

How an IE is conducted: Standards and Criteria over the Evaluation Life-cycle (Reliability, Robustness and Transparency)	
Choice of designs & methods	Are designs and associated methods put forward that are established, well documented and able to be defended? Do the chosen designs take into account Evaluation Questions and intervention attributes?
Reliability	Are they able to explain how an intervention contributes to intended effects for final beneficiaries? Do the EQs allow for success and failure (positive and negative effects) to be distinguished?
Proper application of designs and method	Are the ways that designs and methods are applied clearly described and documented? Does the application of designs and methods and subsequent analysis follow any protocols or good practice guidelines? Is the evaluation team knowledgeable about the methods used?
Robustness	
Drawing legitimate conclusions	Do conclusions clearly follow from the findings? Has the evaluation explained the effects of the programme? How are evaluative judgements justified? Have stakeholder judgements been taken into account when reaching conclusions?
Transparency	Are the limitation of the evaluation and its conclusions described?

Technical standards and criteria to judge the quality of IE designs and methods (Validity and Rigour)		
Contribution	Explanation	Effects
<p>Is the design able to identify multiple causal factors?</p> <p>Does the design take into account whether causal factors are independent or interdependent?</p> <p>Can the design analyse the effects of contingent, adjacent and cross-cutting interventions?</p> <p>Are issues of 'necessity', 'sufficiency' and probability discussed?</p>	<p>Does the evaluation make it clear how causal claims will be arrived at?</p> <p>Is the chosen design able to support explanatory analysis (e.g. answer how and why questions)?</p> <p>Is theory used to support explanation? (e.g. research-based theory, Theory of Change) If so how has theory been derived?</p> <p>Are alternative explanations considered and systematically eliminated?</p>	<p>Are long term effects identified?</p> <p>Are these effects related to intermediate effects and implementation trajectories?</p> <p>Is the question 'impact for whom' addressed in the design?</p>
<p>Please attach any protocols, guidelines or quality assurance systems used in connection with this design</p> <p>Please also provide previous reports or publications that illustrate how this design has been used previously for IE purpose.</p>		

Source: Stern, E.D; Stame, N.; Mayne, J.; Forss, K.; Davies, R.; Befani, B. DFID Working Paper 38. Broadening the range of designs and methods for impact evaluations. DFID, London, UK (2012)