A project ends. What remains?

MSD foundations & programme design

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What should Uganda’s development funding leave behind? Use IAM’s experience to ask who will keep providing a useful service, who will pay and who might be excluded.

IAM: building a market for food-quality services

The USAID-funded Feed the Future Uganda Inclusive Agricultural Markets Activity (FtF IAM), implemented by DAI with TechnoServe and MarketShare Associates, worked through market actors rather than treating a training event as the final outcome. Its processed-food certification brief describes collaboration with Food Safety Associates, Partners in Food Solutions, local consultants and UNBS.

The intervention combined sector-wide training with tailored technical support and learning events. The intention was to help processors improve practices and develop demand for locally available certification advice. A July 2022 tracer study covered 33 processors. It reported interest and actions towards quality compliance, but several influences operated together, including enforcement. The study does not isolate a causal effect of training.

What the Activity did

1. Convened processors around quality requirements and commercial incentives.

2. Supported tailored technical assistance and local certification advisers.

3. Used processor learning events to share experience and stimulate demand.

Evidence boundary

Programme learning evidence, not an independent causal estimate or proof of national systemic change.

What this means for future design

UMSDN editorial interpretation

For a future programme, the lasting function is access to credible, useful quality advice. Ask whether advisers can serve processors at an affordable cost and whether processors have reasons to pay. Public enforcement and food safety can matter even where buyers do not offer a premium.

A project should record the provider, payer and expected benefit before selecting its instrument. A grant may test a service; a regulatory change may address a rule; household support may help people participate. These instruments address different constraints. Their suitability needs investigation in the chosen market.

The question for discussion

When is continued subsidy justified—and what evidence should determine whether it continues, changes or ends?

Try this with your team

Choose one supported service. Name its users, provider and payer after support. Identify the weakest assumption and one piece of evidence that would justify continuing, redesigning or stopping it.

Read the source. Share your view.

Catalyzing demand for quality in Uganda through processed foods certification

FtF IAM learning brief; July 2022 tracer study. Original authors and programme credits are retained in the source.

https://beamexchange.org/resources/resource-library/2103/

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