

Program Performance Tracking

Tearfund Canada incorporates industry best practices when designing, monitoring and evaluation of all of our programs. A brief overview of our program performance tracking process can be found in this document.

1. Situational Assessment (SA)

All Tearfund Canada programs start by understanding the local context to identify the challenges and opportunities. The local implementing partner conducts a thorough participatory Situational/Needs Assessment. This includes i) collection of macro-level data, ii) risk analysis, and iii) Gender Analysis (including gender disaggregation and other relevant breakdowns). Participatory methods ensure that the views and guidance of beneficiaries and communities are included in project design, implementation, and evaluation. The SA findings inform the program's design and implementation.

2. Program design

The finding of the SA helps to inform an effective strategy, and specifically, whether the project focus should be on coping, adapting, and/or transforming. Tearfund Canada and the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) develop a Performance Management Framework (PMF) and Project Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) for each project. TFCA establishes the baseline and target indicators through the PMF for the ultimate, intermediate, and immediate outcomes. Progress against the plan (target) is monitored and reported semi-annually using the ITT, ensuring all stakeholders are regularly informed and involved in the program's progress.

Agriculture programs: we track the following indicators (example)

- % of HHs achieving acceptable food consumption score
- % of smallholder farming households who had sufficient food every month for the past 12 months adequate household food provisioning
- % in production increase per acre of land

Saving Groups (self Help and Village Saving and Loan Association): we track the following indicators (example)

- # of new Saving Groups Established
- # of smallholder (female and male) farmers and youth having access to loans from SHGs/VSLAs

- # of smallholder female and male farmers saving in SHGs/VSLA
- # of smallholder female and male farmers and youth saving in VSLAs

Food Assistance: we track the following indicators (example)

- Food Consumption Score (FCS): # and % of female-headed and male-headed households reporting “poor,” “borderline,” and “acceptable” Food Consumption Score
- # and % of crisis-affected households (FHH, MHH, all households) reporting use of food consumption coping strategies (r-CSI) in three categories: 0-3, 4-18, 19+

3. Evaluation

Tearfund Canada promotes timely, relevant, and useful evaluations of the projects and programs it supports to foster and support learning, improve programming quality, and strengthen accountability. The evaluations’ findings are used to improve the quality and effectiveness of future programming.

Examples of program learning and improvement include:

Agriculture Program: Initially, TFCA focused on addressing production issues by promoting conservation agriculture principles. However, program evaluation shows that smallholder farms lose up to 30% of their produce during post-harvest handling. Hence, TFCA introduced post-harvest management training and PICS bags (hermetically sealed bags) that prevent rodents and weevils from attacking the grains.

Market linkages: Now that Farmers are trained in best agronomic practices, CA principles and post-harvest handling, they experience surplus production. Farmers used to desperately sell at a giveaway price to middlemen. Now, farmers can access loans from the savings groups to meet their financial needs and can store their grains for longer periods of time using the PICS bags. Learning from lessons, TFCA/Partners link farmers to profitable buyers. The buyers are now coming to the farmers, not the other way around (as used to be in the past).

Saving Groups: Integrating Saving groups into our Agriculture production to allow smallholder farms to access finances that they otherwise couldn’t access from formal financial institutions.