

Outcome Harvesting as a Feminist and Localised MEL Approach

Learning from an IMS Pilot Project in Pakistan

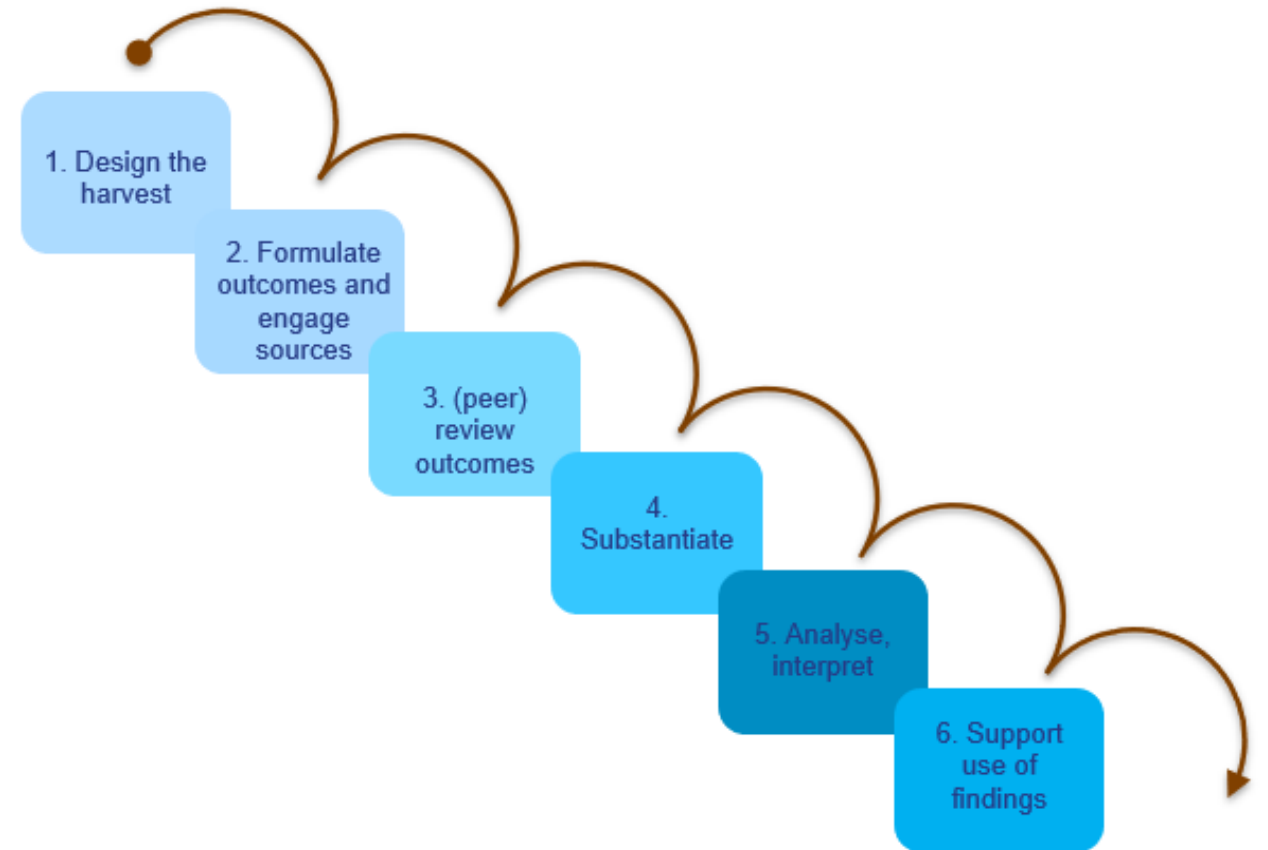
Outcome Harvesting (OH) 6 steps and key concepts

Non-linear

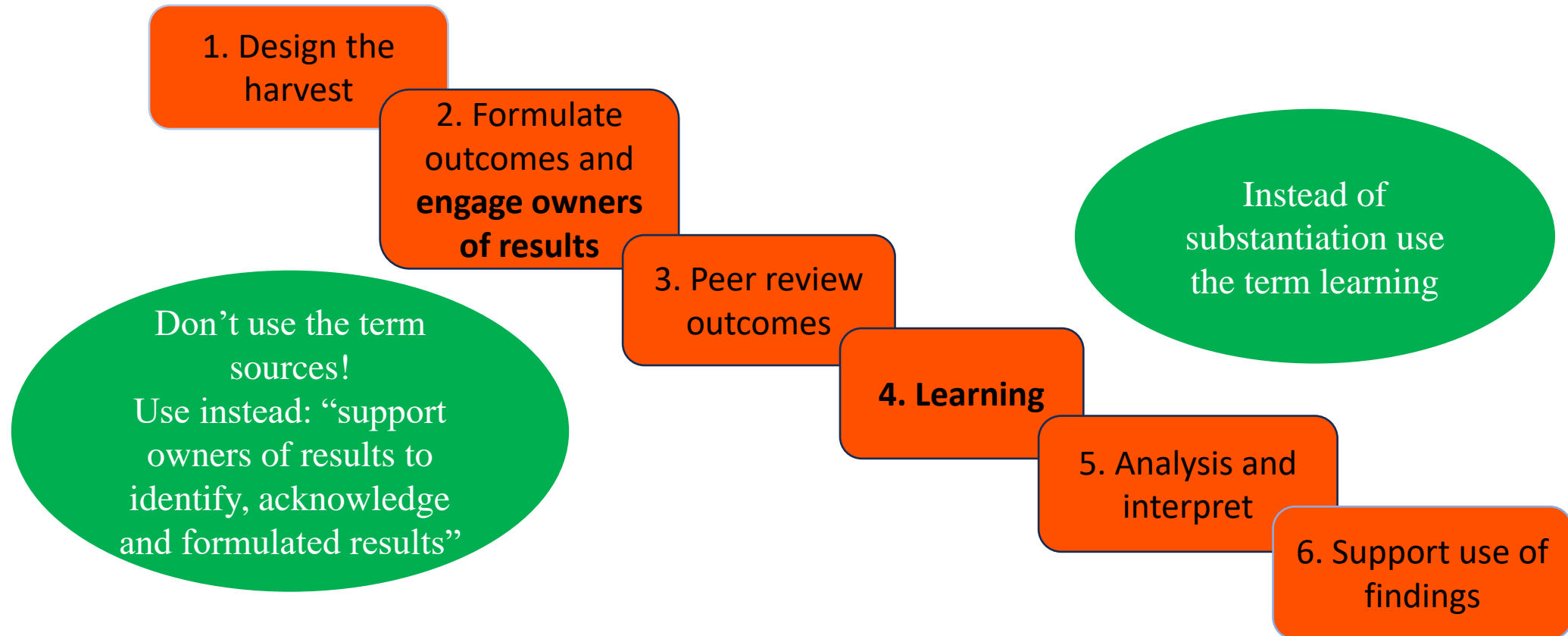
Good for complex contexts

Key concepts:

- Start with what has changed
- Outcomes as behavioural change
- Sphere of control / influence / concern
- Contribution over attribution
- Participation



Outcome Harvesting – 6 steps with a feminist lens



6 steps in Outcome Harvesting

Pay attention to power-relations throughout the process

Value diverse voices over well-formulated outcome descriptions in English

1. Design the harvest

2. Formulate outcomes and engage owners of results

3. Peer review outcomes

4. Learning

5. Analysis and interpret

6. Support use of findings

Avoid too high focus on written outcomes experiment with audio, interviews etc.

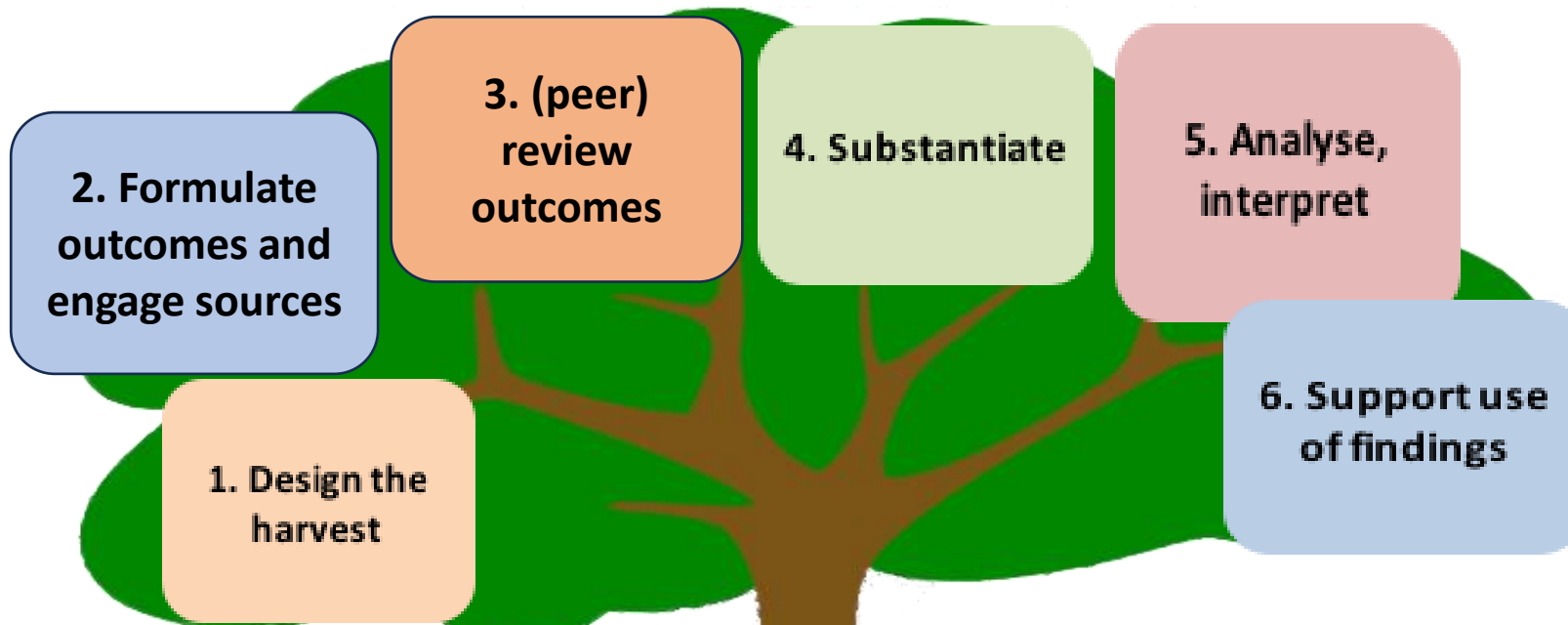
Include M&E questions on equality, gender and gender transformative changes

Ensure a gender balance among the external stakeholder involved in learning

Analysis must address gender transformative changes

Ensure that the process and findings are useful to the owners of results and the partners

Make sure to harvest “side effects”, these can reveal patriarchic patterns and resistance to gender equality



Process principles

Content principles

- I. Ensure usefulness throughout the harvest
- II. Nurture appropriate participation
- III. Coach sources to formulate outcomes
- IV. Strive for less because it will be more useful
- V. Learn Outcome Harvesting experientially

- VI. Harvest social change outcomes
- VII. Formulate an outcome as an observable change
- VIII. Establish plausible influence of the intervention
- IX. Ensure credible-enough outcomes

Partners and owners of results must define what appropriate participation is

Discuss what is considered legitimate data/outcome and who decides when an outcome is credible enough

Harvest **gender transformative outcomes**

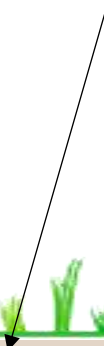
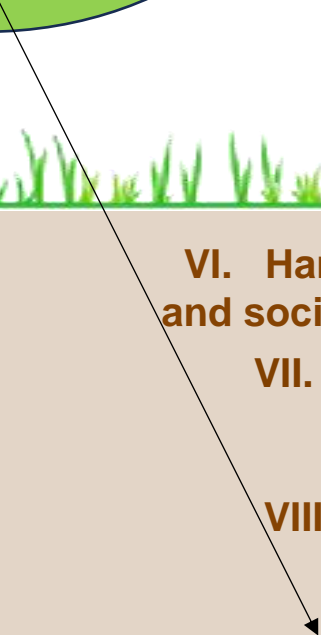
Process principles

Content principles



- I. Ensure usefulness throughout the harvest
- II. Nurture appropriate participation
- III. Coach of **owners of results** to formulate outcomes
- IV. Strive for less because it will be more useful
- V. Learn Outcome Harvesting experientially

- VI. Harvest **gender transformative** and social change outcomes
- VII. Formulate an outcome as an observable change
- VIII. Establish plausible influence of the intervention
- IX. Ensure credible-enough outcomes



Challenges and pitfalls related to using OH as a feminist MEL

- OH is developed as a Western concept, like most other programme development and MEL tools!
- Avoid making MEL a highly technical exercise
- Avoid to instrumentalize and NGO-ify smaller organisations and movements – e.g. don't roll-out a comprehensive approach to all steps, unless its meaningful for the partners
- Balancing more innovative methods with donor requirements – the role of translating and bridging

Plus many more challenges!

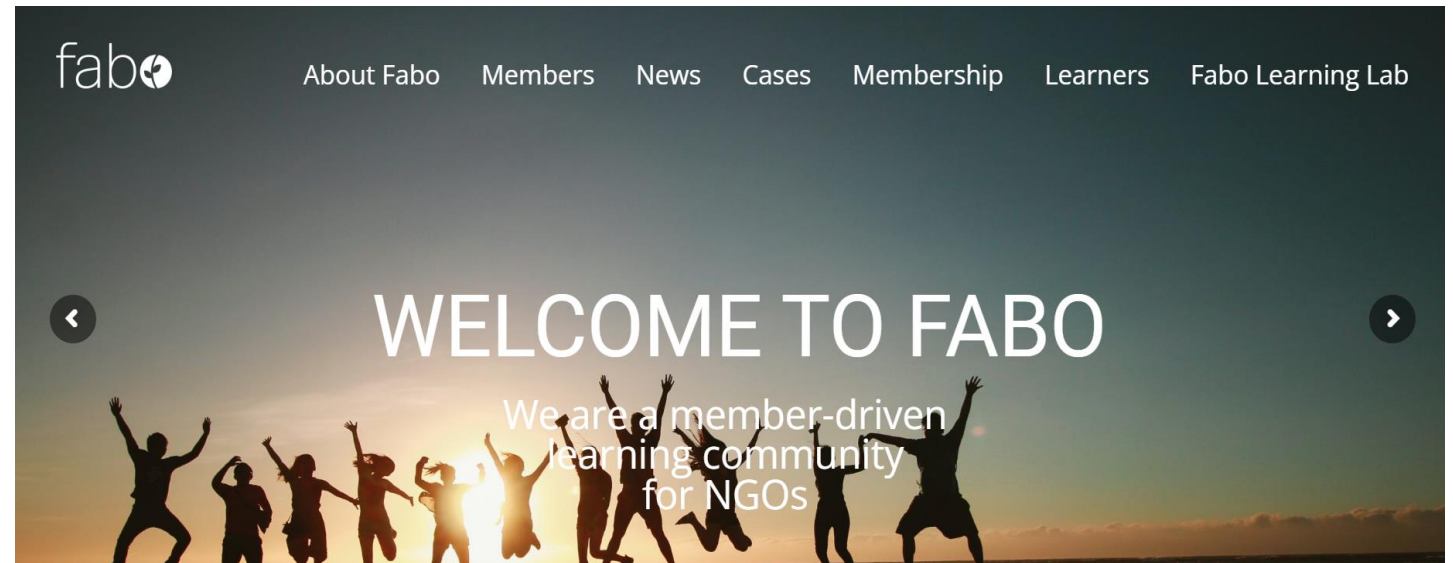
Feminism entail a practice of criticism - continue to unpack methods

OH as a feminist localized MEL approach - next steps

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Waqas Naeem,
wna@mediasupport.org

Helene Bach,
hba@mediasupport.org



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"What is valued, measured, assessed and determined to be meaningful is often determined by donors or mainstream evaluators. A collaborative approach that continues throughout the relationship... supports feminist approaches to MEL."

**-
Wyatt, Alyna, et al. (2021), Feminist Approaches to Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning, Equality Fund & Genesis Analytics, June 2021**

“Feminist MEL doesn’t care about the specific tool, but about how it’s applied”

Clara Desalvo, independent consultant, former MEL advisor at FRIDA



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