



Welcome!



**CAUSAL
PATHWAYS**

The Causal Pathways Initiative

Making visible the "black box" of philanthropic and systems change strategies, helping us collectively see how systems are (or are not) changing

An international network of evaluators, methodologists, philanthropic leaders, and more.

Focused on supporting philanthropy, other funders and their evaluation partners to open-up the black box of strategy and systems change by **building awareness, will, and skills to use evaluation approaches that can make sense of causal relationships** without depending on more traditional experimental and quasi-experimental approaches.



Using Outcome Harvesting to Explore Causal Pathways

Presented by Carlisle Levine and Hippolyt Pul

Presenters



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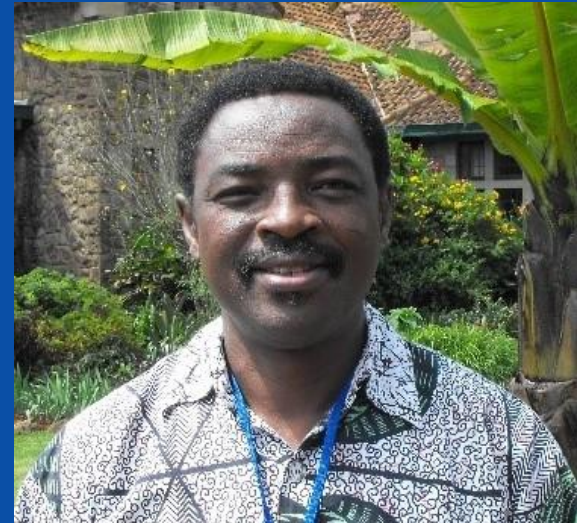


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www.ipdafricda.org

Session agenda

- Session purpose
- Outcome harvesting overview
- Tweaking outcome harvesting to explore causal pathways
- Case study
- Discussion

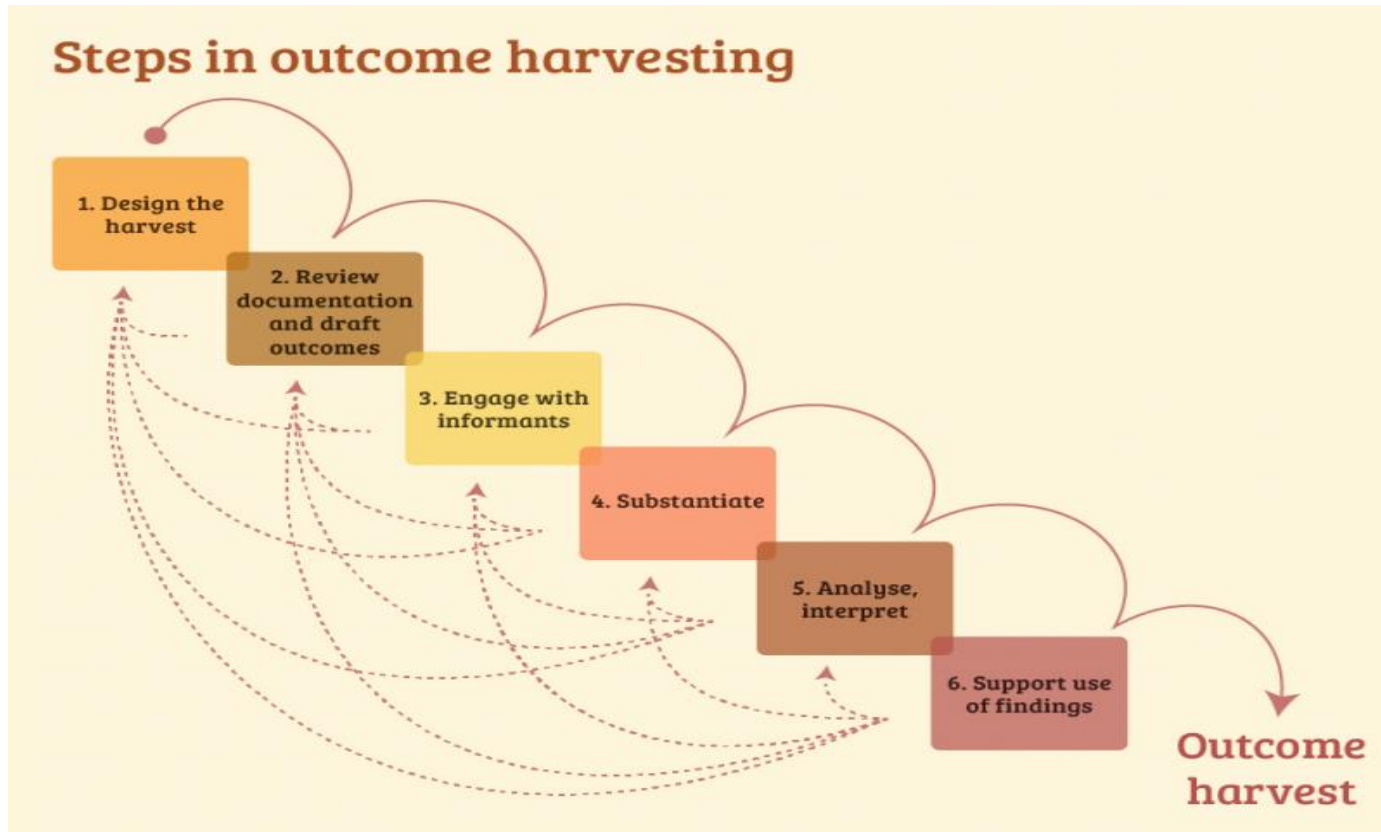


Session purpose

- To talk about how we can use outcome harvesting to better understand causal pathways.



Overview of outcome harvesting



Wilson-Grau, Ricardo. *Outcome Harvesting*. BetterEvaluation. <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/outcome-harvesting>

Tweaking outcome harvesting to explore causal pathways

Traditional outcome harvesting questions ask:

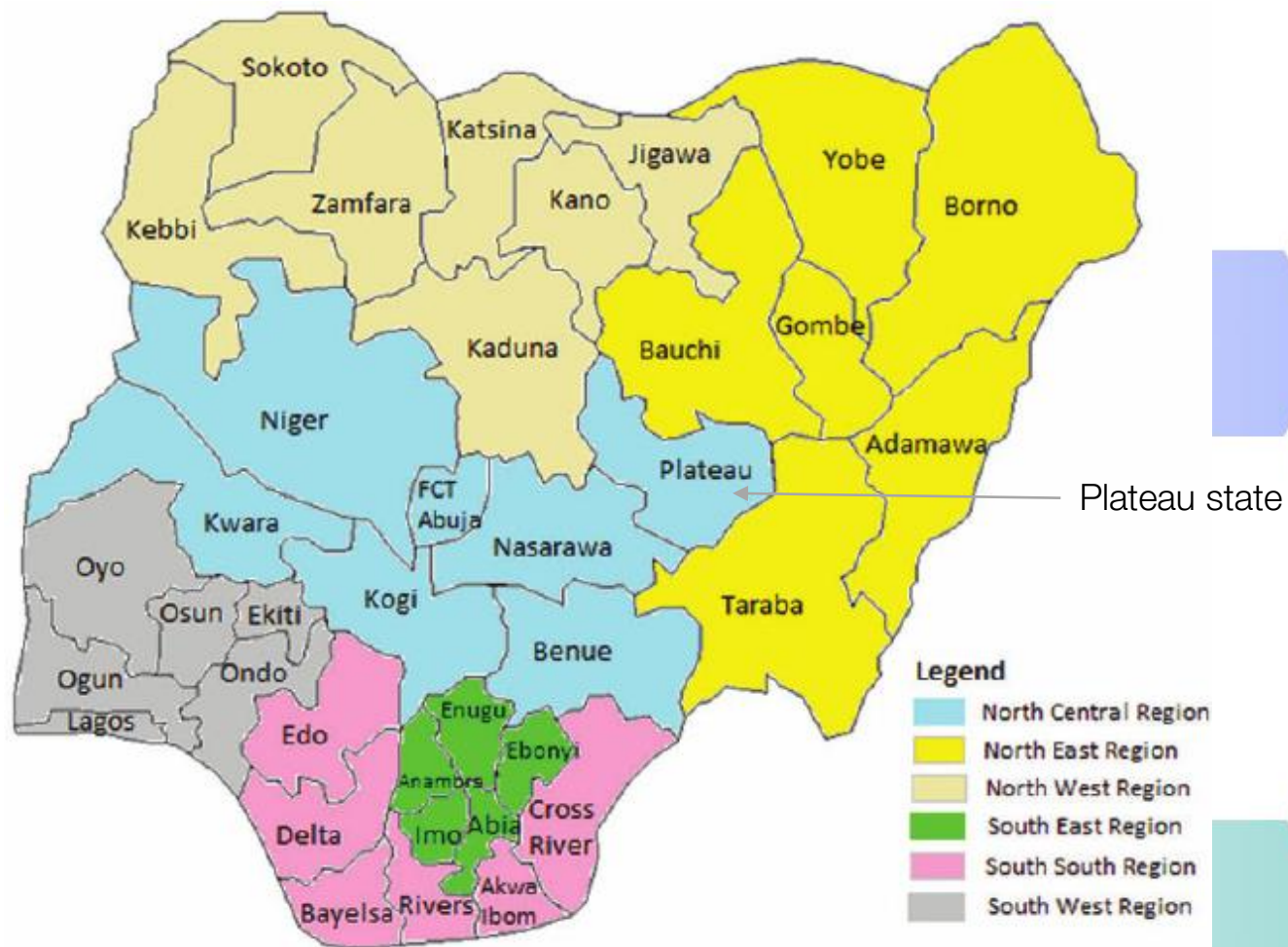
- What change happened?
- Who contributed to it?
- How do we know this?
- Why is this important?

When we adapt outcome harvesting to explore causal pathways, we add:

- How did this change come about?



A case study: Youth Platform for Peace, Plateau state, Nigeria



A case study: Youth Platform for Peace, Plateau state, Nigeria

Inter-religious
conflict
(Christian-
Muslim)

Herder-farmer

Interethnic
(multiple)

Identity-based youth
gangs (occultism,
drug usage, etc)

Indigenes-
Settler land
conflicts

Why outcome harvesting

Diverse groups participating differently; needed:

- **Comprehensive view of outcomes**

- positive, negative;
- planned, unplanned;
- desirable, undesirable

- **Understand how change happened**

- at different levels - who, when, why
- individual, group, community roles and actions

- **Leverage local knowledge of:**

- Change agents - disaggregated (gender, age, position, religion, etc).
- Effect of local beliefs, values, practices that affect change, how and why?



Ensuring Credibility and Robustness in Data Collection

Data from multiple sources

- Literature review
- Individual interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Field observations

Data Analysis

- Coding, Categorization, Themes
- Triangulation between sources to confirm spread and depth of identified outcomes (credibility and rigor)
- Report out and Validation workshop

Outcome Description

Observed Changes

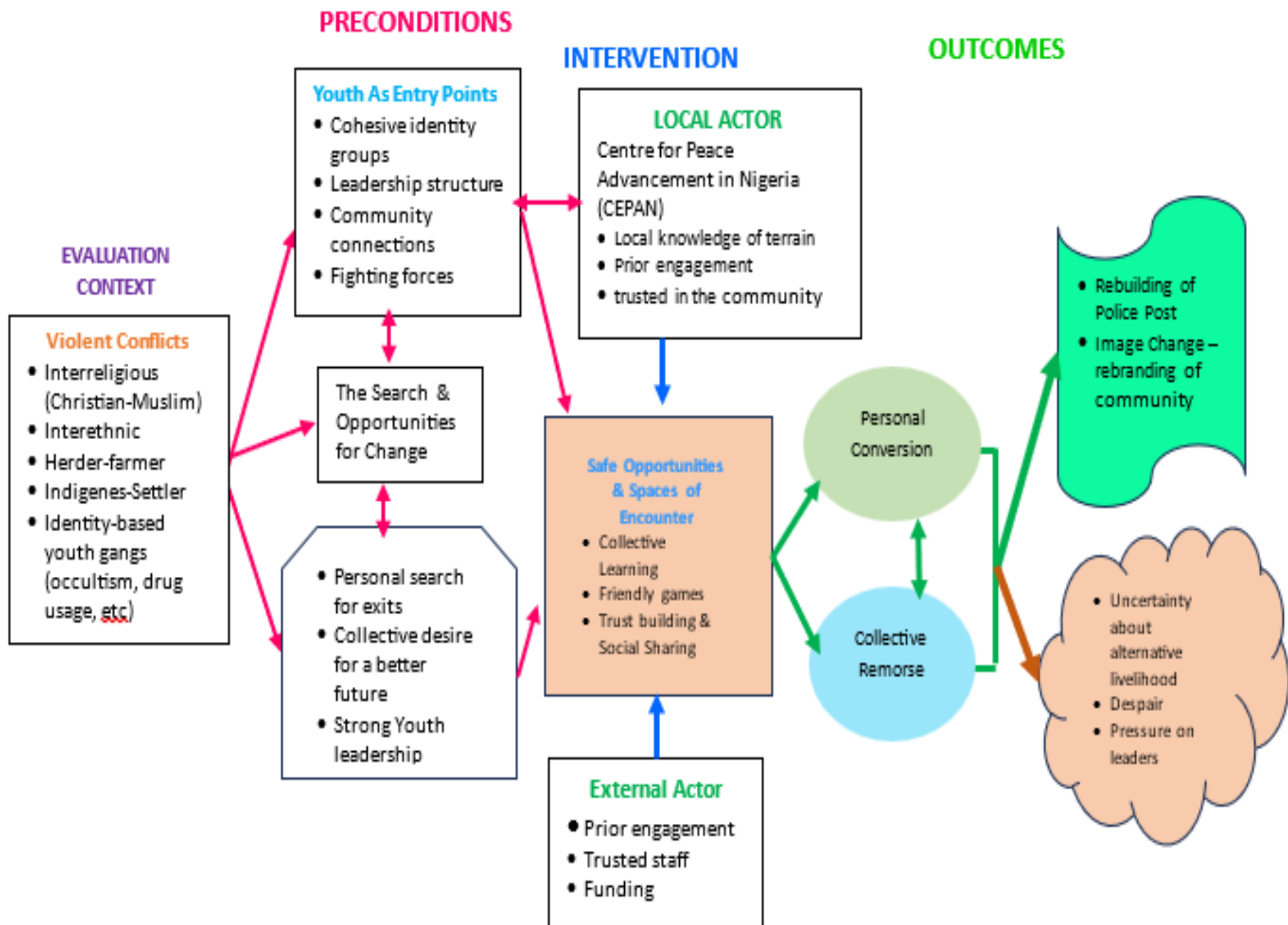
- Conversion of gang members and drug users into peacebuilders
- Rebuilding of police station the gang had destroyed
- Rebranding of gang zone from **Satan's Field** to **New Jerusalem**



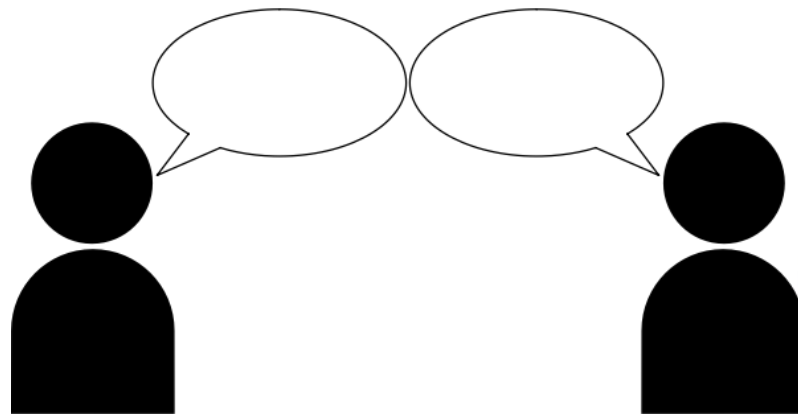
TESTIMONY: Pathways to Change

“When I joined the YPP, I was traumatized. I was looking for personal help but later I stepped down the knowledge and skills I had gained. Later we added extracurricular activities such as the organization of soccer matches and other games. Also, at the end of Ramadan Muslims organized meals and invited Christians; during the fasting period, Muslims usually invite Christians to come and break the fast with them. Christians also respond during Christmas and Easter as they also invite Muslims for meals. Muslims do go to the church for weddings or burial of the dead” (HP-06-Angwan Rukuba-6/5/2018).





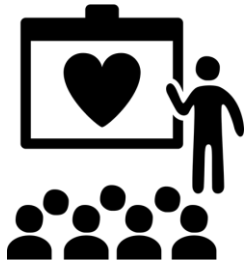
Discussion



References

Wilson-Grau, R. and Britt H. (2013) Outcome Harvesting, Ford Foundation MENA Office, May 2012 (Revised November 2013), accessed 10 October 2020 from https://www.outcomemapping.ca/download/wilsongrau_en_Outome%20Harvesting%20Brief_revised%20Nov%202013.pdf

Resources from the Causal Pathways Initiative

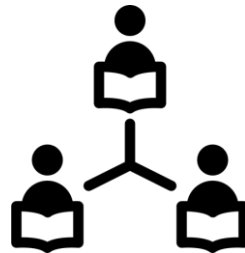


Presentations & trainings to build understanding and will

American Evaluation Association

Available to attend other events by request

Virtual 101 level training available on request



Resources to support understanding and action

Pending:
BetterEvaluation.com updated resource hub on causal pathways

Case studies to provide overall stories and more detailed examples



Learning and acting together with support

Brain Trust to help funders work through tough questions with field experts

Pending: Peer learning spaces and early career support