



THE BARK!, THE BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CEDARS

JUNE–JULY 2011

In the CEDARS Café⁺

A good place for just posting what comes to mind

The Lancet has published a letter from MEASURE Evaluation staff about evaluation in a complex environment. The letter states: “We endorse the view of Cesar Victora and colleagues (Jan 1, p 85) that traditional evaluation designs are limited in today’s complex global health environment. The national evaluation platform approach proposed will require the linking of multiple data sources at the district level to permit analysis of programme effectiveness. Geographic identifiers are a key to linking data sources from both vertical programme and more integrated information systems.”

Share your thoughts/comments on the [CEDARS Café!](#)

SHOUT Group Discussion⁺ Update

Recently, “the House of Representatives has passed a budget resolution to:

- 1) slash U.S. food aid programs by 41% (\$687 million);
- 2) slash OFDA funding by 67% (\$875 million);
- 3) cut development assistance by 30% (\$747 million); and
- 4) cut global health and childhood survival programs by 15% (\$365 million) from FY 2010 enacted levels.

These cuts are both disproportionate and morally unacceptable, and would deny roughly 18 million poor and vulnerable people life-saving help. Since these programs account for less than one-half of 1 percent of the total federal budget, cutting them to the bone will have absolutely no measurable impact on the federal deficit. Instead, it will result in millions of people around the world falling deeper into poverty.”

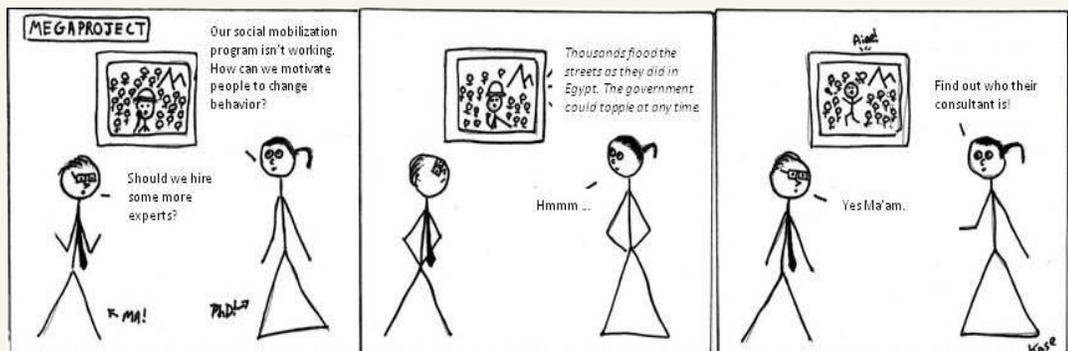
Logon to the [discussion forum](#) to read about Tom Davis’s call to action regarding this issue.

⁺ *Since these discussions were posted in the last couple of months, we have started a blog (see What’s New?)—we’d like to see participants use the blog and may phase the forums out in the future.*

Welcome New Members

We heartily welcome **Sharon Arcscott-Mills** to our team. She is based in Chapel Hill, NC, and will become a key player of CEDARS. SHOUT members will remember her and join us in welcoming her back.

Other good news: **Jennifer Yourkavitch** has decided to stick around and is still on board with the CEDARS Center! Welcome back, Jennifer!



This Bark’s cartoon provided by Aaron Kase, ex-Peace Corps Volunteer and enduring philosopher of development.

What’s New?

CEDARS. Has. A. Blog! on Sustainable Human & Social Development! Check out the site (<http://cedarscenter.blogspot.com>) to view some of the interesting postings on topics such as:

- The current focus on **food security**, and why we feel it has to be an area of emphasis if we look at sustaining health outcome and human development.
- Insights from workshop at the Cyprus Institute, on “**Advancing Research and Science in Conflict Areas**”; the ubiquitous importance of social capital to advance and sustain any social progress. This workshop was organized by the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO) and it was a wonderful opportunity for CEDARS to participate.
- Link to *The Lancet* series of six papers that critically examine what Brazil’s health policies have achieved and where future challenges lie.

Shaking the Tree From our Resources

The recording of a Sustainability 101 presentation organized by IntraHealth has now been uploaded on our [Resources](#) page. IntraHealth hosted a brown bag event on Thursday, April 21, in collaboration with SHOUT. Eric Sarriot presented a 1.5-hour session in three sections: (1) Current Thinking/Understanding Sustainability Thinking Within a Complex System Approach; (2) Rapid Review of Recent Retrospective and Prospective Sustainability Evaluations in Primary Health Care (Nepal, Bangladesh, Guinea; and (3) Sustainability Framework 101. The first part starts after the first 7 minutes of introduction. Thanks to IntraHealth for this initiative and for providing the recording of the Elluminate session!

Presentations from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment’s ICARUS II conference (May 5–8, 2011) have also been uploaded. We led the discussion of Panel Theme 4c, and presentations can be downloaded from their site at <http://www.icarus.info/icarus-ii-conference-presentations/>.