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Learning from Evaluations

A Review of Mid-Term Evaluations of USAID-funded
Food Security Development Programs from 2015-2020





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Objective:

Share findings from the report:

Learning from Evaluations

*A Review of 16 Mid-Term Evaluations of
USAID-funded Food Security Development*

Programs from 2015-2020.

Presenters

Arif Rashid, Acting Division Chief, DMEAL Division, USAID/BHA
Introductions

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Report Author and Presenter

Tom Spangler, IMPEL Director, Save the Children
Moderator

Introduction

Mid-term Evaluations or Reviews included in this review

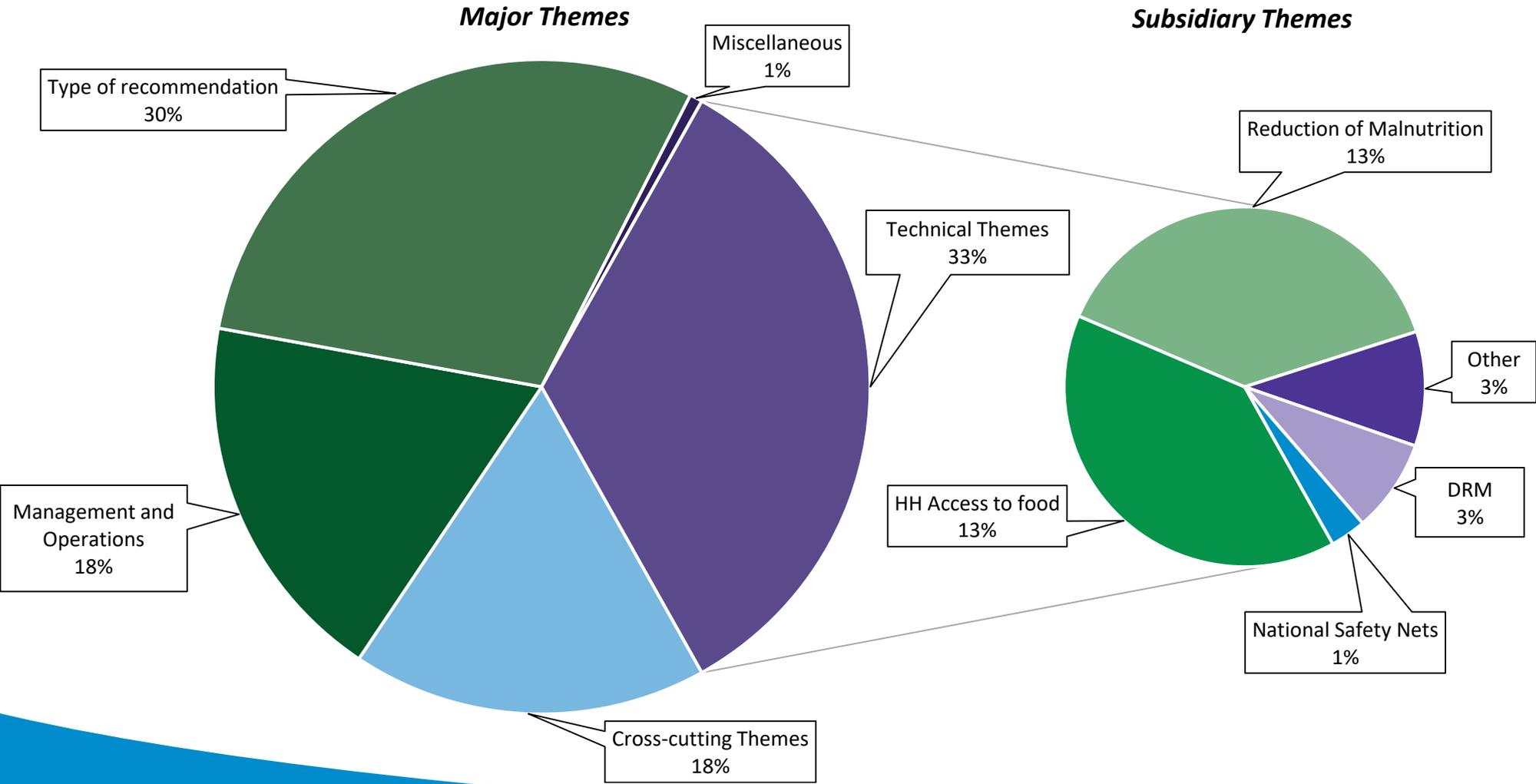
Country	DFAP/DFSA	Report Finalized
Bangladesh	Nobo Jatra	2018
	SHOUHARDO III	2018
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Budikadidi	2020
	FSP-Enyanya	2020
	Tuendelee Pamoja II	2020
Ethiopia	Ethiopia Livelihoods and Resilience Program	2019
	Targeted Response for Agriculture, Income and Nutrition	2019
	Tigray Productive Safety Net Program 4	2019
	Strengthen PSNP4 Institutions and Resilience	2019
Guatemala	PAISANO	2015
	SEGAMIL	2015
Haiti	Kore Lavi	2016
Madagascar	ASOTRY	2017
	Fararano	2017
Malawi	UBALE	2017
	Njira	2017

Quantitative Analytical Framework

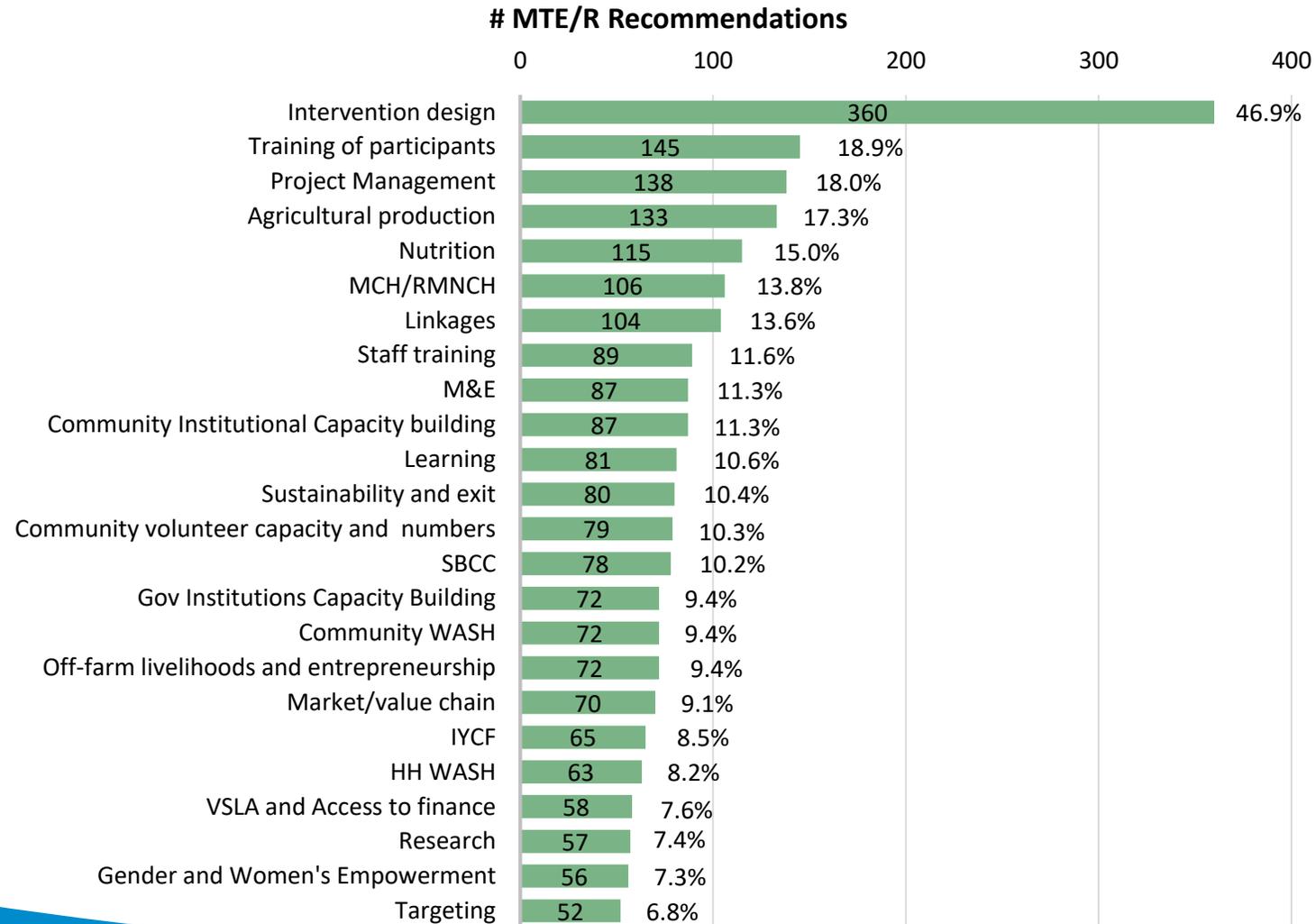
Themes and categories used for recommendation analysis

Major Themes	Subsidiary Themes
TECHNICAL THEMES	Household (HH) Access to Food: Agricultural production and value chains, post-harvest and storage, off-farm livelihoods and entrepreneurship, agricultural extension, migration and remittances, employment and workforce development, and access to capital
	Reduction of Malnutrition: MCH/RMNCH, IYCF, rations, conditional cash transfers, homestead/kitchen gardens, nutrition, and household WASH
	Other: Literacy, natural resource management (NRM), conflict mitigation, climate change, community WASH
	Disaster Risk Management (DRM): DRR and DRM, plan development, information sharing, infrastructure/public works, mitigation interventions
	National Safety Nets: Vulnerability targeting, cash and/or vouchers, early warning, safety net capacity building
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES	
Sustainability and exit, gender and women's empowerment, gender-based violence (GBV), male engagement, youth, private sector engagement, mobile approaches, good local governance, community institutions capacity building, government institutions capacity building, FFW/FFA, community volunteer capacity building and numbers, community volunteer incentives and motivation	
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS	
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), M&E design, data quality, indicators, Theory of Change, learning, program quality, staff training, commodity management, staffing, project management, USAID recommendations (i.e. recommendations made to USAID by the MTE/R evaluation team), Refine and Implement	
TYPE OF RECOMMENDATION	
Training of participants, SBCC, research, integration, community accountability, strategy, small grants, intervention design, linkages, impacting indirect participants, targeting	
MISCELLANEOUS	
Anything that does not fit under the above categories and which did not warrant a separate category	

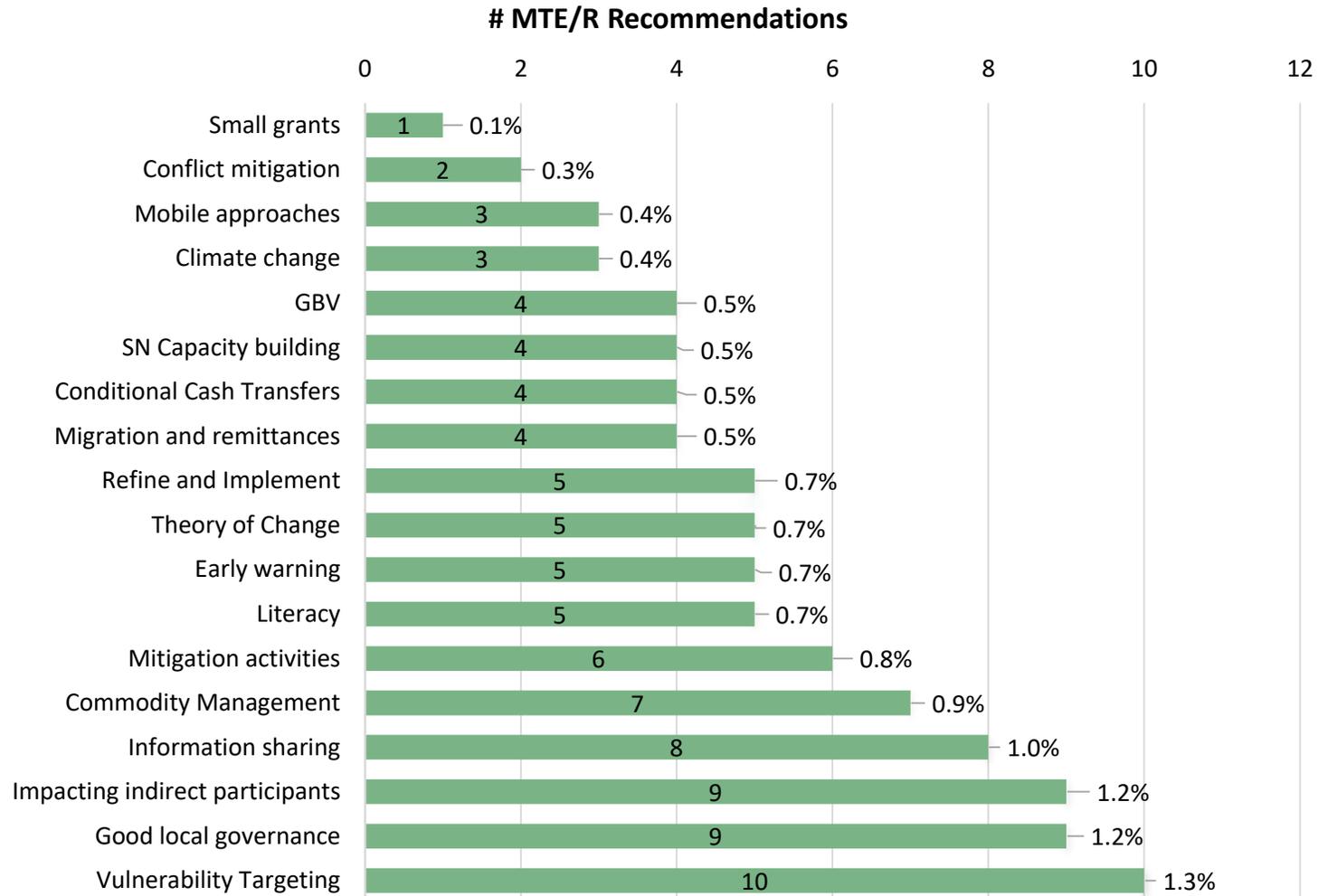
Breakdown of recommendations by theme



Highest occurring categories by number and percentage of recommendations



Lowest occurring categories by number and percentage of recommendations



Qualitative Analysis:

Themes and Trends arising from the MTE/Rs

Cross-Cutting Themes

- **Number of Interventions**
 - Too many interventions
 - Narrow down number of interventions to those that have the best chance of sustainability
 - Reduce the workload of community volunteers
- **Quality of Activity Interventions**
 - Low quality of SBC approaches
 - Low quality of training provided to participants
 - Lack of refresher training courses
 - Insufficient focus on the quality and appropriateness of promoted technologies (especially in agriculture)
 - Non-adoption of promoted technologies (especially in agriculture)
 - Inadequate tailoring of support packages for target groups

Qualitative Analysis:

Themes and Trends arising from the MTE/Rs

Cross-Cutting Themes

- **Sustainability**
 - Lack of, and/or insufficient knowledge of, sustainability plans
 - Dependency/entitlement mentality
 - Private sector “fee for service” models of service delivery
 - Public sector extension services not likely to be sustainable
 - Motivation of volunteers
- **Targeting and Reach of Activities**
 - Difficulty of reaching or servicing remote areas effectively
- **Collaboration with, and Learning from, Other Activities**
 - There were many recommendations suggesting greater collaboration and sharing of approaches, manuals, etc. between DFAPs/DFSAs in the same country
 - Similar to the above bullet, most MTE/Rs had recommendations about increasing collaboration with other donor-funded projects in the same area
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Most MTE/Rs had recommendations about the need for layering and integration of different activity interventions at the household level
 - Lack of knowledge of and lack of use of baseline data

Qualitative Analysis:

Themes and Trends arising from the MTE/Rs

Sector-Specific Trends

- **Agriculture and Livelihoods**

- Promotion of income-generating interventions, in particular for youth and women
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were universally viewed as successful and sustainable interventions
- Access to quality livestock feeds

- **Health and Nutrition**

- Lack of understanding of the importance of the 1,000-day approach amongst both participants and, sometimes, staff
- Linked to the above, community members were sometimes unclear that the purpose of the nutrition food and cash transfers was specifically to address nutrition needs of PLWs and children under 2.
- Strengthening the training of nutrition promoters, lead mothers, and community health volunteers
- Supervision of community nutrition and health volunteers
- Purpose of, and capacity for, anthropometric measurement
- Improving the quality of home visits
- In some more recent MTE/Rs there were recommendations about moving from food to cash/voucher transfers
- Issues with the distribution of kitchen garden seeds

Qualitative Analysis:

Themes and Trends arising from the MTE/Rs

Sector-Specific Trends

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**
 - Water management financing issues
 - Water quality testing
 - Uptake of improved WASH practices could be improved significantly
 - Latrines problems including the cost and quality of construction and ongoing maintenance
- **Youth**
 - Many recommendations indicated that youth were not being reached effectively by the activities, in particular with respect to livelihoods interventions
- **Gender**
 - Gender was often viewed by DFAPs/DFSAs as an area addressed in silos of 'gender' groups (e.g. women's and men's groups) rather than being integrated across all interventions
 - Gender integration is more than just collecting gender disaggregated data

Qualitative Analysis:

Themes and Trends arising from the MTE/Rs

Sector-Specific Trends

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (MEAL)**
 - Too many indicators to be collected
 - MEAL systems not serving learning agendas and adaptive management
 - Data management systems
 - Inadequate data quality:
 - Lack of knowledge of qualitative M&E methodologies
 - Lack of monitoring of program implementation quality
- **Miscellaneous/Other**
 - Quality and quantity of food/cash for assets interventions
 - Recommendations about the need to strengthen community-level governance
 - For more recent activities implemented under the R&I process: Limiting the number of research activities to those critical for refining the activity design and implementation plan



Photo Credit: Martin Khamunwe / Save the Children

Questions?



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Thank you!

Please take a moment to fill out our brief evaluation:
www.ideal.events/impel

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