



Center for Evaluation  
and Development

# Session 3: Main lessons learned from the evaluation of EUTF interventions

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**C4ED - EUTF**

March 2024



- I. The main objectives and requirements of a counterfactual impact evaluation (CIE) (5 min)
- II. Key points for meeting the needs of a CIE (25 min)
- III. Conclusions (5 min)
- IV. Breakout sessions (50 min)

# I. The main objectives and needs of a CIE

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# The main objectives of a CIE

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## Effective:

Identify and measure the programme's **unbiased impacts** with precision.

## Relevance:

Obtaining results that **help improve future interventions**.

## Efficiency:

Measuring impact at a **low cost**.



## The main needs of an CIE



1. **Have a beneficiary (or treatment) group AND a control** (or comparison) **group in** order to create a "counterfactual".
2. **Quantitative data:**
  - on the treatment group AND the control group...
  - ... **before and after** implementation of the programme (and therefore **need time**).
3. **A sample of observations (individuals, firms, households, etc.) large enough** to have sufficient "statistical power".
4. **Programme monitoring data.**

## II. Key points for meeting the needs of a CIE

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## **I. The CIE and its technical implications:**

1. The method for selecting future beneficiaries
2. Sample size
3. Respecting the assignment of observations

## **II. Access to a centralised monitoring database**

## **III. The resources**

1. Human resources
2. Financial resources
3. Time

# 1. The CIE and its technical implications

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- Selecting future beneficiaries
- Sample size
- Respecting the assignment of observations



# 1. The CIE and its technical implications

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- **Selecting future beneficiaries**
- Sample size
- Respecting the assignment of observations

# Selecting future beneficiaries

## **Beneficiary selection = the cornerstone of a CIE**

Ideally, random selection (Randomised Controlled Trial- RCT)

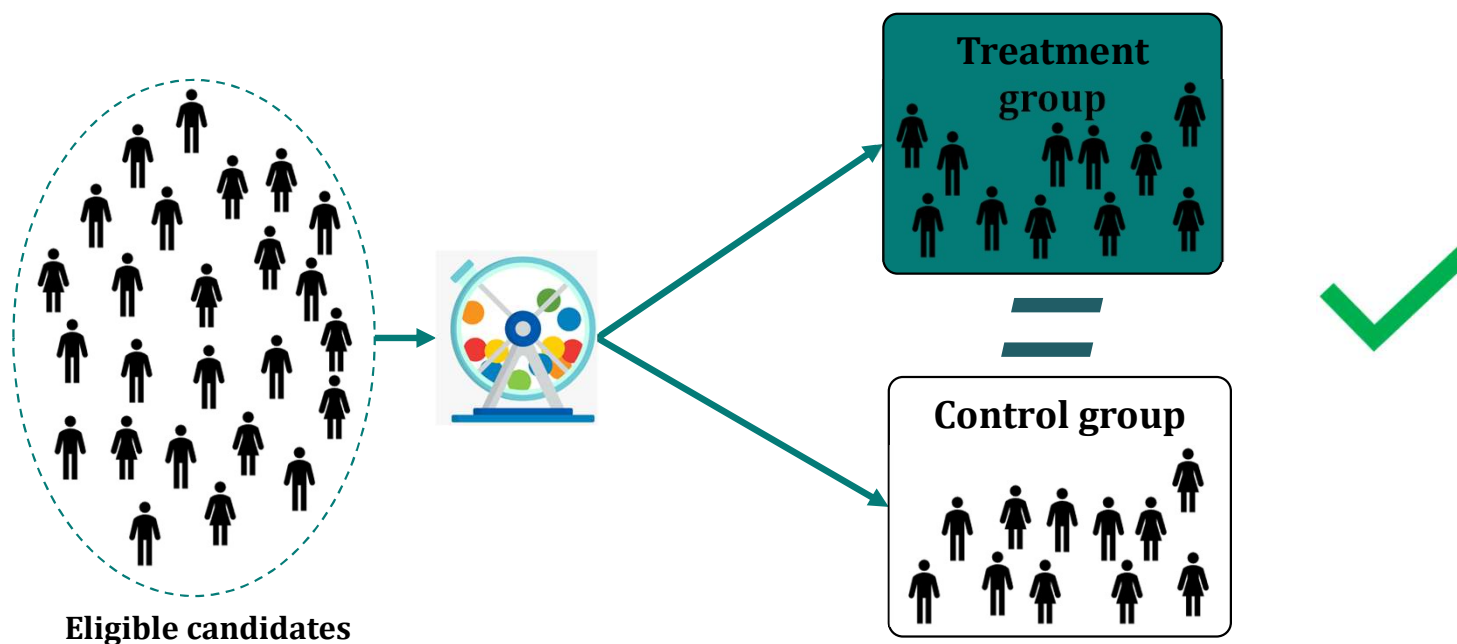
***"Communicating, agreeing and committing"***



# Selecting future beneficiaries

## Example 1: agreement on a random selection

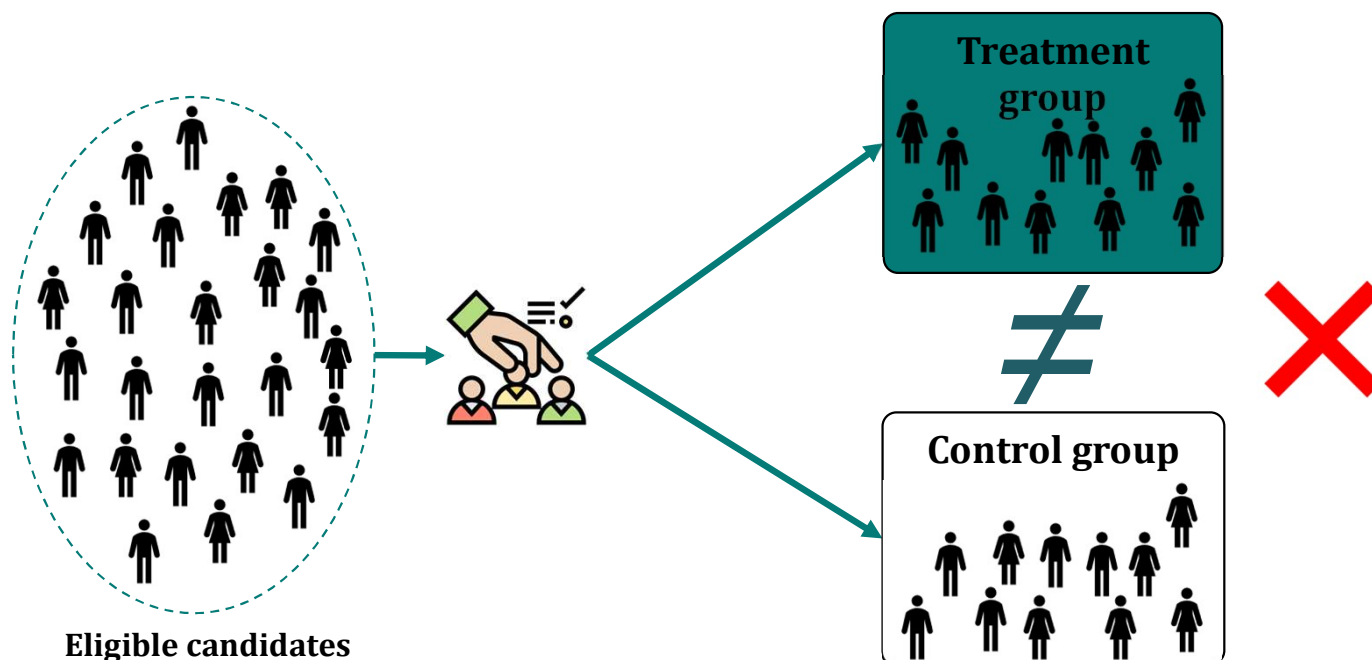
- CIE: RCT based on random selection of candidates
- Implementation: random selection of beneficiaries



# Selecting future beneficiaries

## Example 2: change in selection method

- CIE: RCT based on random selection of candidates
- Implementation: selection of beneficiaries based on an interview and quality assessments



# 1. The CIE and its technical implications

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- Selecting future beneficiaries
- **Sample size**
- Respecting the assignment of observations

**"Sample size matters"**





**Lots of pixels:**  
High resolution



**Few pixels:**  
Low resolution

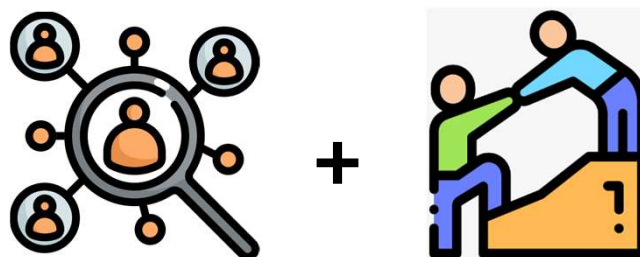
# 1. The CIE and its technical implications

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- Selecting future beneficiaries
- Sample size
- **Respecting the assignment of observations**

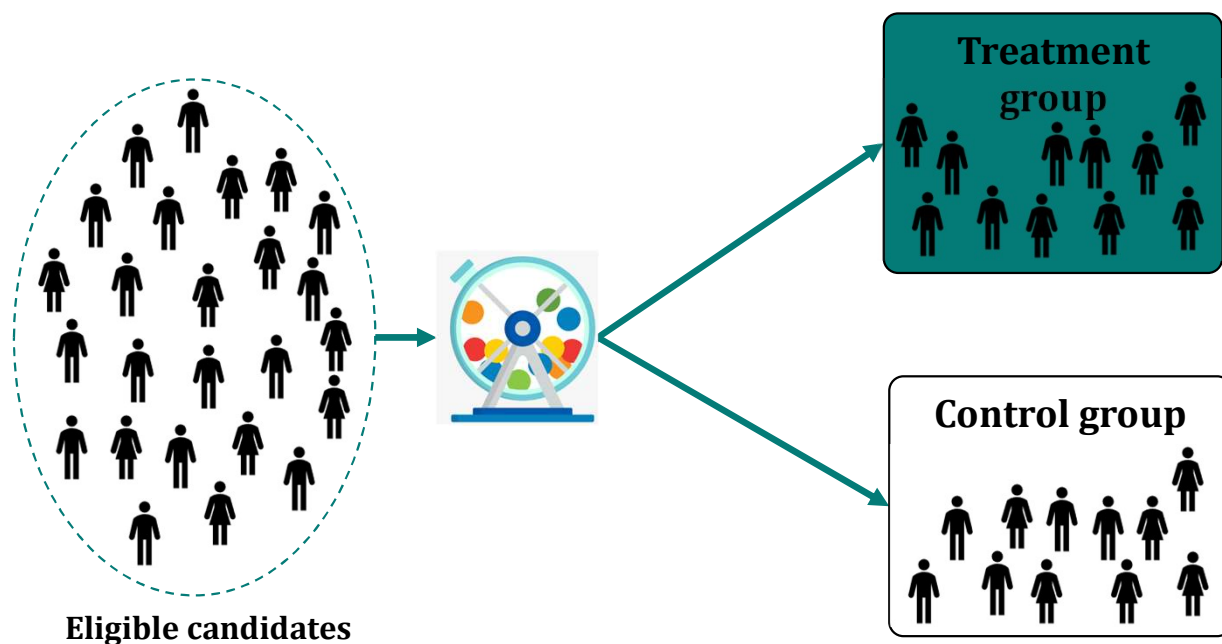


*"Supporting the selected individuals"*



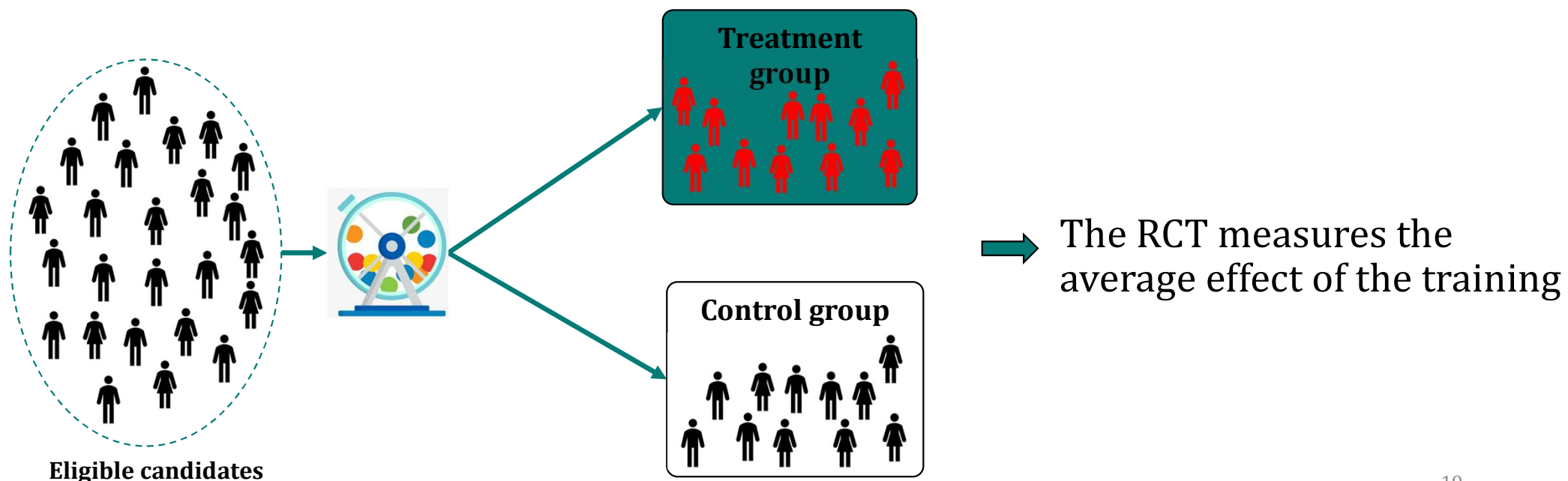
## • Example 1:

- All selected candidates follow the training
- No member of the control group follows the training



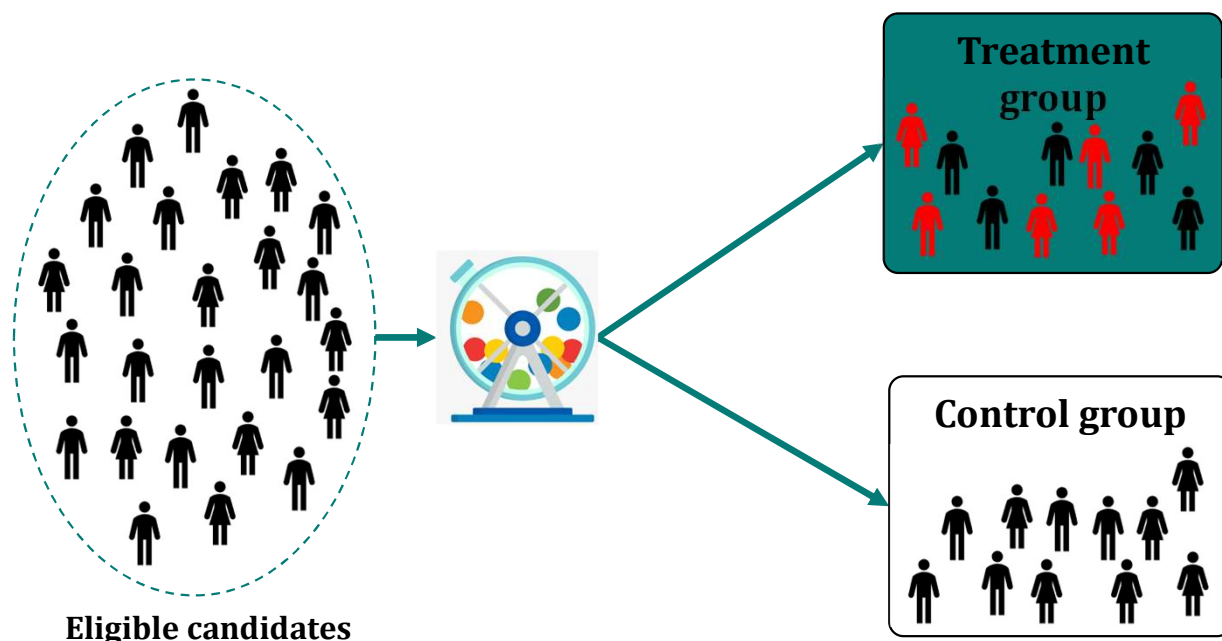
## • Example 1:

- All selected candidates follow the training
- No member of the control group follows the training



## • Example 2:

- Some selected candidates follow the training
- No member of the control group follows the training

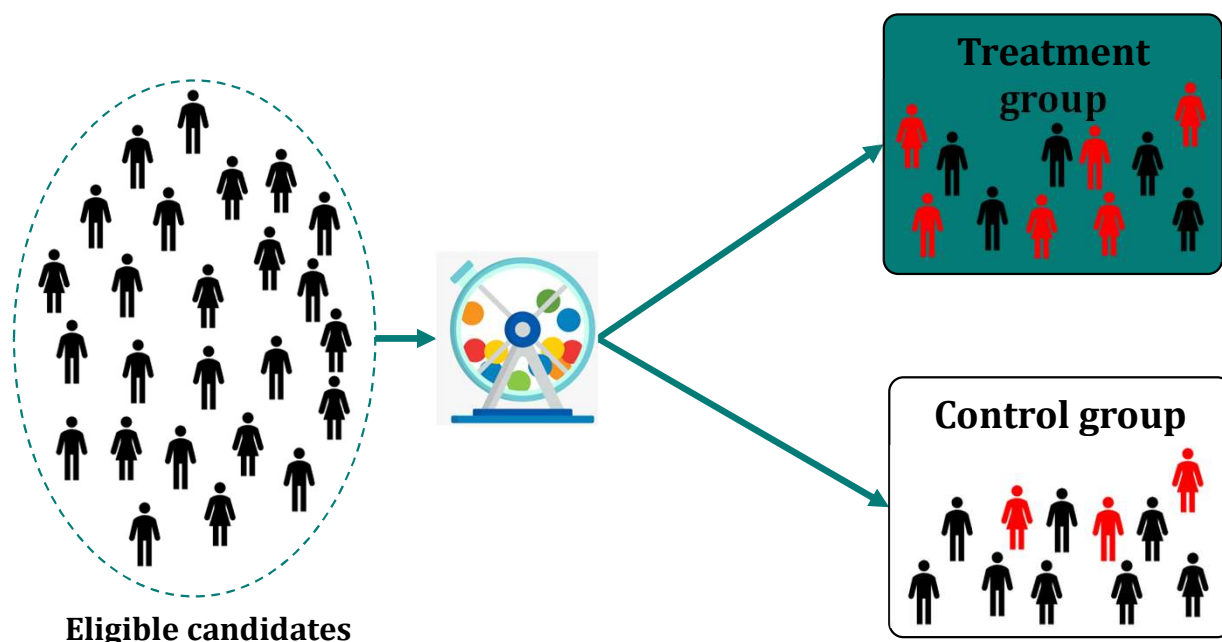


The RCT underestimates the impacts of the participating to the training

Need for quasi-experimental methods

## • Example 3:

- Some selected candidates follow the training
- Some members of the control group follow the training



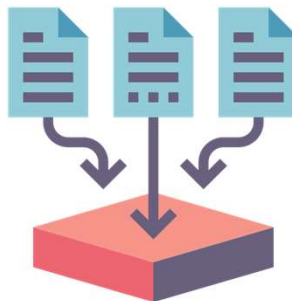
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Need for quasi-experimental methods

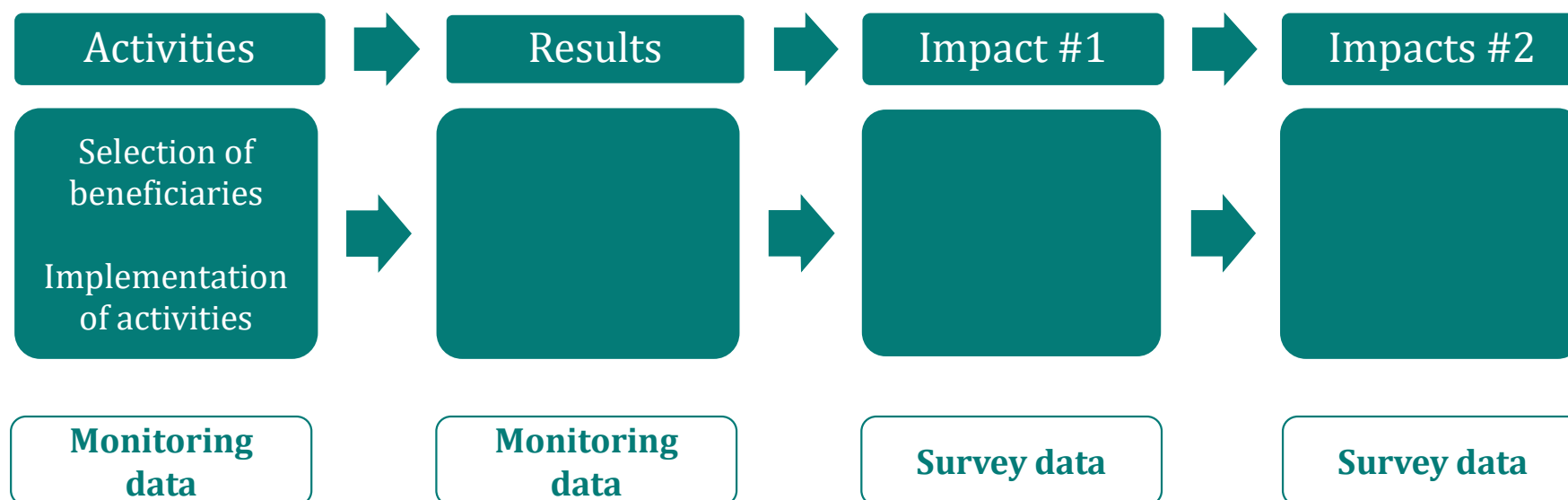
## **II. Access to a centralised monitoring database**

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***"Collect data on project activities"***

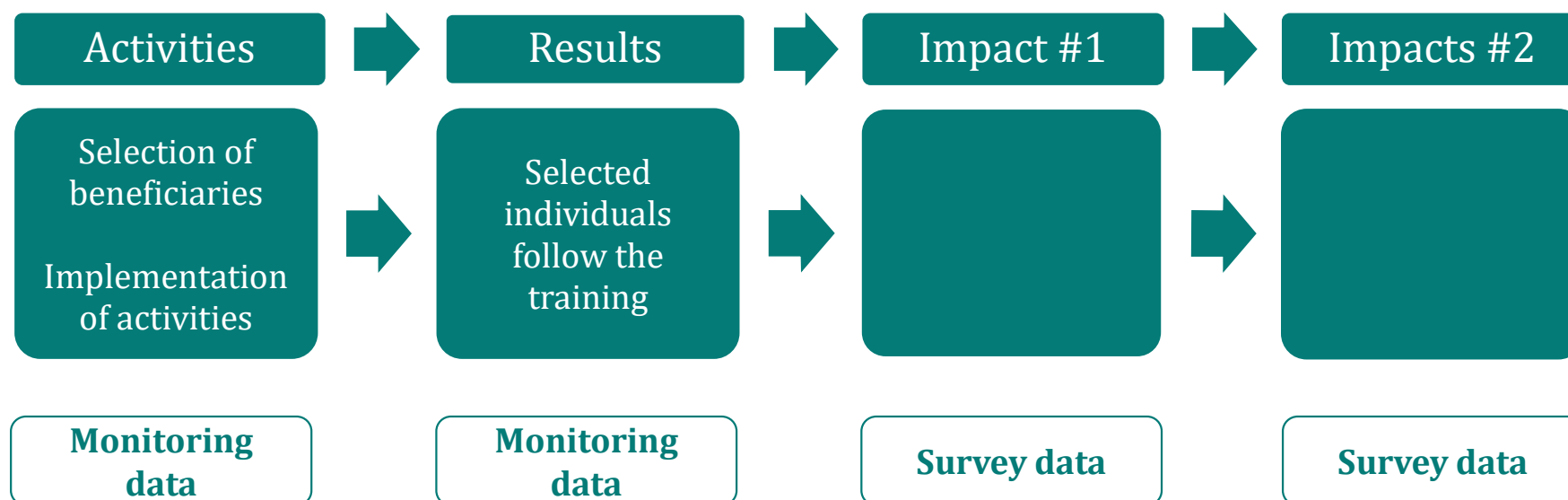


## Example 1: Visibility of the entire theory of change + confirmation of impacts

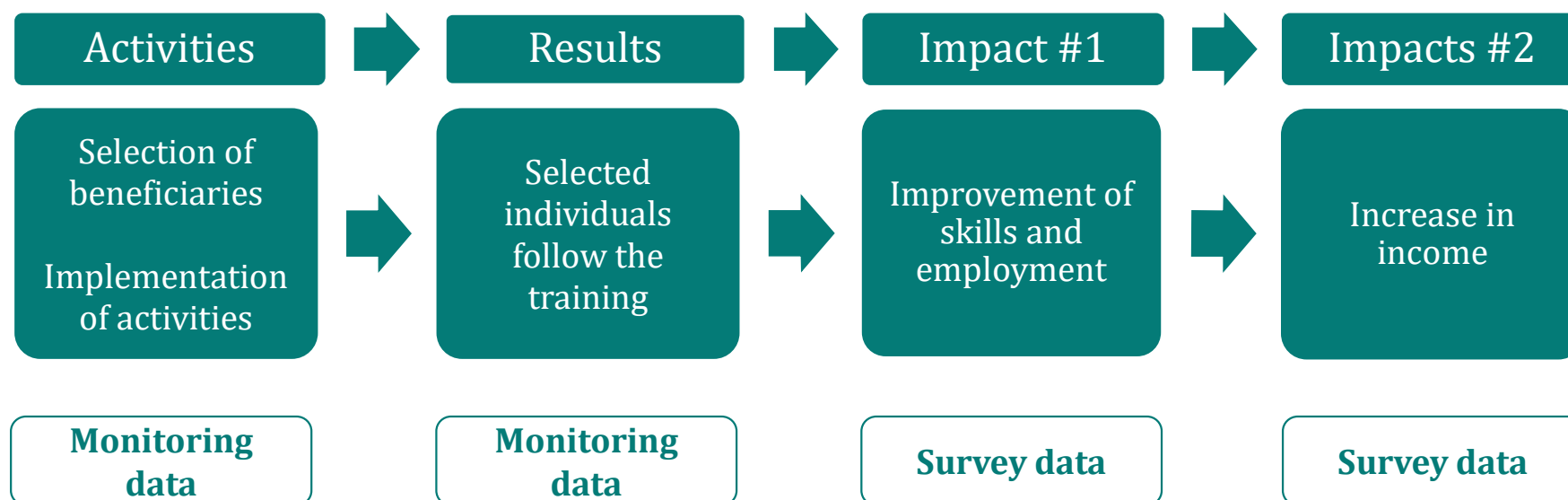




## Example 1: Visibility of the entire theory of change + confirmation of impacts

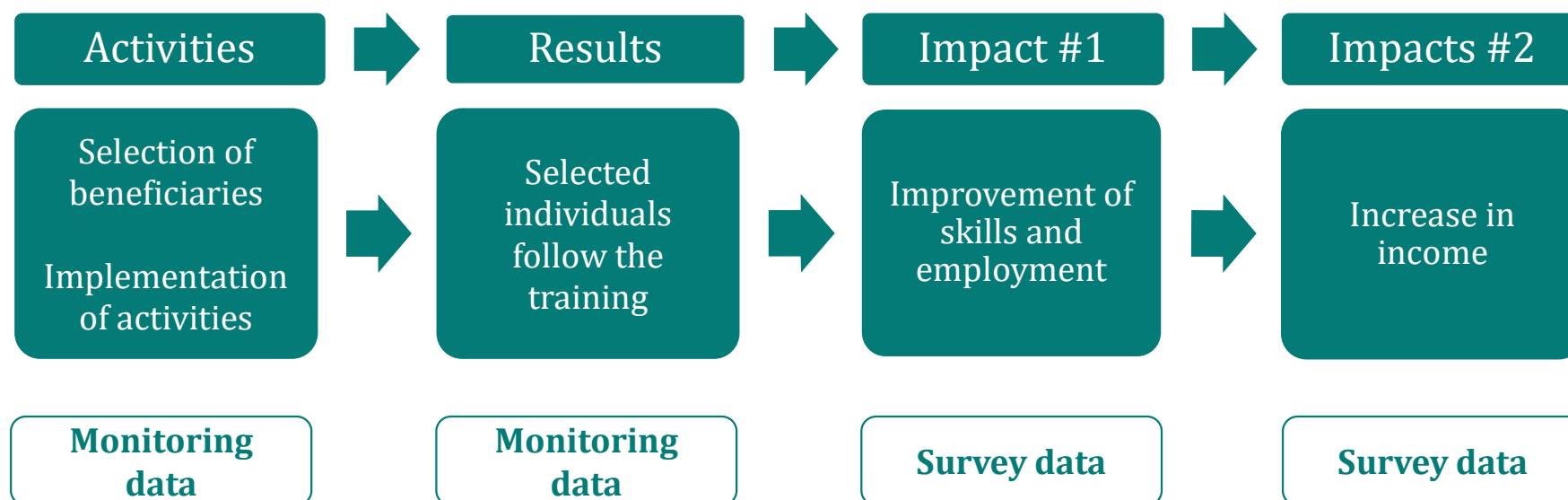


## Example 1: Visibility of the entire theory of change + confirmation of impacts



Example 1: Visibility of the entire theory of change + confirmation of impacts

- **We are able to understand and confirm the mechanisms that have led to the increase in income**

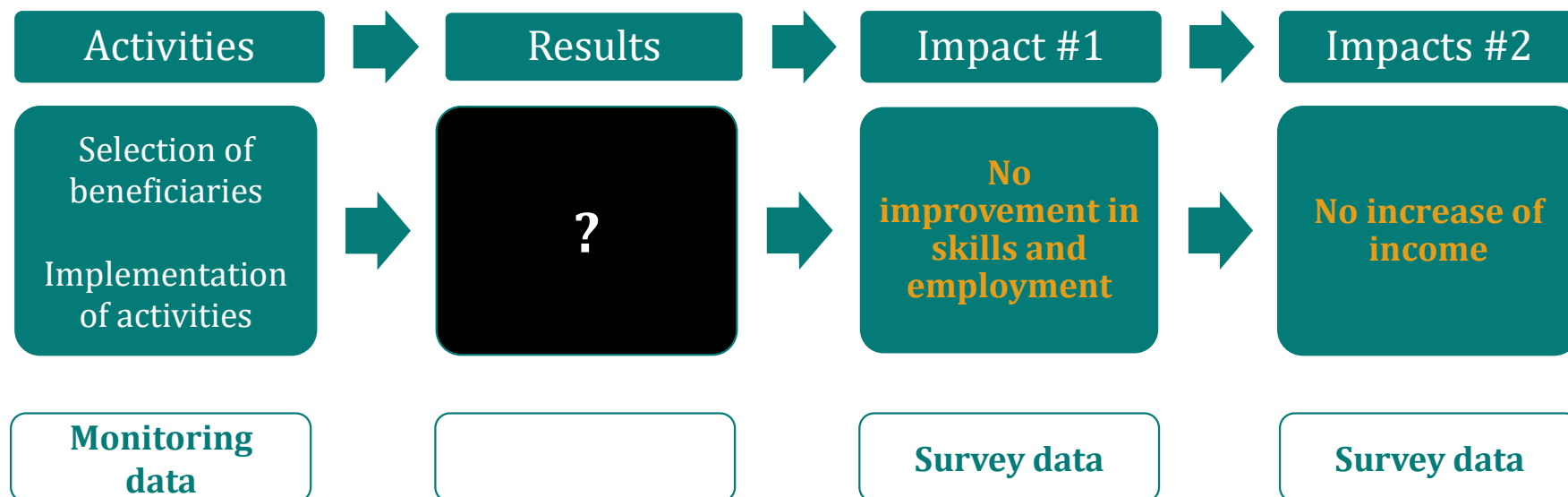


## Scenario 2: Partial visibility of the ToC + absence of impacts

➤ Impossible to explain the reasons for the lack of impact on skills and the existence of impacts on employment.



***Risk of reaching erroneous conclusions!***



## III. Resources

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## *„Look for know-how“*



- **Conventionally, an CIE requires:**
  - **1 Principal investigator**
  - **2 Quantitative research managers**
    - + A team of supervisors and enumerators
  - **2 Qualitative research managers**
    - + A team of field supervisors and field researchers

## *„Longer investments, bigger benefits“*



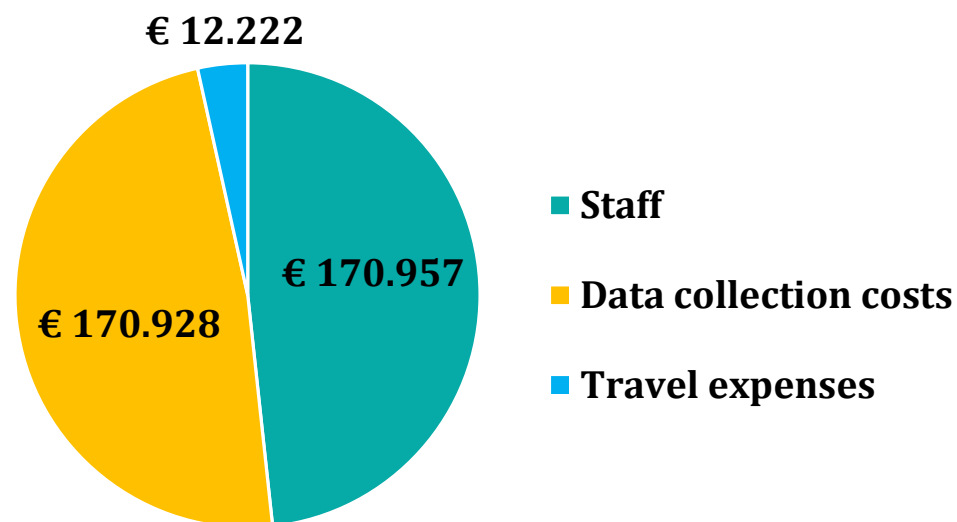
Generally, a CIE begins before the project and ends after its completion:

- Design
- Data collection
- Analysis and dissemination

## *„Plan for financial resources“*



On average, the initial budget for a CIE was €354,107.

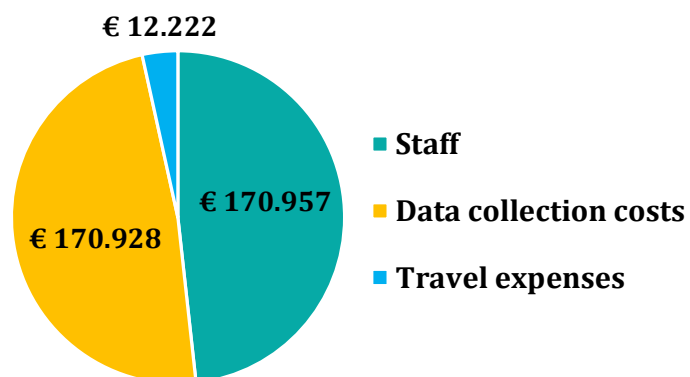




## *„Plan for financial resources“*



On average, the initial budget for a CIE was €354,107.



- Useful data and of high quality
- Better M&E data
- Measure of the **IMPACTS** of the project:
  - During and after the project
  - On the different populations (male, females, refugees...)
  - Even when facing a shock (Ebola outbreak, Covid-19, political instability...)
- Better understanding of the theory of change

# Conclusions

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## Conclusions: key points for conducting an CIE

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*"Communicating, agreeing and committing to selection process"*



*"Sample size matters"*



*"Support the selected individuals"*



*"Collect data on project activities"*



*"Look for know-how"*



*"Longer investments, bigger benefits"*



*"Plan for financial resources"*

## Discussion groups

	Challenges faced/anticipated	Mitigation	Lessons	Recommendations
I. Agreeing and committing to (a random) selection process				
II. Reaching a sufficiently large sample size				
III. Supporting only the selected individuals/areas				
IV. Project monitoring				
V. Time required for conducting a CIE				



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# Thank you

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## Q&A