



WISER & CR4D

Ken De Souza

FCDO Research and Evidence Directorate

21 June 2021



- CR4D and WISER
- General lessons emerging from WISER*

* with thanks to the UK Met Office Programme team

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021



INCEPTION AND START UP

- An initial inception phase is critical and should be ‘ring-fenced’ or protected
 - Ensure appropriate co-production – process takes time, need to ensure involving the right people at the right time and maintain participation, build relationships and trust;
 - Prioritise user engagement – understand different needs and tailor work accordingly;
 - Connect to existing work – national strategies and plans etc;
 - Build in sustainability / legacy work from the outset – ensure relevant parties are involved;
 - Invest in robust MEL at all levels – co-develop systems with stakeholders.

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021



GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Follow a co-production approach to address Gender, Equity and inclusion
 - Go beyond ‘integrating’ Gender and social inclusion - make it a core objective to ensure effective uptake;
 - Have a robust gender and inclusion action plan;
 - Ensure your theory of change has pathways to address gender and social inclusion;
 - Link to your logframe or results framework;
 - Champion Gender and social inclusion at institutional level – learn from local best practice;
 - Where possible try and widen stakeholder participation to support inclusion.

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021



CAPACITY

- Ensure you enable capacity to be built across a range of skill areas and end-to-end along the delivery or ‘value’ chain.
 - ‘technical’ as well as communications and stakeholder engagement, project management etc – these wider skills are critical to achieve uptake and use;
 - Important to support intermediaries in the delivery chain – they need tailored support;
 - Build on institutional and partnership knowledge – recognise and strengthen roles, skills and capabilities;
 - Ensure clear roles and responsibilities to implement co-production.

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021



COLLABORATE AND NETWORK BETTER – ENHANCE SYNERGIES

- Invest in collaboration and relationship building between projects.
 - Ensure budgets are allocated to allow collaboration and joint working;
 - Allow for emergent ideas and opportunities – do not allocate all resources at start;
 - Ensure budgets are available at both programme and project level;
 - Identify and support regional and national focal points (or equivalents);
 - Facilitate adaptive learning between projects and with other programmes;
 - Provide central support to allow projects to evolve.

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE

- Strengthen communication and feedback for all partners / stakeholders and users;
- Encourage collaboration with intermediaries at all levels;
- Ensure project reporting is useful and not disproportionate;
- Important to have effective feedback loops into programme management ;
- Ensure programmes are sufficiently resourced (people) to utilise reporting and feedback.

LESSONS FROM WISER – workshop 29 April 2021

SUSTAINABILITY / LEGACY



- Demonstrate socio-economic benefits and present in compelling way to decision makers.
 - Secure senior management / political buy-in – helpful as ‘champions’ to embed in national / local policy, plans and budgets;
 - Ensure funding cycles and implementation phases reflect realistic timeframes;
 - Look to build on existing investments – eg matching national / local investments.