A Practitioner's Guide for Technology Evaluation in Global Development at a Glance

Photo by Siddharth Kavthekar

New technologies are emerging every day to solve stubborn development challenges, but with so many global development products on the market, **how do you choose the ones that are right for your particular context?**
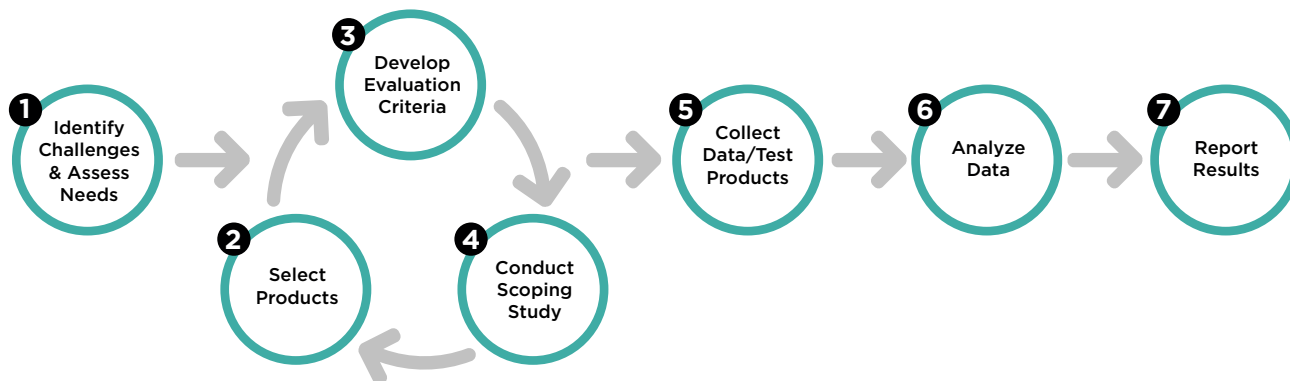
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The Practitioner's Guide offers a user-friendly, step-by-step framework for conducting comparative product evaluations. No matter the size of your organization or resources available, this guide will help you make evidence-based procurement decisions through the following process:

① Identify Challenges & Assess Needs → **② Select Products** → **③ Develop Evaluation Criteria** → **④ Conduct Scoping Study** → **⑤ Collect Data/Test Products** → **⑥ Analyze Data** → **⑦ Report Results**

Why conduct a comparative evaluation?

Just because a given technology works in one place does not mean it will be effective or readily adopted in another. When addressing issues related to basic human needs - like water, food, shelter, healthcare or energy - it is critical to choose the solutions that are most likely to succeed in a given place. This guide helps determine which product criteria are most important to evaluate, such as:

- Affordability
- Technical performance
- Availability & Accessibility
- Ease of use
- Sustainability
- Demand potential

How the Practitioner's Guide can help you

Community-Based Organizations: Find the right products that will work best in your local environment.

Aid Agencies & NGOs: Make data-driven procurement decisions to improve outcomes.

Funders: Invest in products, technologies and programs that are most likely to succeed.

Innovators: Use human-centered design and create products that work at scale.

Corporate Social Responsibility: Support effective products, technologies and programs that align with your mission.

About the Partners

The Comprehensive Initiative on Technology Evaluation (CITE) is the first-ever program dedicated to developing methods for product evaluation in global development. CITE is led by an interdisciplinary team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and draws upon diverse expertise to evaluate products' suitability, scalability, and sustainability to develop a deep understanding of what makes products successful in emerging markets. More at **cite.mit.edu**

The Technology Exchange Lab (TEL) is dedicated to bringing communities out of poverty by driving the adoption of innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions that improve the lives of the least economically advantaged members of society. TEL hosts a crowdsourced database of over 650 innovations to connect practical solutions to the people who need them most. TEL also works with iNGOs and community-based organizations to identify, evaluate and implement locally appropriate solutions through co-designed development programs. More at **www.techxlab.org**

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