Example of Guidelines on How to Identify Unintended Effects M4C

Context and Unintended Impacts

In addition to getting information on specific indicators per intervention, M4C also monitors key indicators and trends in each targeted sector to ensure that the interventions remain relevant to the sector context. M4C also scans sectors for information on unintended impacts of interventions, both positive and negative.

Examples of sector indicators that M4C monitors in sectors are:

- input and product prices
- overall growth in the sector
- opportunities and threats in end markets
- changes in technology
- changing business models or norms in business relationships
- government policies, regulations or programs that affect the sector and their implementation
- changing gender roles
- other factors in the enabling environment that affect the sector such as relevant infrastructure or land ownership issues

In addition to the above, information used to detect unintended impacts [1]both positive and negative include:

- signs of market saturation
- reasons for changes in any of the above context indicators
- satisfaction of market players with the sector and changes in it
- innovation in business models
- changes in gender roles, relationships or decision making
- effects of natural disasters or other shocks in the sector

These indicators and information are not gathered formally. Instead the M4C team gathers this information in the course of their regular interactions with char households, service providers, lead firms and government agencies. The indicators and information are discussed at each six monthly meeting. If there are gaps in information, a plan is made and implemented to fill those gaps. At the six monthly meetings, the team analyses the information to determine if any changes in strategy are needed to ensure that the interventions are still relevant to the sector context, to mitigate any negative unintended impacts and to strengthen any positive unintended impacts.

M4C MRM Manual July 2013 (p. 25-26).

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[1] It also depends on contexts of the interventions. For some interventions, these indictors could be intended effects or key assumptions.