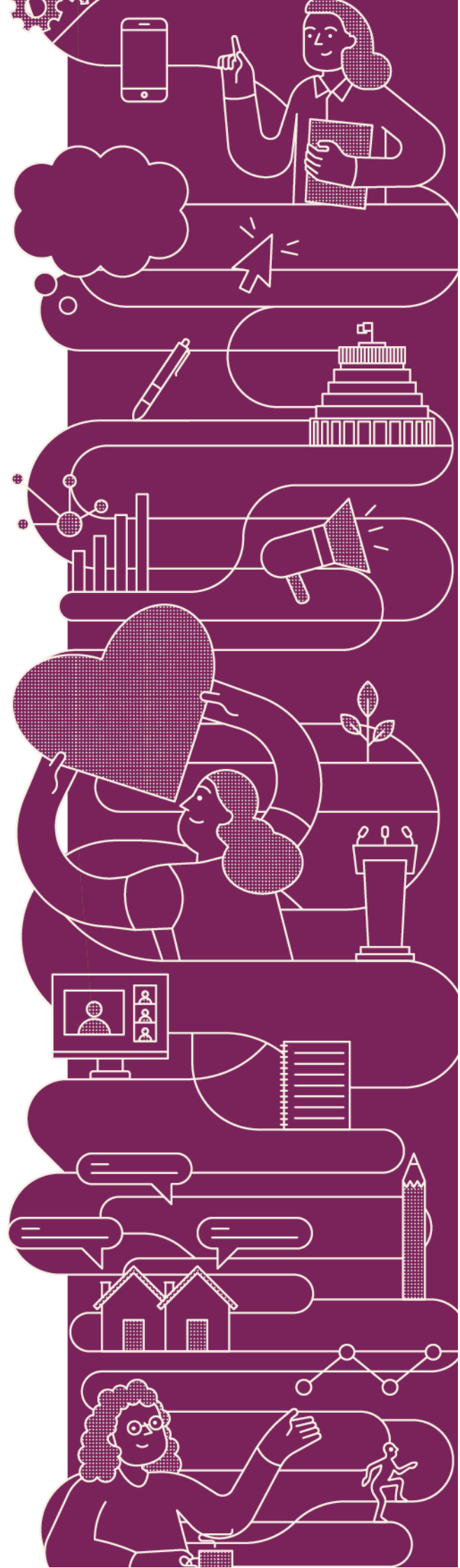


What is the difference between monitoring and evaluation?

[EVALCOMMUNITY WEBSITE](#)



What is the difference between monitoring and evaluation?

TAKEN FROM THE EVALCOMMUNITY WEBSITE

The EvalCommunity website (<https://www.evalcommunity.com>) has a range of easy-to-understand explanations of key terms, including the difference between monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring is the process of gathering real time information to understand progress. Evaluation typically looks back to understand the effectiveness of something. The excerpts below are from the website.

Monitoring is the process of collecting data about a program or a project. The purpose of monitoring is to track the progress of a project or program. This data can be qualitative or quantitative, and it can be collected through monitoring tools such as progress reports, beneficiary reports, project reports, performance reports, etc. Monitoring can be internal (for the organisation) or external. It includes the review of existing data, the collection of new data, and the cross-checking of data. Read also: [“What is monitoring?”](#).

Evaluation is a scientific process that gauges the success of the project or program in meeting the objectives. It is a systematic process to determine merit, worth, value or significance. Evaluation is the process of assessing the value or quality of something. It is a systematic way to measure and analyze the performance, effectiveness, and success of a program, policy, individual, or other entity. Evaluation is used to determine the impact of an intervention and to make decisions about how to improve it. Read also: [“What is evaluation?”](#)

Monitoring and evaluation are two different approaches used to track the progress of a project or program. While monitoring is the collection and review of existing data, evaluation involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data in order to draw conclusions about the success of a program or project.

While evaluation determines whether a program was successful or not, monitoring informs about the current status of the program.



Here are some of the main differences between monitoring and evaluation related to the purpose, timing, methods, scope, audience, and outputs.

1. Purpose: The purpose of monitoring is to track progress and performance in real-time, while evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of a project or program over time.
2. Timing: Monitoring is ongoing and happens throughout the project or program lifecycle, while evaluation is typically conducted at specific intervals, such as the end of a project or program.
3. Methods: Monitoring uses methods such as data collection, analysis, and reporting to provide real-time information for decision-making and improvement, while evaluation uses methods such as surveys, interviews, and case studies to assess the quality, relevance, and sustainability of a project or program.
4. Scope: Monitoring focuses on tracking activities, outputs, and outcomes, while evaluation examines the broader impact, effectiveness, and sustainability of a project or program.
5. Audience: Monitoring is primarily for internal stakeholders, such as project managers and implementers, while evaluation is for a broader range of stakeholders, including funders, policymakers, and the general public.
6. Outputs: Monitoring produces regular reports and updates that provide ongoing feedback for improvement, while evaluation produces comprehensive reports and recommendations that inform future planning and decision-making.



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