

‘Beyond the project’

Measuring NGO effectiveness at different scales

<https://acfid.asn.au/resources>

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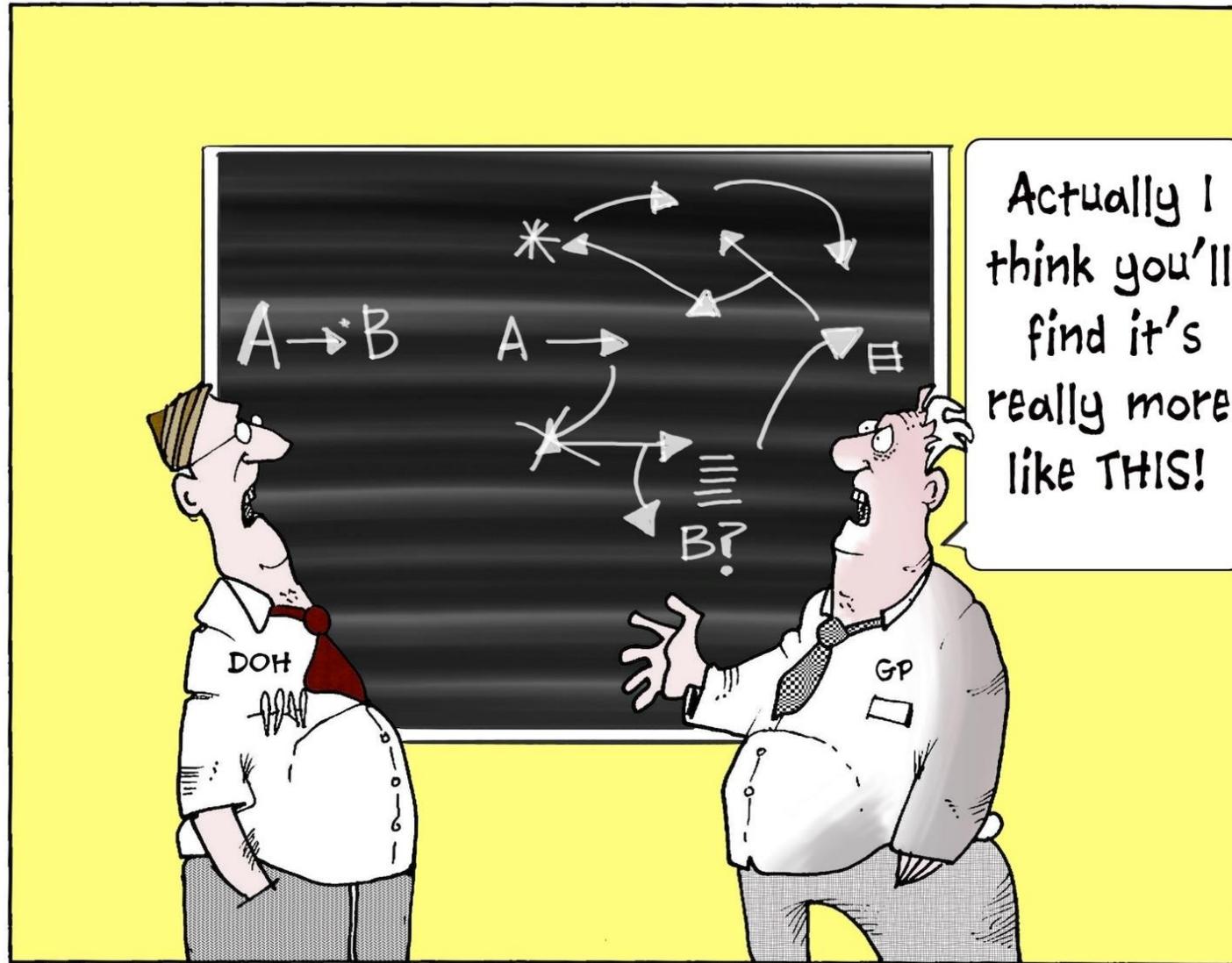


Courtesy Ann-Murray Brown

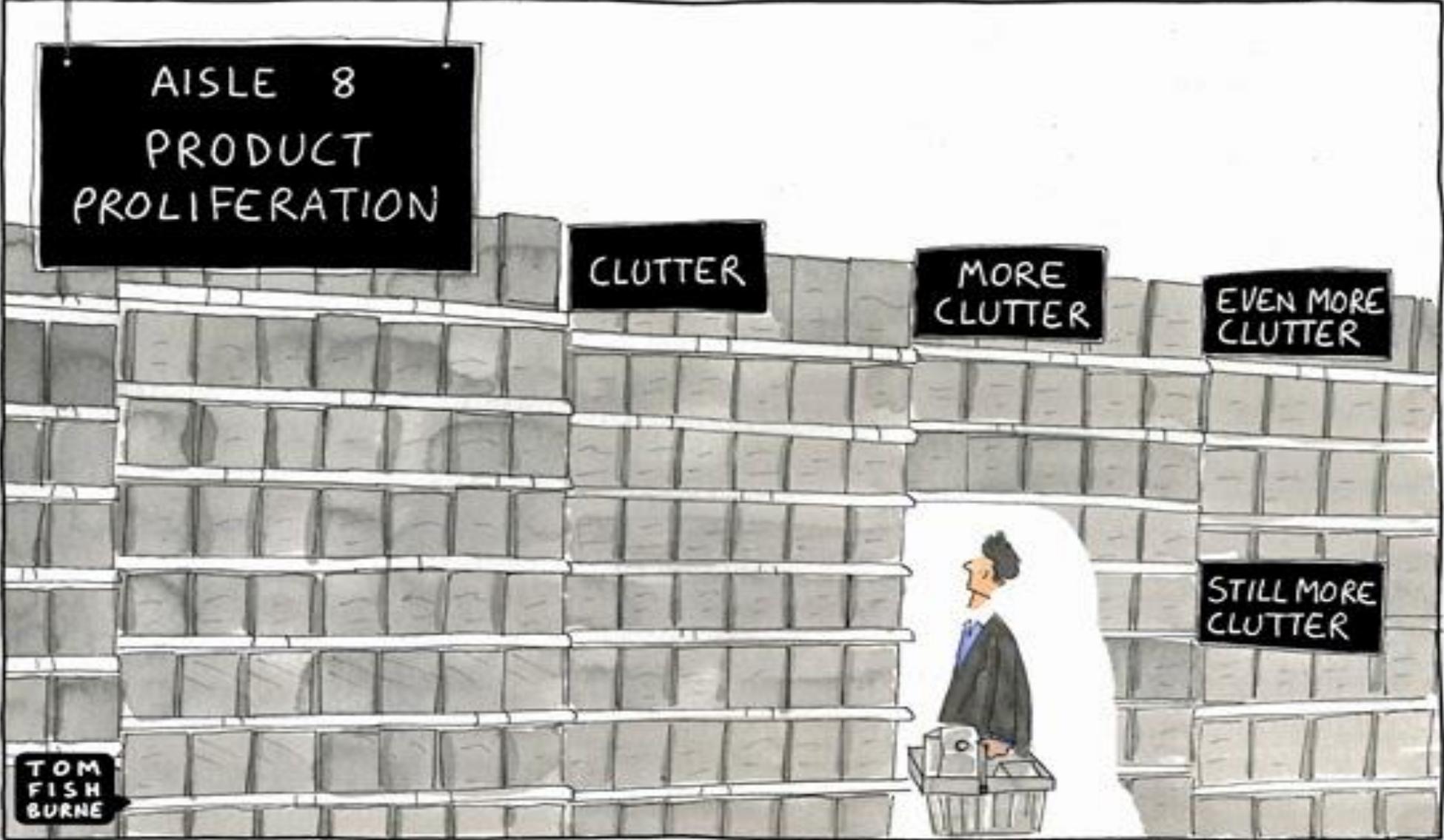
What is wrong with M&E?

- Over-simplification of program logics
- Measuring things that are measurable rather than meaningful
- The need for a more evaluative culture
- Mechanical use of performance information
- 'Results' means different things to different people
- The outputs of M&E efforts are not useful or used

Complexity



Fragmentation



Thinking 'beyond the project'

Seven factors to consider

1. Being clear on the purpose and questions and making use of the information
2. Applying fit-for-purpose methods in fit-for purpose ways
3. Adopting methods and approaches that address complexity
4. Considering the needs of all partners, including locally
5. Capturing the distinctive contribution of the NGOs
6. Not being overly complicated, technocratic or exacerbating fragmentation
7. Having adequate resourcing to meet the purpose

Approaches and methods

- Using Indicators
- Evaluative Approaches
- Research Approaches

Using Indicators

- Aggregating
- Framing
- Coalition
- Rating

In the last year, 70% of 21,121 people living with HIV surveyed indicated being members of a support group (up from 46% at baseline), and reported benefits including increased income, access to information, moral support and reduced stigma and self-stigma (Christian Aid)

Evaluative and Research approaches

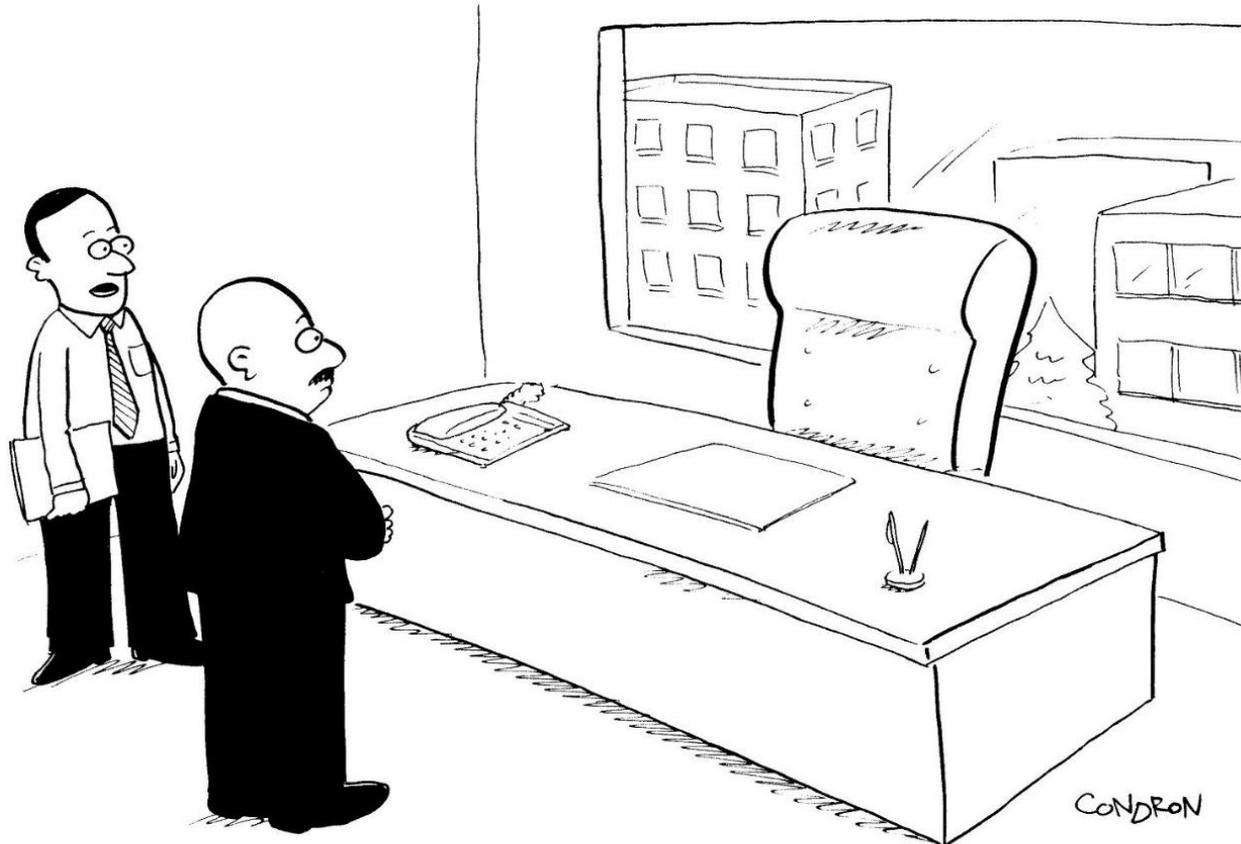
- 'Strategic' evaluation
- Case studies
- Qualitative methods

- Synthesis of existing material

Recommendations

1. Agencies should consider adopting a more strategic approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning and consider the seven factors in any exercise involving Australian NGOs to capture, integrate and report on outcomes and impact across different scales.
2. ACFID or RDI Network should establish a resourced community of practice for monitoring, evaluation and learning practitioners.
 - Sharing experience and expertise about monitoring, evaluation and learning, particularly around methods that address complexity
 - Capturing lessons, sharing insights and supporting existing or proposed member initiatives to learn from and demonstrate the value of capturing, integrating and reporting on outcomes and impact across different scales
3. DFAT should consider ways to support good practice in capturing, integrating and reporting on outcomes and impact across different scales by ANGOs, including in partnerships and collaborations.

Beyond the project



"ONE DAY HE STEPPED BACK SO HE COULD SEE THE BIG PICTURE. THEN HE TURNED AND RAN LIKE HELL."