesting and how to apply this in their project.
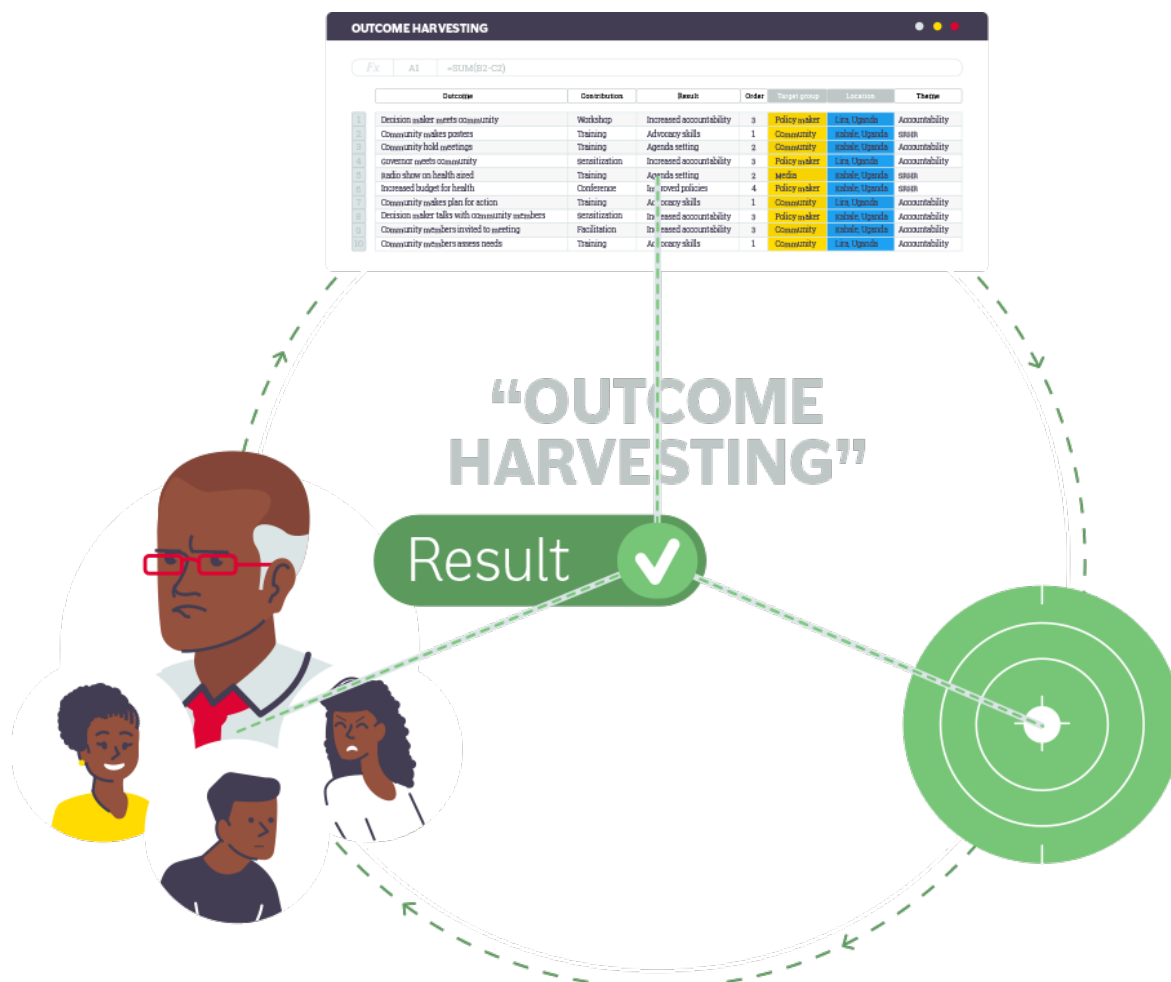
Worksheet 1: What is Outcome Harvesting?

Overview of the video

- Some projects do not have linear steps of change; the route to achieve a goal in not always predictable.
- Outcome harvesting measures results during the implementation of the project.
- Results are defined as visible changes in the behaviour of target groups
- They are referred to as 'outcomes' of the project.
- Outcomes are identified, collected in a database and linked to the intervention.
- Analysis of that database shows changes in the target group and the need for adjustments of the project.

Learning questions

1. What is the objective of your project or programme?
2. Who are the target groups of your project or programme?
   Target groups can be any kind of social actor (individuals, groups, organisations, institutions)
3. What results do you foresee to achieve in order to reach the objective?
4. What kind of behavioural change do you expect to see?

Click here to watch the video

Worksheet 2: A Good Example

Overview of the video

- In the video, Namono works with outcome harvesting during the implementation of her project.
- Thanks to outcome harvesting, she discovered changes that have taken place.
- She finds expected and unexpected outcomes, positive and negative ones.
- Through analysis she is able to adjust the strategy and activities of her project

Learning questions

1. What is the objective of Namono's project?
2. Name the social actors that show behavioural change.
3. Can you name a few positive outcomes Namono identified?
4. Can you name a few negative outcomes Namono identified?
5. Looking at these outcomes Namono found, what should Namono address in the adjusted strategy for the planning period?

Click here to watch the video

Worksheet 3: Preperation

Overview of the video

■ The preparation of the outcome harvesting starts by identifying the context, the objective, intended results and target groups.

■ The target groups are essential as their behaviour is directly related to the results and objective of the project.

■ Since the project staff is in close contact with target groups, they play a major role in documenting outcomes.

■ The project team needs to decide about the design of the outcome harvesting (such as the frequency, what tools to use).

Learning questions

1. Check your answers about the objective, results and target groups from worksheet. Try to be as specific as possible.
2. Which project staff should be involved in the outcome harvesting for your project or programme? Again try to be specific, use names and function if possible.
• Who will coordinate the outcome harvesting?
• Who will be harvesting outcomes?
3. What is the desired frequency of harvesting?
4. What are the preferred tools to document outcomes?
5. What kind of other issues need to be addressed for your outcome harvesting (devices, budget, etc)?

Click here to watch the video

OUTCOME HARVESTING

|	Outcome	Target group
1	Decision maker meets community	Policy maker
2	Community makes posters	Community
3	Community hold meetings	Community
4	Governor meets community	Policy maker
5	Radio show on health aired	Media

Worksheet 4: Getting Started

Overview of the video

- Collecting outcomes consists of four steps
- First, outcome statements are collected by the project officer.
- The statement consists of WHO demonstrated WHAT kind of change, WHERE and WHEN.
- Secondly, the contribution of the project to that outcome is described.
- Thirdly, for both the outcome statements and the contribution, evidence is added to the documentation.
- Lastly, to enable analysis, labels can be added to the outcomes to categorize them.

Learning questions

1. The overview contains the formula for an outcome statement. Could you think of the formula for contribution (how does the contribution statement look like)?
2. Looking at the four steps of data collection, please write down who is involved in these steps, where it takes place and when in each outcome harvesting cycle.
3. What kind of labels or categories can you think of for your project or programme?

Click here to watch the video
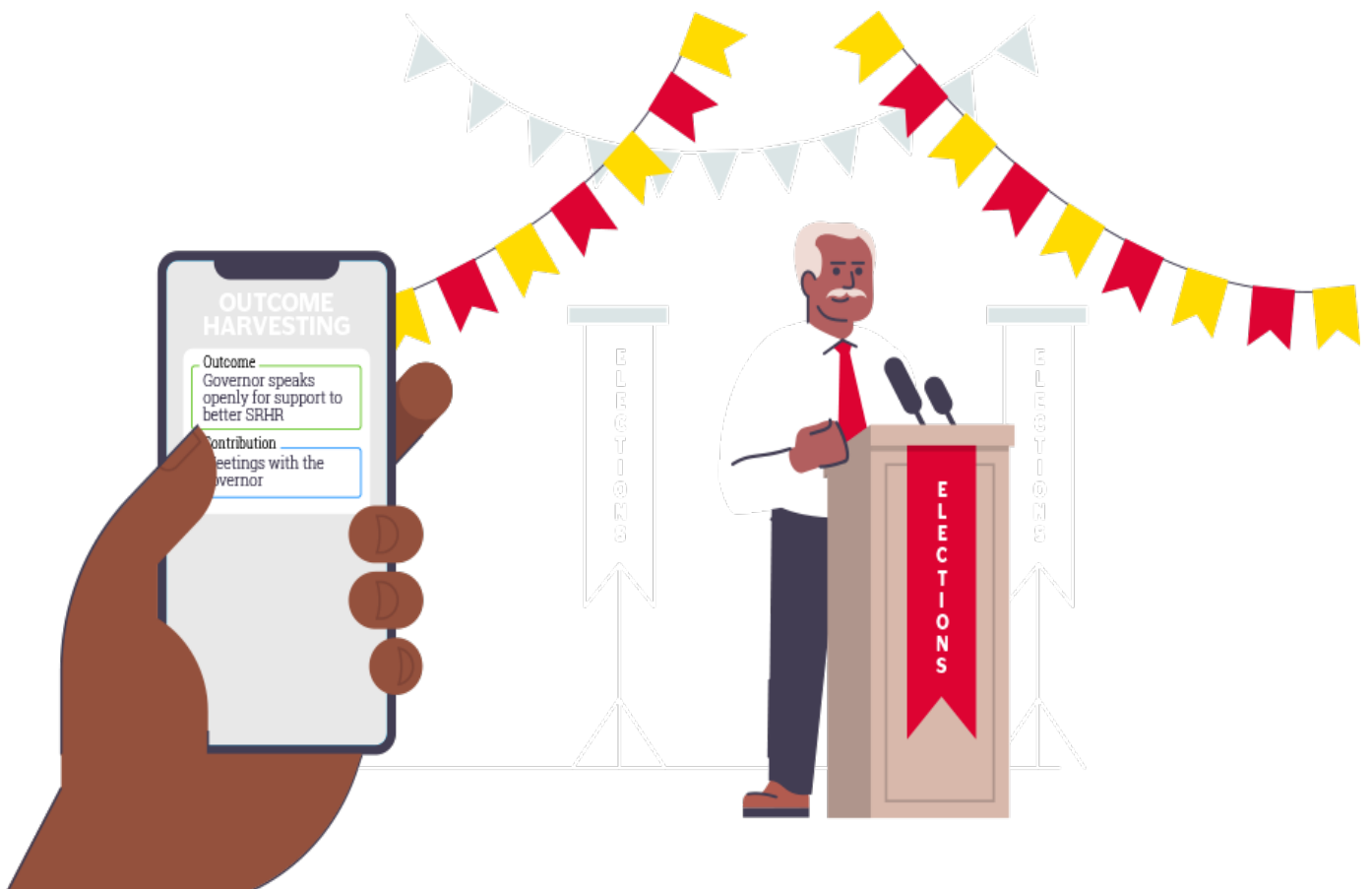
Worksheet 5: Quality

Overview of the video

- The quality check of outcome harvesting starts by reading the outcome statements, contribution and overseeing the evidence, the quality officer.
- In case of large numbers of outcomes, a selection of outcomes has to be made.
- If improvements of the data are needed, the quality officer may ask project staff to clarify.
- It is possible to go the field to verify certain outcomes

Learning questions

1. What should evidence of outcomes proof?
2. What should evidence of contribution proof?
3. For both outcomes and contribution, where do you expect to collect the evidence?
4. How much outcomes do you expect to harvest?
5. Is there a need to select outcomes to carry out quality check? If yes, how would you make that selection?

Click here to watch the video

OUTCOME HARVESTING   SHARE

Fx	A1	=SUM(B2-C2)

	Outcome	Evidence	Contribution
1	Governor meets community		
2	Radio show on health aired		
3	Increased budget for health		
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Worksheet 6: Analysis

Overview of the video

- When the quality check is completed, the database with outcomes can be used for analysis.
- This analysis can be discussed with the rest of team to review the project progress.
- Further, some outcomes may be selected to follow for a longer time to see whether it leads to further positive change.
- Other outcomes may be selected for project communication as they contain interesting stories.

Learning questions

1. Looking at your programme planning, what would be the most suitable timing to review the outcomes with the team?
2. What are your expectation for that review?
3. What kind of different uses outside project management can you think of? Try to be specific.
- For each of these purposes, who should you engage (for example communication officer)?

Final questions

1. Overlooking the answers you have given for the 6 worksheets, do you have all the information needed to make your outcome harvesting plan?
2. What information do you still need?

Click here to watch the video