Power Asymmetries in Monitoring and Evaluation

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Development Aid Arrangements

- Development Funders
  - National government
  - Implementing Partner
    - local government
    - Targeted Community
    - Local implementing partner

- Implementing Partner
Key implications of the Power Asymmetries in Evaluation

- Parallel system of development
- Funders control the development programme priorities, conceptualisation, design, implementation and evaluation.
- Monitoring and Evaluation are largely extractive.
- Long-term learning from programmes is not encouraged.
Implications cont... 

Epistemic freedom – limited recognition of indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing.

Subjugated African knowledge, values, thoughts and procedures to those of the funders (Westernised evidence).

Monitoring systems and Evaluations are accountability-focused – designed to meet the evidence needs of the Funders.

Poor translation of evidence to meet targeted community needs.
What's needs to change

- Centring monitoring and evaluation systems on the evidence needs of the community.

- Go beyond participatory data collection to co-production, co-ownership and co-use of the final product with the communities.

- Bridge the gap between the development partners and government.
Thank You