Types of Impact
Ryo SASAKI, Ph.D.


BOX 1: Types of ‘Impact’

It is observed that donor agencies use the word ‘impact’ for three different meanings. The following classification is one possible proposal for promoting mutual understanding. This classification is applicable to both Country Program Evaluation and project evaluation.

(1) **Type I ‘impact’**: Long-term social/economic impact

(2) **Type II ‘impact’**: Indirect impact (both positive and negative, and both intended and unintended)

(3) **Type III ‘impact’**: Impact as pure change made by the intervention

(= Outcome\textsubscript{after} – Outcome\textsubscript{before} – any change caused by external factors).

In other word, it is a “RCT-type impact”. (“RCT” is randomized controlled trial).

(Source) (1) Davidson, J. (2005). “Impact is often used to refer to long-term outcomes.” (p.241)
(2) OECD-DAC (1991). “Impact: The positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.”
(3) International Initiative of Impact Evaluation (3iE) (December 2011). “Impact: The effect of the intervention on the outcome for the beneficiary population.”; “Impact evaluations have either an experimental or quasi-experimental design.”