



social care  
institute for excellence

# Considerations for Sustaining ARF Projects Beyond Funding & Ensuring Long-term Impact

May 2024

# Today's workshop will....



Equip you with the tools and insight

To ensure the longevity and impact of the ARF projects

## **Ground rules:**

- Recording
- Camera off
- Mute

**What do we  
mean by  
sustainability?**



# Key areas of sustainability

## Financial

Do we have the means to financially maintain the project beyond the initial funding?

## Cultural

Do we have the means to culturally maintain the project beyond the initial implementation?

# Why sustainability?

Enhances the project's  
long-term impact

Ensures change  
beyond initial  
implementation

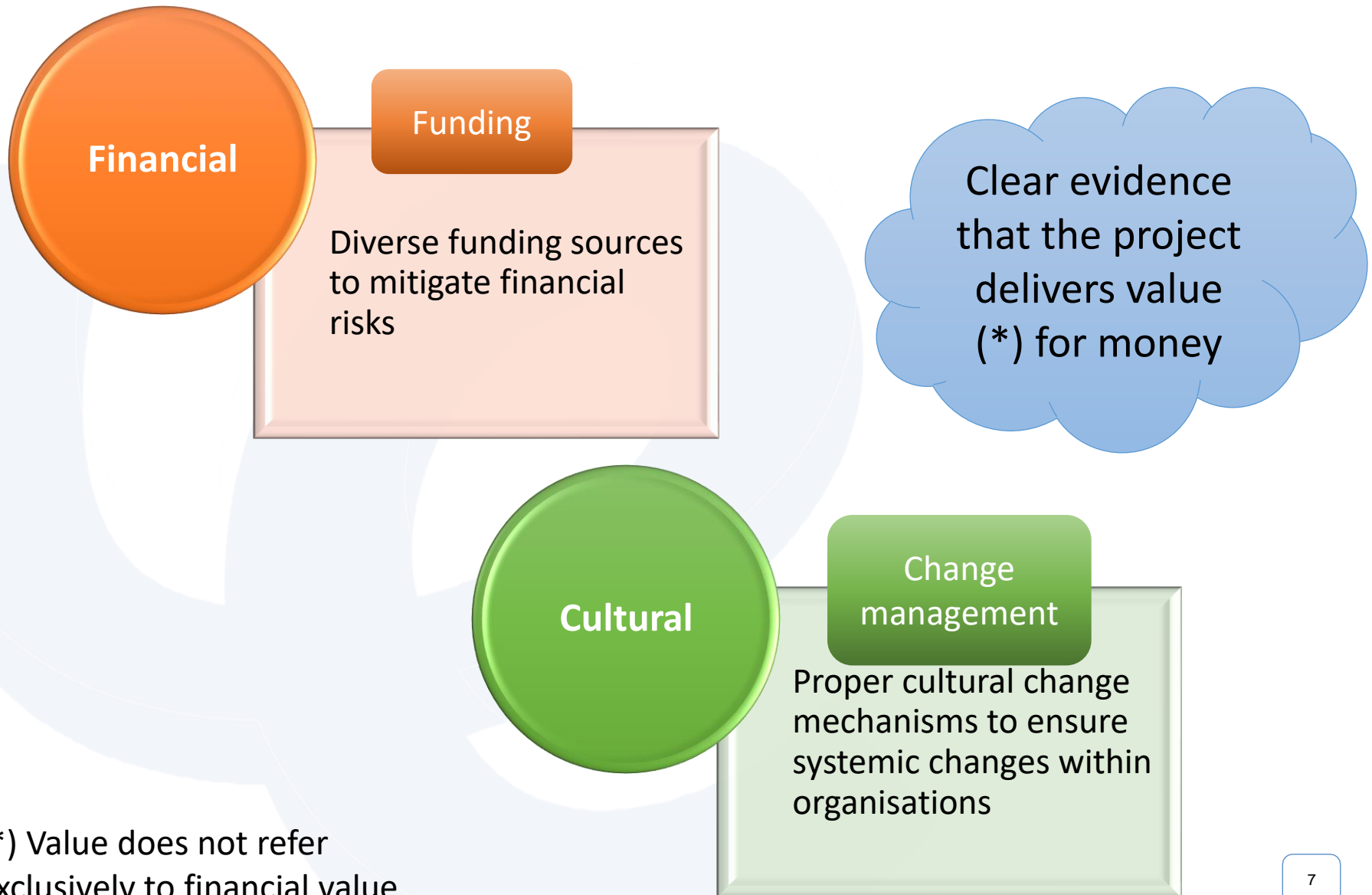
Demonstrates  
foresight and  
commitment to  
achieving lasting  
change

Ensures that the benefits of ARF-funded  
projects continue beyond the funding period

# Importance of sustainability



# Sustainability enablers - overview



# Sustainability enablers - Detail

Funding

Change management

Gaps analysis  
Options appraisal

- Robust data collection
- Clear outcomes identified

**Baseline- metrics  
& KPIs**

Qualitative &  
Quantitative

Success  
stories &  
lessons learnt

**Stakeholder  
engagement**

- Buy in
- Coproduction
- Effective communication

Training & for  
stakeholders on  
principles of  
sustainability

- Needs addressed by the project (impact & effectiveness)
- Policy alignment

**Impact  
assessment**

In Communities,  
stakeholders &  
service delivery

Business Case

Identify and develop necessary activities, tools and mechanisms



# Sustainability enablers - Detail

Funding

Change management

## Value for Money

Business Case

Cost-effectiveness / efficiency  
How resources are maximised to achieve sustainable outcomes

Flexibility in partnerships to accommodate evolving project needs and priorities

Culture of innovation - develop skills and capabilities to adapt to changing circumstances.

## Making a case to commissioners

Develop a compelling case for continued funding or support

Early buy-in from stakeholders- involve them in evaluation planning and implementation

Ownership & leadership within project teams

Identify and develop necessary activities, tools and mechanisms

# Stakeholder Engagement and communications – key tips 1/2

Engage key stakeholders early and consistently to garner support for sustainability efforts and nurture meaningful relationships to cultivate ownership and accountability.

## **Identify Key Stakeholders**

- Identify individuals and groups with a vested interest in the project

## **Tailor Communication Channels**

- Customise communication channels and messages

## **Involve Stakeholders Early**

- Engage stakeholders from the outset of the project to foster ownership and commitment

# Stakeholder Engagement and communications – key tips 2/2

## **Provide Regular Updates**

- Keep stakeholders informed of project progress, milestones achieved, and any changes or challenges. Maintain open lines of communication

## **Facilitate Collaboration**

- Create opportunities for collaboration and co-production, encouraging stakeholders to work together towards shared goals and outcomes.


## **Networking**

- Cultivate relationships with organisations for collaboration and resource-sharing to enhance project sustainability.
- Strengthen partnerships within and outside the project


**Celebrate successes**



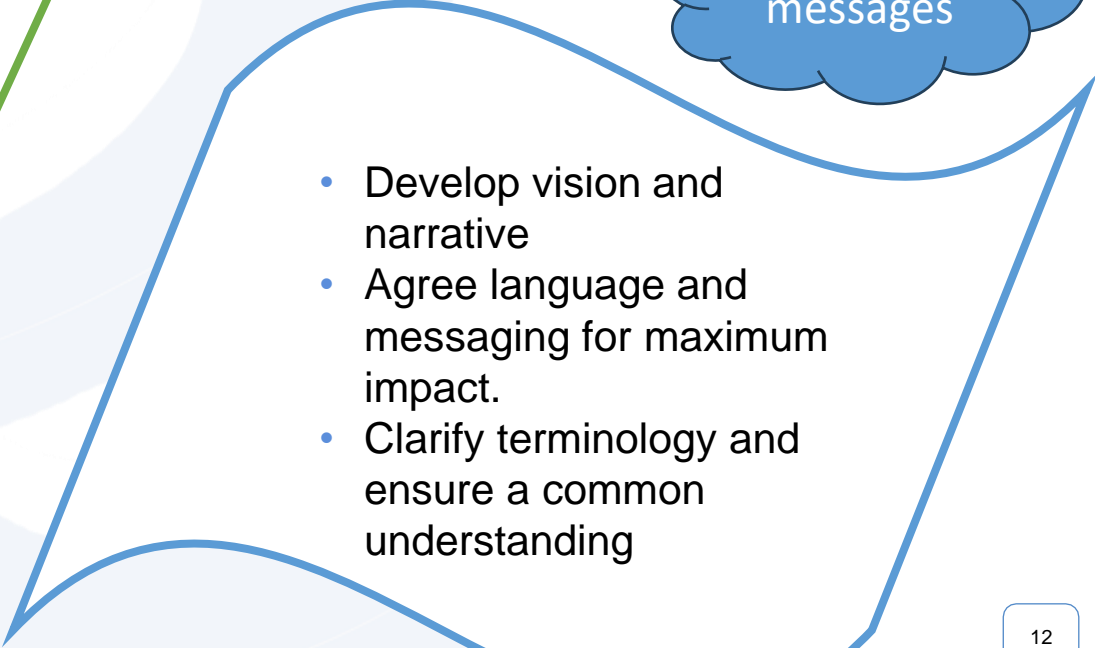
Amplify  
visibility



Utilise presentations, reports, social media, and networking events to showcase project achievements.



Consolidate  
messages

- 
- Develop vision and narrative
  - Agree language and messaging for maximum impact.
  - Clarify terminology and ensure a common understanding

# Future Funding Opportunities

Securing funding beyond ARF is crucial for sustaining project impact.

- Demonstrate alignment with strategic objectives, such as improving health outcomes or reducing health inequalities.

## Commissioners

- Explore diverse funding sources, tailoring proposals, the priorities and requirements demonstrating the project's alignment and impact.

## Alternative Funders

- Charitable Trusts
- Grant providers
- Social Finance entities
- Etc.

## Commissioners and Sustainable Financing

- Government agencies or local authorities - key stakeholders in funding and commissioning services to meet community needs.
- Explore innovative financing models, including **social investment**.

### Social investment

- investors who prioritise both financial returns and social impact,
- Alternative funding source beyond traditional grants or government funding (i.e. social bonds, impact investing).

### Charity Funding for Sustainable Projects:

- Charitable organisations and charitable funding aligns with the emphasis on networking and collaboration.



# Any Questions



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Thank you  
For more information please visit  
[www.scie.org.uk](http://www.scie.org.uk)

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## Background

Sustaining ARF projects beyond their initial funding is crucial for **long-term impact** and **viability**.

Only **20%** of development projects are maintained after the funding period (*World Bank Report, 2020*).

Conversely, sustainable initiatives demonstrate a **40%** increase in community resilience and empowerment over a five-year period (*Impact Study, 2023*).

Neglecting to sustain projects risks the loss of progress achieved, as evidenced by the staggering **60%** failure rate of development projects within two years of final funding (*Development Project Sustainability Report, 2021*).

By drawing attention to the importance of **long-term sustainability**, we can engage in strategies to ensure **lasting positive outcomes** and empower communities for enduring change.

