

EVALUATE THE **HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT IMPACT**
OF YOUR PROJECT WITH
THE EHD METHODOLOGY

arco



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO EVALUATE?

+ Quality and effectiveness

Evaluating the results and the impacts of the activities is fundamental to enhance their quality and effectiveness. The evaluations provide useful information on the **social value** created by these activities and help organizations in their **learning** and **planning** process, thereby improving the design of future evidence-based interventions.

✓ Accountability

External and independent evaluations are one of the best ways to **ensure accountability** to partners, donors, and stakeholders of the project or program, to **ensure the correct use of resources**, and **assess if the project achieved the expected results**.

THE EVALUATION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY (EHD)

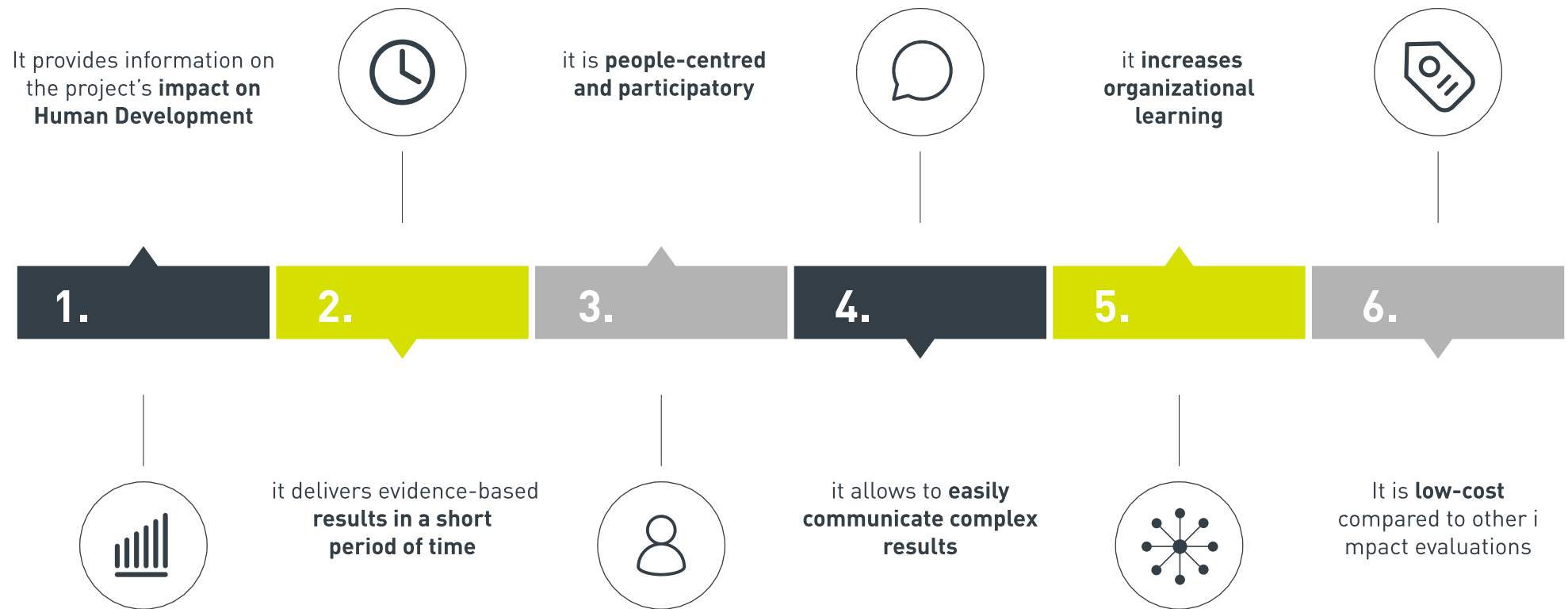
At ARCO, we think that accountability should not be limited to the transparent use of projects' or programs' resources or to the evaluation of a few selected indicators of result. Indeed, we promote evaluations that take into account the **multiple dimensions of the Human Development**, by using innovative methods of collection and data analysis.

Who can take advantage of it

Public bodies, Government agencies and private enterprises as well as charities, NGOs and foundations.



WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

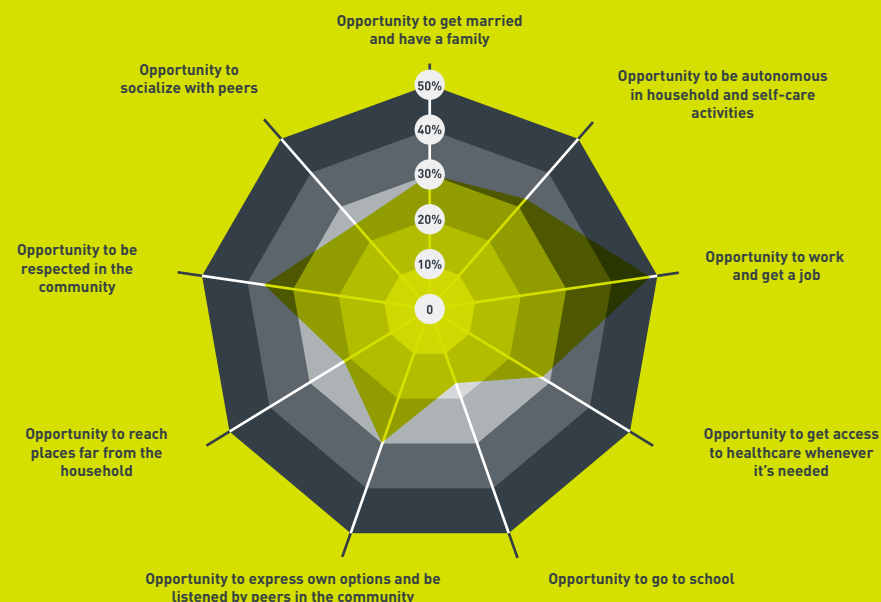


OBJECTIVES AND FEATURES

The EHD methodology goes beyond the traditional evaluations, which are focused on monodimensional outcomes (e.g. income increases, provision of health services or school attendance). Based on the capability approach developed by Amartya Sen, the EHD methodology uses a tailored multidimensional set of indicators within a Sustainable Human Development paradigm. Capabilities can be conceived as those opportunities that people have reason to value, according to their own aspirations and values depending on the society and local context they live in. Our evaluations are conducted by building on the analysis of existing information and data, and by drawing on the collection of qualitative and quantitative data. Different participatory or statistical tools and methods (e.g. interviews, focus groups discussions, surveys, SWOT analysis, O-GAP, Social Network Analysis, Cluster Analysis, Data Envelopment Analysis, etc.) are applied according to the project's and evaluation's goals and objectives. In addition, mixed methods can be combined.

IT IS EASY TO COMMUNICATE!

The diagram shows one possible way to communicate the results for a quick and easy understanding of the extent to which human capabilities have been affected and impacted by the project's activities.



Theoretical framework

> It is based on a **sound theoretical framework** and characterized by a focus on **multidimensional well-being** and processes of capability expansion.

Participation

> It allows stakeholders and beneficiaries to identify the dimensions or capabilities that are most relevant for them;
> It features an **active participation** of the local stakeholders.

Applicability

> **It can be applied in cases where:** **i)** a project is not decomposable into single linear causal chains; **ii)** baseline data on the capacities and opportunities of beneficiaries are not available; and **iii)** it is not possible to distinguish between a treatment and a control group.

Transparency and ethics

> It ensures **transparency** and **ethical concerns** relating to specific analytical issues and the context of evaluation.

Flexibility and adaptability

> It analyzes the **expansion of both individual and collective opportunities**, taking into account territorial features, and embraces **overall community level dynamics**, dealing with both the project's outcomes and processes.
> It takes into account **immaterial dimensions** of people's lives and community life (e.g. confidence, social exclusion, institutional change).

MAIN STRENGTHS

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

“Evaluating our international cooperation project in Kiev through a participatory methodology based on the capability approach allowed our organization to measure the effective achievement of our objectives and to design future strategies. This methodology fostered processes of learning and empowerment, based on the recognition of beneficiaries' and local stakeholders' decision-making capacities throughout the evaluation process. ”

Cristina Cornelli

*Programme Manager – Health & Food Sovereignty
Soleterre - Strategie di pace ONLUS*

“The participatory methodology elaborated by ARCO has been particularly helpful since it allowed us to get closer to the beneficiaries' perspective and to measure to what extent we are having a real impact on their lives and communities. ”

Maria José Pinilla Caldés

*Director of the Global Health Centre
Tuscany Regional Government*

“Assessing the empowerment of people and institutions requires specific tools for data collection and analysis. In its assessment of the effectiveness of the project AVCPO, the methodology deployed by ARCO has allowed a deep and coherent understanding of strengths and weaknesses in the promoted development process toward its full ownership by local stakeholders. ”

Tiberio Chiari

*Technical Director at IAO
Overseas Agronomic Institute, technical-scientific
branch of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

THE TEAM



The team working on impact evaluation successfully integrates the expertise and experiences of its members: economists, statisticians and political scientists. ARCO, Associate Member of 3IE – International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, has conducted evaluations in Italy and abroad (Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Nepal, Uganda, Ukraine, etc.), gaining positive recognition for the quality and transparency of its work.

“The research conducted by ARCO within the EuropeAid project UmanamENTE aimed at evaluating the impact of decentralized cooperation projects, particularly the Oxfam Italy rural development project strengthening cooperatives of coffee producers in the Dominican Republic. For our organization it has been particularly relevant to assess how our intervention had significant effects on the quality of life of the cooperatives' members, going far beyond the expected economic outcomes. The evaluation methodology provided an important vision to our work, helping us to adopt a people-centred development approach. ”

Caterina Marchioro

*EuropeAid Project Coordinator “UmanamENTE
Oxfam Italia*

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