Evaluation – levels of data analysis

Raw data

Level 1 analysis

Collate, sort or organise data into meaningful categories or groups and present it in a coherent way. Well-crafted evaluation tools can build Level 1 analysis into the data collection tool. The focus is on: What information do I have and how can I present it?

Level 2 analysis

Undertake more complex analysis that explores what the data means. What are the patterns and relationships in the organised data and how do I make sense of them? What explanations and narratives outline why this is the case?

One or several possible explanations may emerge - it is important to identify them all.

Level 3 analysis

Consider the Level 2 outcomes in the context of the bigger picture. What do the outcomes mean in relation to the program and the context it operates in? Why does the program work better in some situations or for some people more than others? How do social, cultural or political contexts shape the program's scope and outcomes?

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