gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022

VOICES THAT COUNT

Working with micro-narratives in evaluation: Participatory Narrative Inquiry and Sensemaking

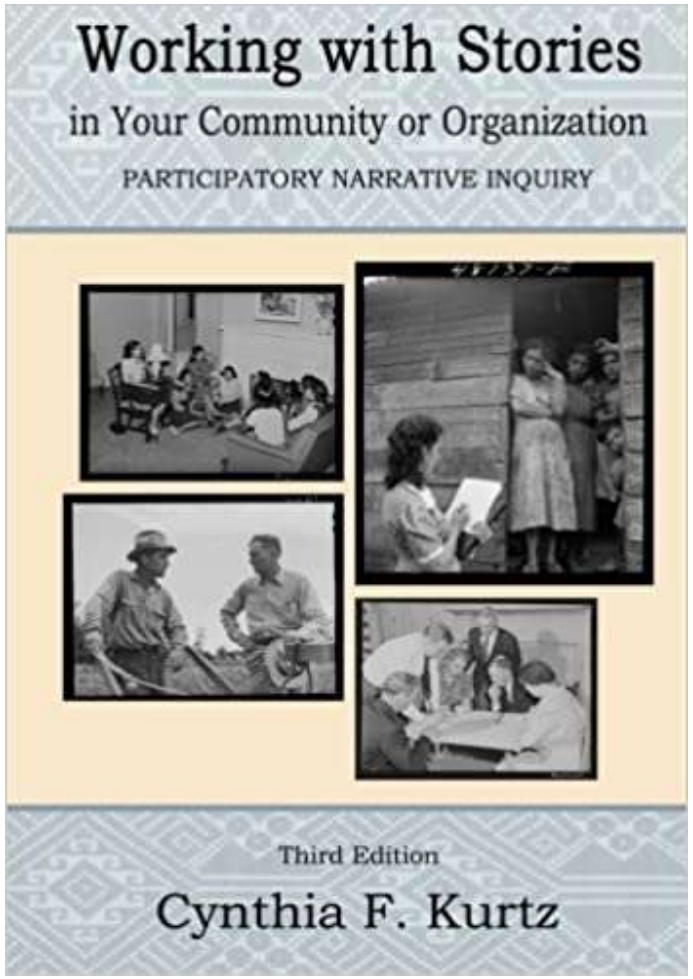
Steff Deprez

Voices That Count

VOICES
THAT
COUNT

SENSEMAKER®

THE CYNEFIN Co
MAKING SENSE OF COMPLEXITY



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"If people are interviewed, they're answering our questions; if they tell a story, they tell us what's important to them"

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Share a recent experience about a challenge that you faced and how you have dealt with it? Describe what happened?

(Evaluation Tipping Point, Bangladesh)

Self-interpretation of the story

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A set of follow-up questions that allow storytellers to make a primary assessment of their own stories and by doing so provide additional layers of meaning to their narratives.

Self-interpretation of the story

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2. What type of conflict is described in your story? (max. 2 responses)

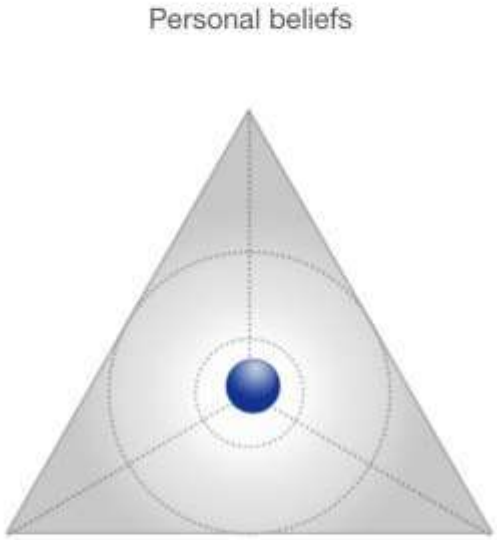
- [ ] Religious conflict
- [ ] Ethnic conflict
- [x] Armed Conflict
- [ ] Political conflict
- [ ] Civic conflict
- [ ] Resource-based conflict
- [ ] Family / Domestic Dispute
- [ ] Gang violence
- [x] Conflict induced by displacement of people
- [ ] Terrorism
- [ ] Gender and/youth-related conflicts
- [ ] Other

11. The story reflects...

The way we have always dealt with this kind of situation(s) — A completely new or different way of dealing with this kind of situation(s)

- [ ] N/A

7. In your story, people's actions were driven by...



- [ ] N/A

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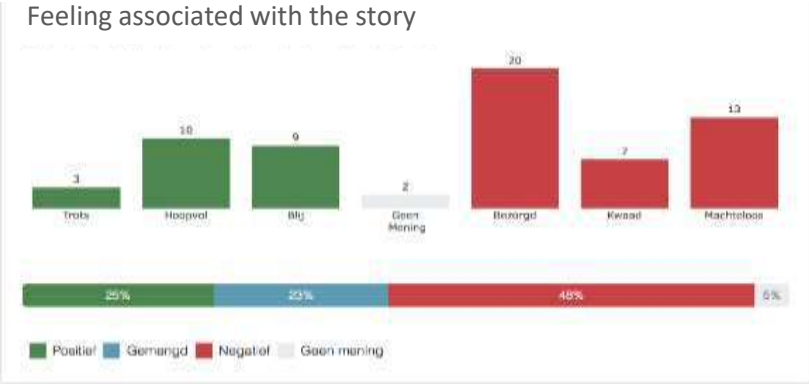
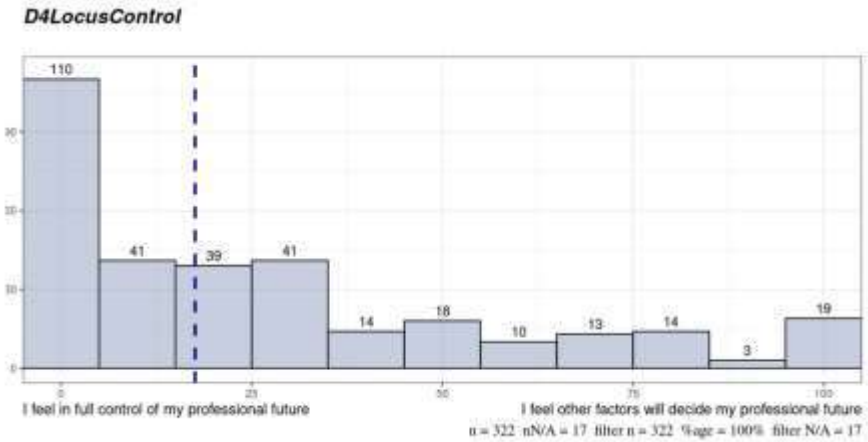
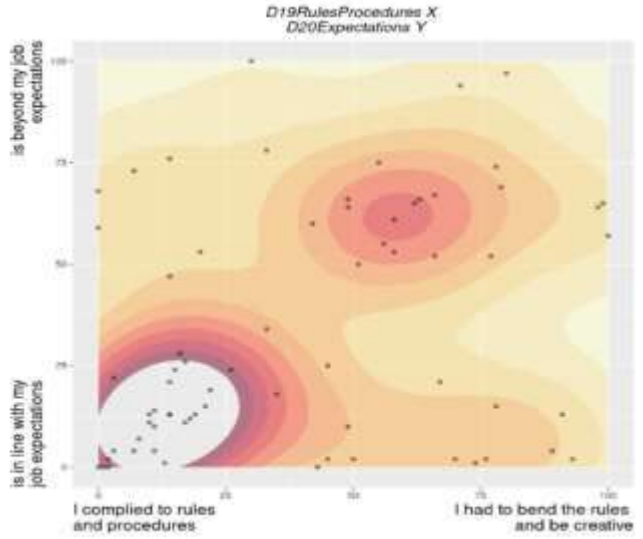
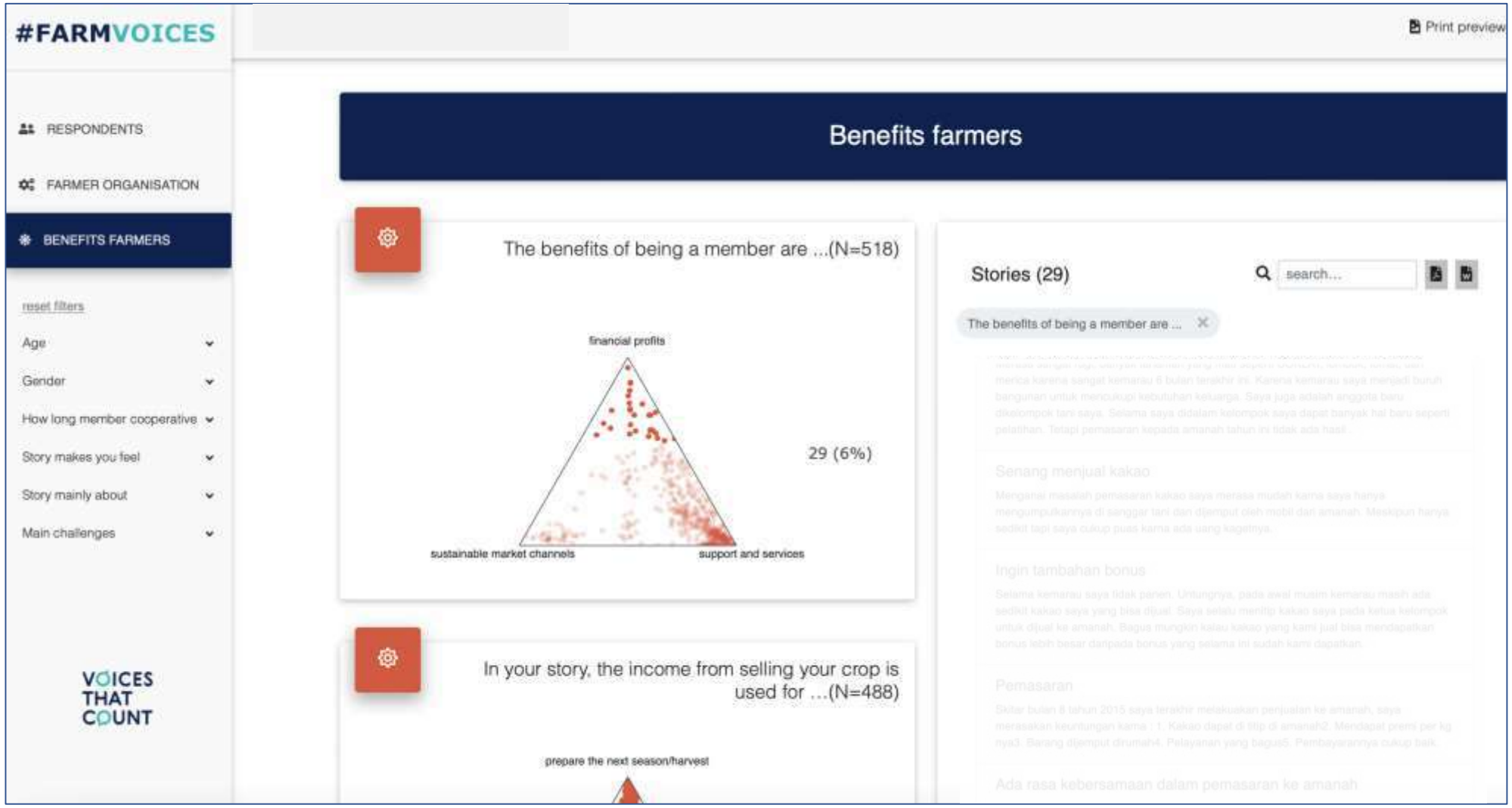
Generating patterns









Use of dashboard for easy access and real-time analysis and sensemaking

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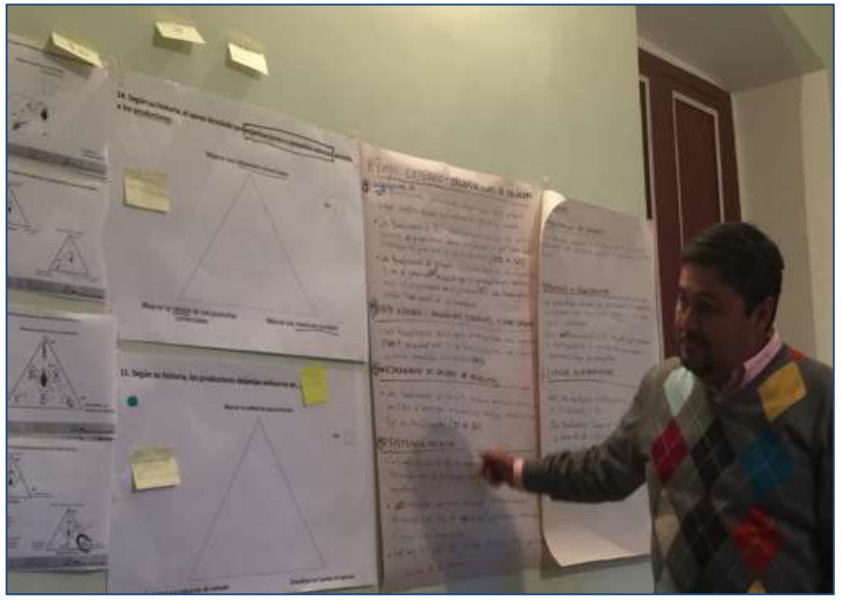
Collective sensemaking workshops



Use of participatory inquiry and sensemaking

Supporting strategic planning & policy formulation

Citizen engagement initiatives

Real-time monitoring

(Impact) evaluations

Using micro-narratives for evaluation

Most often within mixed-method evaluation approaches

Make it a participatory process

Representational > Instrumental > Transformational

!! It's not a survey

Seeking surprise

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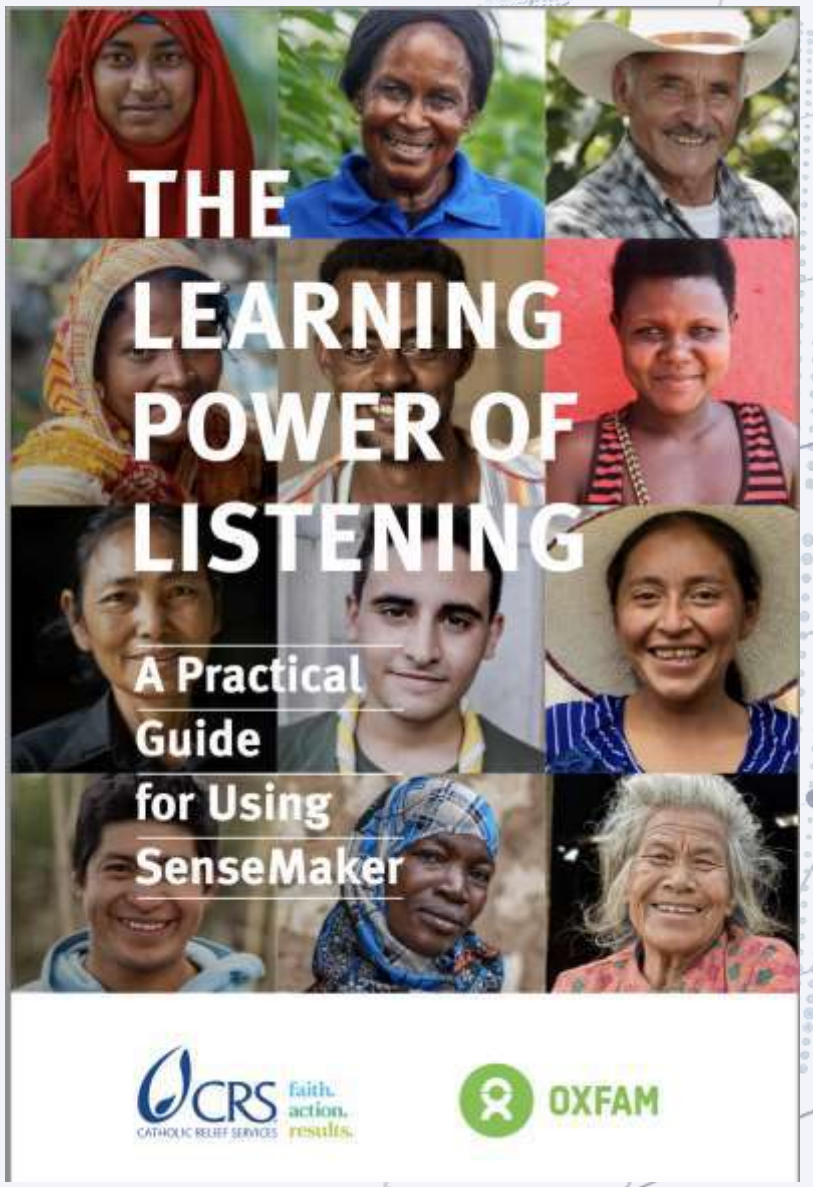
Further reading



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