

Summary of ASC M&E System Survey

ASC conducted an open consultation on the M&E system report version 0.3 with guided questions. Twelve respondents completed the survey, providing quite detailed input and feedback, as summarized below. The overall feedback received was positive on the level of transparency and quality of the information on the M&E system. The survey also included several specific suggestions related to the standard content that have been shared with the standards and technical team to take under review.

Q1. Reviewing the M&E system report, what is your opinion on the following:

1. Overall M&E system?
2. ASC's intended change or Theory of Change - what we are trying to achieve?
3. ASC's goals and impact areas?
4. ASC strategies to achieve these goals? How we are working?

In all 4 areas, responses were 75% or more positive with either very clear and meaningful or generally makes sense. Comments were mainly of technical nature related to the standard (and not the M&E system) and were shared with the standards technical team. One suggestion was to reflect things more positively – rather than reducing negative impacts - focus on the positive outcomes. This was considered in a rapid review to frame things more positively to be more “inspirational”.

Q2. Are there any key impact areas you think are missing from this list?

The priority impact areas for the M&E scope were presented and overall, stakeholders agreed with them. Potential additional areas identified by survey respondents were all related to the standard content and have been shared with the technical team to take under consideration. Some topics are already within the standard such as legal, conflict areas and management systems. No change was made to the current list of priority impact areas for the M&E system.

Q3. Based on your experience are there potential areas for positive or negative outcomes that are not reflected here (unintended effects)?

The M&E system report highlighted several key positive and negative potential unintended outcomes. Respondents added to these areas some general suggestions – such as conducting longitudinal studies that were unrelated to the question. These were passed on to the technical team for consideration. One suggestion was to consider unintended effects specifically to smallholders; this has been integrated into the report.

Q4. Are there any assumptions that we are missing or are not clear?

The M&E system report outlines some of the key assumptions behind the cause and effect of outputs to impacts, as well as assumptions in the context in which ASC operates. Survey respondents provided several important points and/or questions that have been passed on to the technical team for consideration in both the process of setting thresholds in the standard and when creating longitudinal studies.

Q5. Your name and organization. no attribution will be made to any responses or comments.

All respondents provided name and email for further contact and information indicating interest in the process. All respondents will receive a direct email thanking them for their input and a summary of the survey.

Q6. Additional comments and questions

Half of the respondents provided some in-depth specific comments, with the majority of them positive feedback, with questions or input on technical aspects of the standards, as shared with the technical team for consideration. One respondent highlighted the need to focus on the “bottom of the pyramid” and need to drive change faster, learning from good practices more sector wide. This is important advice in developing future strategy.