



# Where's the dirty laundry? APPRs and the public diplomacy imperative

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Clear Horizon



# Overview

- What are the purposes of Aid Program Performance Reports (APPRs)?
- How balanced are they?
- How well are they delivering on their purposes?
- Are there fit for purpose alternatives?

# Aid Program Performance Reports



AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

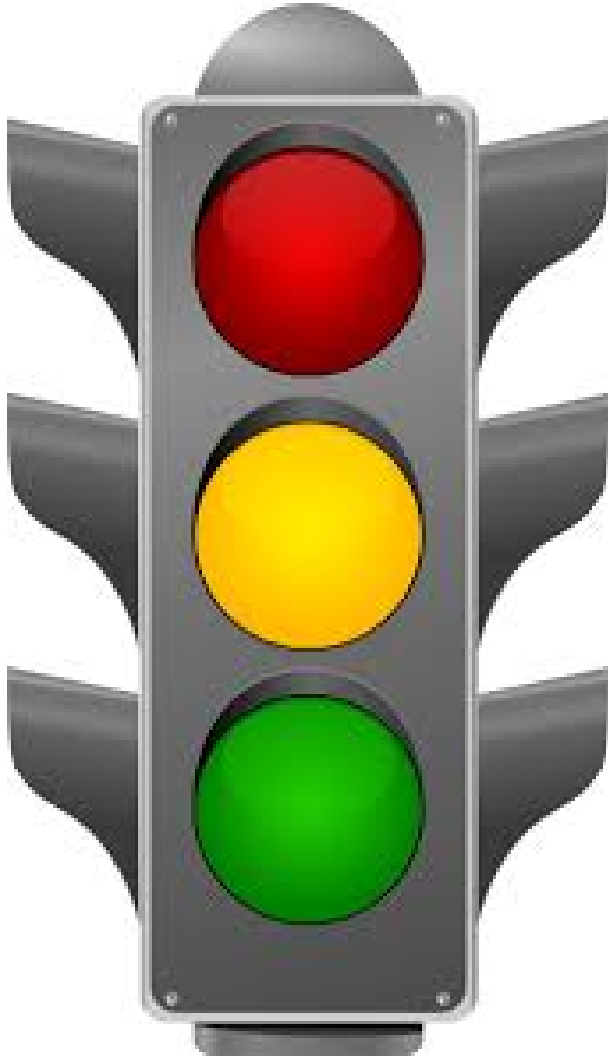
- “Evidence-based assessment of progress”
- “It is not expected that all AIP objectives will be assessed as being ‘on track’ each year, reflecting the challenges of achieving development outcomes.”
- “APPRs help **strengthen program management, demonstrate accountability and improve effectiveness.**”
- “Provides an opportunity to **discuss program performance with partner governments.**”
- “Must be peer reviewed to ensure assessment and reporting of program performance are **robust and contested.**” (DFAT Aid Programming Guide)

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# APPR rapid review - sample

- Top 5 country programs by budget
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Solomon Islands
  - Indonesia
  - Timor-Leste
  - The Philippines
- 2015/16 to 2018/19 (life of current AIPs)

# APPR rapid review - methods



## **Ratings**

Comparison of 'traffic light' ratings across years per AIP objective and country

## **Supporting text**

Quant and qual content analysis of supporting text

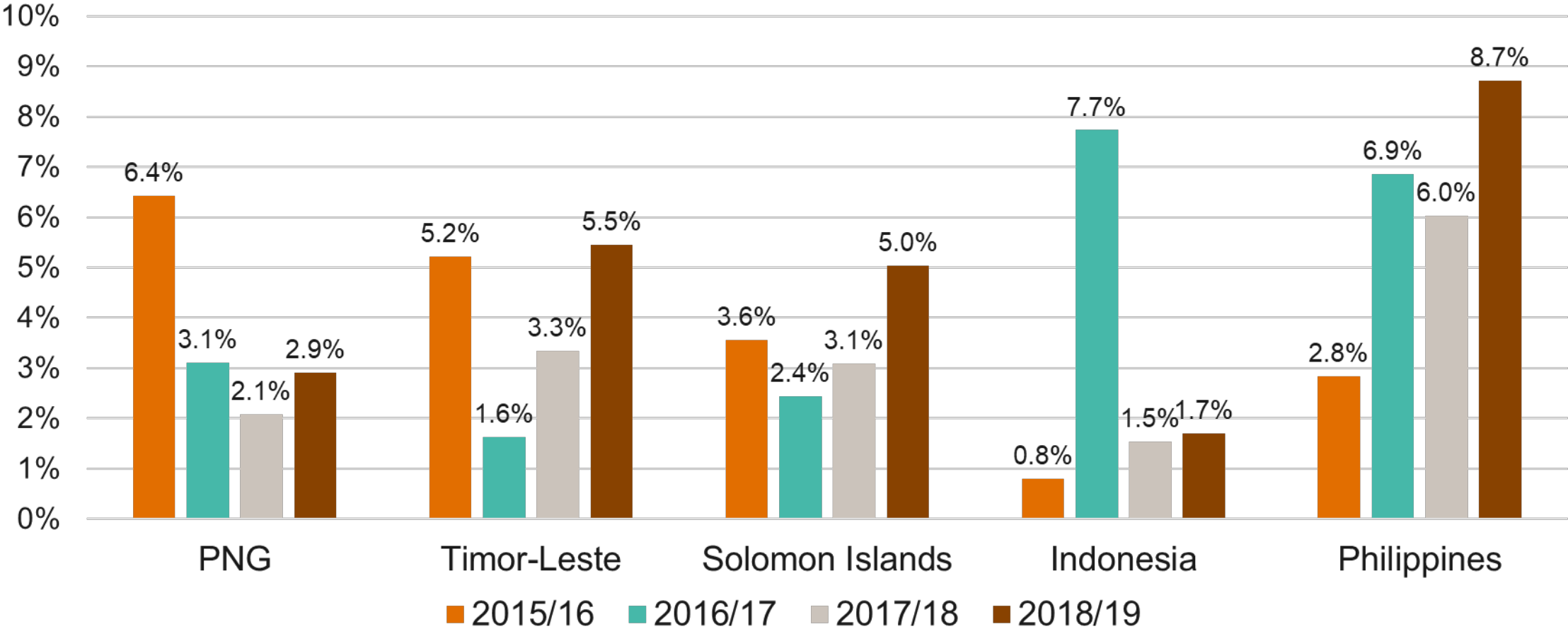
# How balanced were the ratings?

Total % AIP objectives rated green, amber, red



# How balanced was the reporting?

% APPR words spent describing challenges or shortcomings



# How self-critical were APPR descriptions of challenges?

**Were described challenges linked to factors:**

## **Within Australia's control?**

*For example...*

- Weak program management
- Cuts to DFAT budgets
- Inadequate gender mainstreaming

## **Outside Australia's control?**

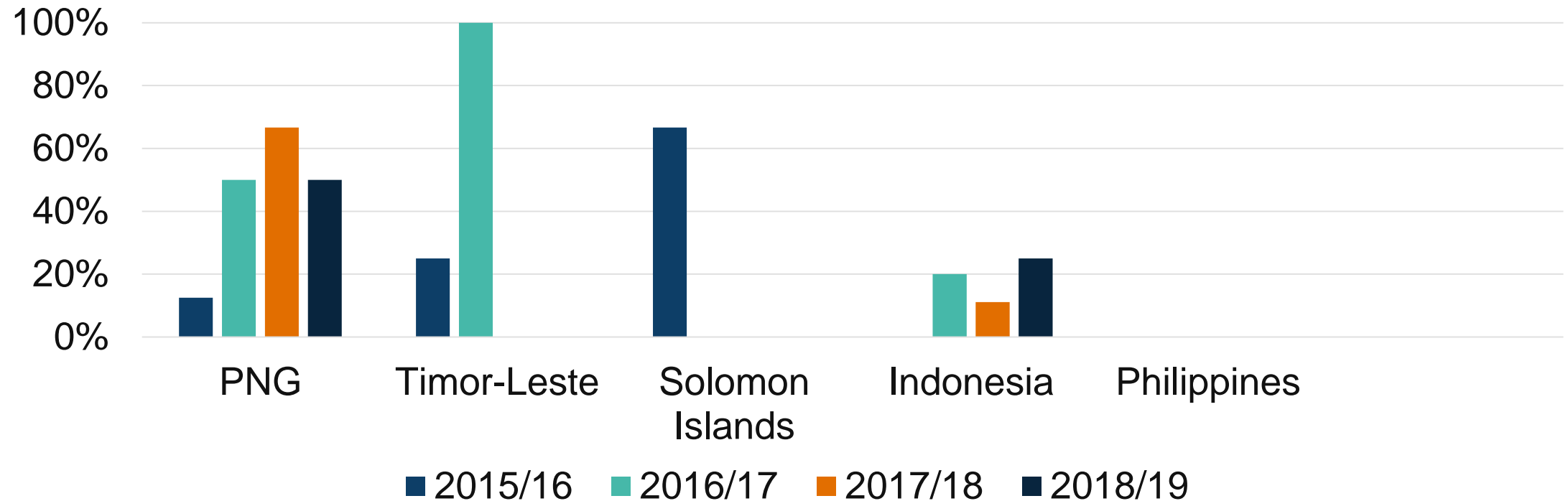
*For example...*

- Partner government commitment/engagement/support of program
- Country context challenges e.g. political instability
- Regulatory constraints



# How self-critical were APPR descriptions of challenges?

% described challenges that were linked to factors within Australia's control



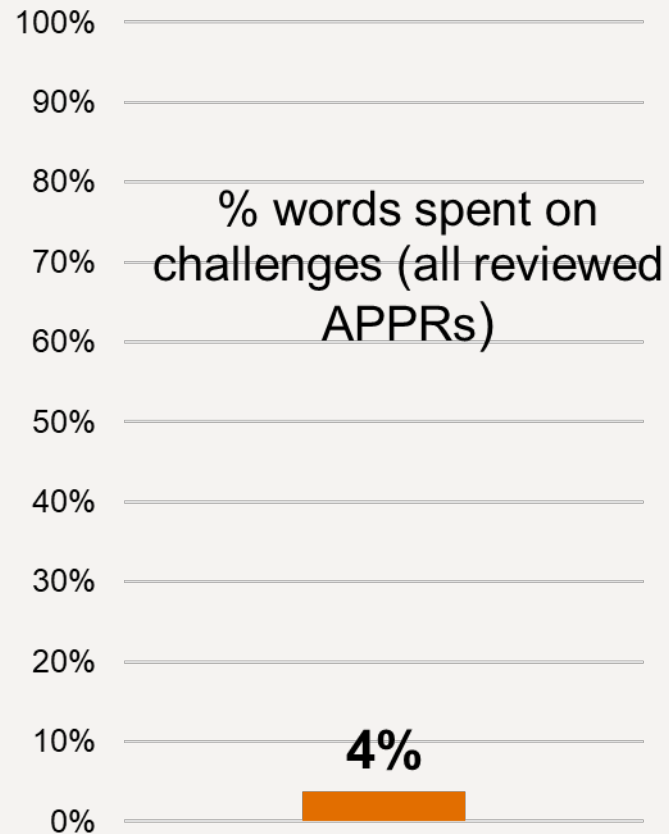
# Are APPRs fit for purpose?

## PURPOSE

*“APPRs help strengthen program management, demonstrate accountability and improve effectiveness.”*

Aid Programming Guide

## PRACTICE



## POTENTIAL

How else could these resources be used?

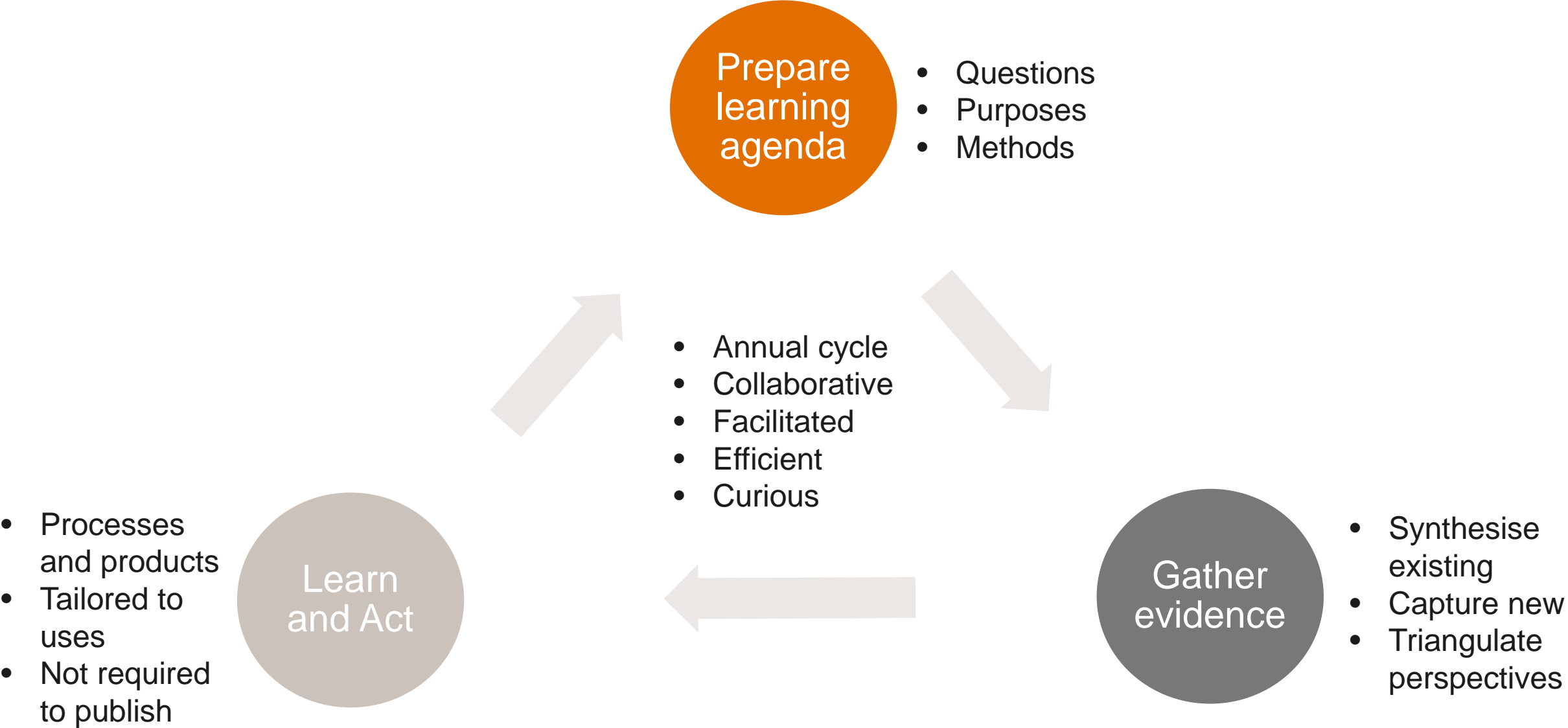
# Rebalance investment?

**'Internal' learning  
for improvement**



**Public reporting  
for accountability**

# Learning agendas





# Thankyou!

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