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***M&E for Me!:***  
**A M&E Capacity Development Package**  
**Implemented with CBOs in Thailand, China and Laos**

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# Background

Pact, Inc., with funding from USAID, developed a M&E capacity development package for HIV/AIDS care and prevention community-based organizations (CBOs) and implemented it:

- In 2010-11, with 10 CBOs in Thailand
- In 2011-13, with 7 CBOs in China
- In 2012-13, with 4 CBOs in Laos

# Presentation Outline

1. Rationale

1. Design

1. Results

- Overall Outputs

- Specific Outcomes

2. Lessons Learned

# Rationale

In community-based HIV/AIDS programs, a growing call for the participation and ownership of CBOs in M&E. As said by CBO leaders at an 2010 UNAIDS M&E regional meeting in Bangkok:

- “. . . Need to involve, empower communities in the M&E of programs, not as beneficiaries but as . . . partners.”
- “Nothing for us without us”
- “[Need] locally developed [M&E] approaches, flexible and sensitive to communities”

# Overall Design

Purpose: Develop the capacities of CBOs to design and implement participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL)

## MERL Capacities:

- Build a project logic model
- Develop a MERL plan
- Design data collection methods & tools
- Collect and manage quality data
- Analyze and interpret M&E data
- Use M&E results
- Involve project stakeholders throughout MERL

# Overall Design, con't.

- A series of 4 interactive workshops, 2-3 days each, over about one year.
- Between workshops, participants expected to facilitate similar MERL planning sessions with program stakeholders and develop specific MERL outputs.
- Pact's program and M&E officers conduct on and off-site coaching sessions to help participants facilitate and develop MERL outputs.

# Results: Overall Outputs

(Thailand, China & Laos)

- Logic models
- MERL stakeholder analyses
- MERL planning worksheets: M&E questions and indicators, data sources and collection methods
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and data flow diagrams, to ensure the quality of data
- Data analysis plans
- Data use plans

→ *Customized MERL Plans!*

# Results: Outcomes

## Measuring Outcomes from *M&E for Me!*:

- Participants' self assessment at the end of workshops:
  - “Before this workshop, how comfortable would you (as an organization) have felt .....?”*
  - “After this workshop, how comfortable do you now feel.....?”*
- Review of draft and revised sections of MERL plans
- Follow-up interviews (Thailand & China)



# M&E for Me! in Thailand

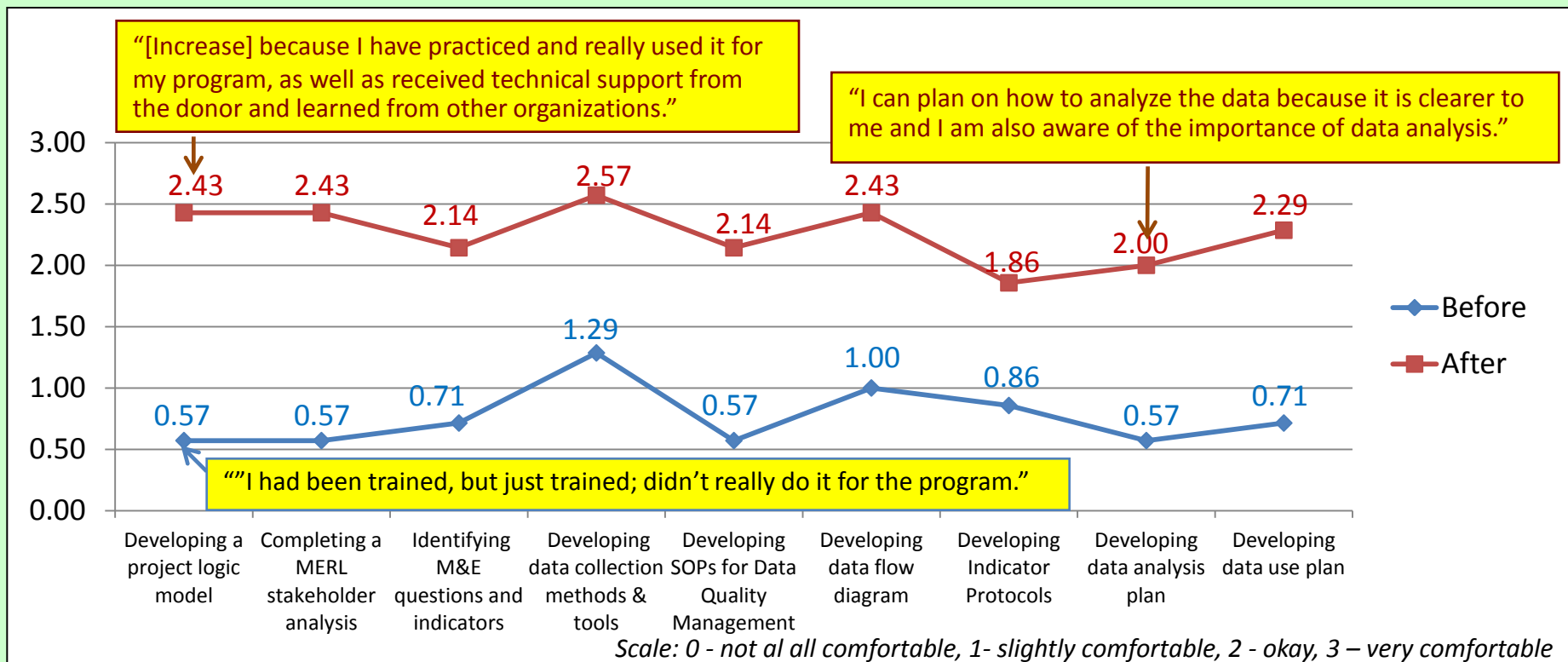
## Contextual factors

- Dates: Oct. 2010–Aug. 2011 (10 months)
- No. and type of CBOs: 10 HIV/AIDS
- Relationship: Grantees

## Inputs

- No. workshops: 4
- Follow-up: High (on-site visits, phone calls, e-mails)
- Participants' efforts: Worked on outputs outside of workshops

## Capacity Development Results



## Use

- Adjusted activities/strategies with greater focus on achieving program outcomes
- Reported/presented results to other donors and stakeholders
- Raised funds to fill gaps in both current and new projects

# M&E for Me! in China

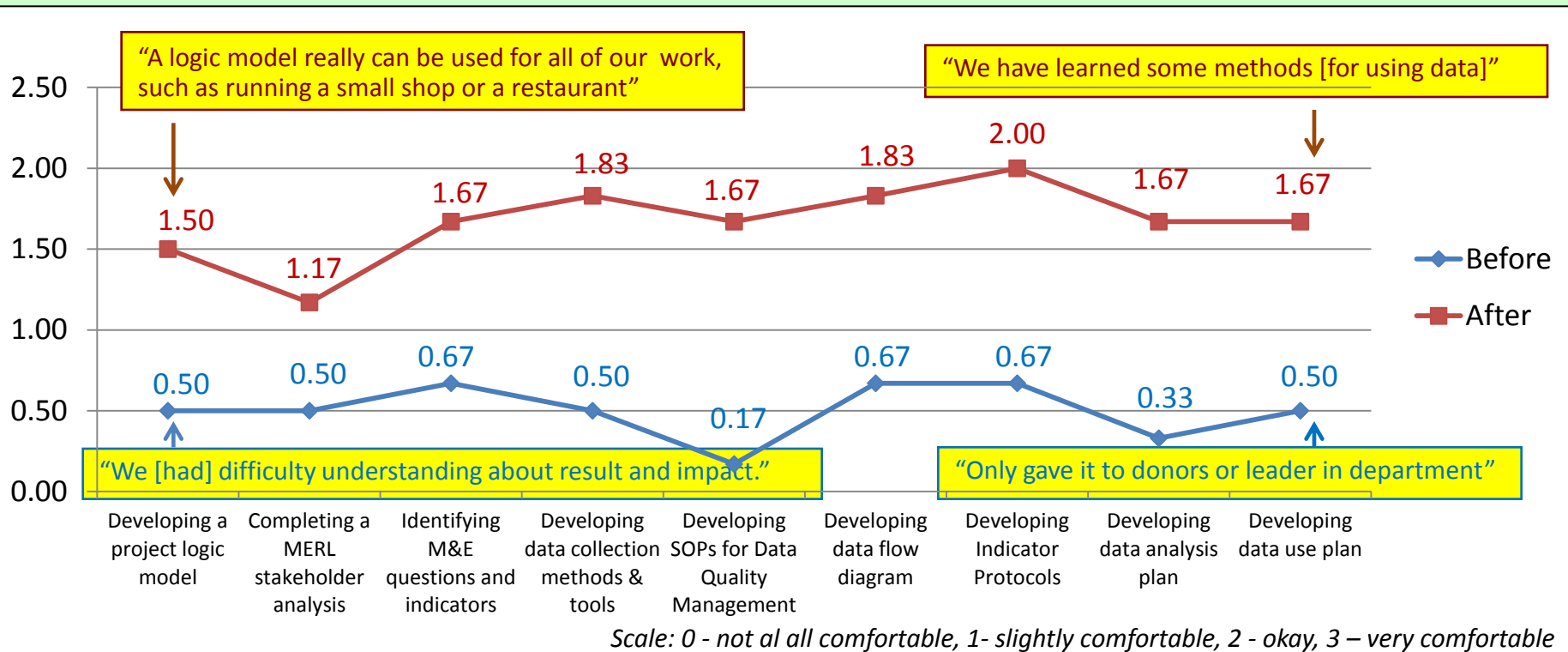
## Contextual factors

- Dates: Dec. 2011- Apr. 2013 (16 months)
- No. and type of CBOs: 7 HIV/AIDS
- Relationship: Mix of grantees & non-grantees

## Inputs

- No. workshops: 4
- Extent of follow-up: Medium (some visits, phone calls, emails)
- Participants' efforts: Some worked on outputs outside of workshops

## Capacity Development Results



## Use

- Used logic models to plan projects better for new donors
- With new skills, developed strategic plan with a MERL plan
- Participant CBO taught neighboring CBOs logic model and other MERL skills

# M&E for Me! in Laos

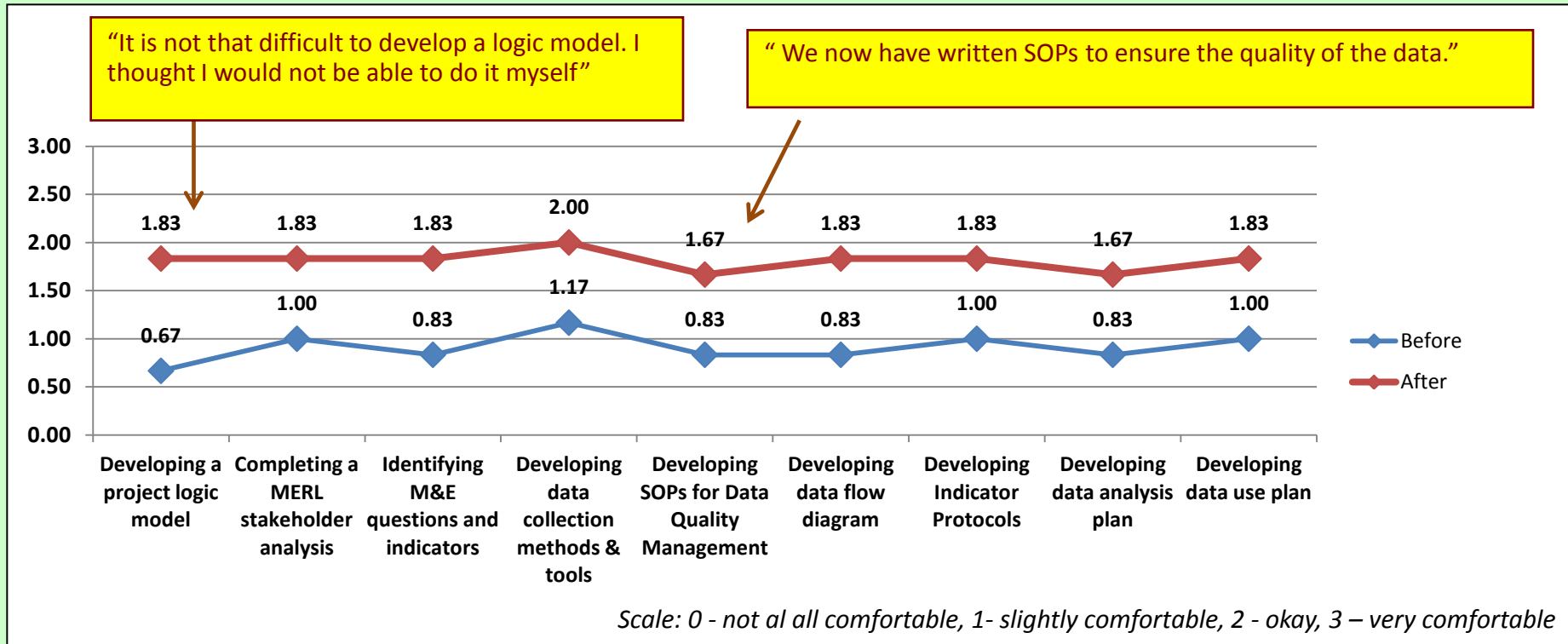
## Contextual factors

- Dates: July 2012-Feb 2013 (7 months)
- No. and type of CBOs: 4 Health
- Relationship: Non-grantees

## Inputs

- No. workshops: 3
- Extent of follow-up: Low (email reminders)
- Participants' efforts: Worked only in workshops

## Capacity Development Results



## Use

- Used logic models to revise projects' inputs and activities to better achieve objectives
- Use SOPs and data flow diagrams to monitor data quality at central and field levels

# Lessons Learned

- Need a 'package' that can be adapted to different cultural contexts, learning styles & resource levels
- Need 'bits and pieces' that can be tailored to meet the different needs of various CBOs
- Most participants rated developing logic models as the most useful component, along with peer reviews

# Lessons Learned, cont.

- The on-site coaching sessions appear critical in CBOs developing both outputs and capacities
- The iterative nature and considerable time it takes for CBOs to “own” the M&E processes and outputs
- Need to select participants carefully for continuity and ability to participate in follow-up sessions



## Questions and Discussion

