Monitoring and Evaluation: Harnessing the Power of Monitoring and Evaluation for Equitable Resilience

Working Group Focus:

- Redefining M&E to build equity and resilience, emphasizing the importance of beneficiary perspectives and needs.

- Addressing the limitations of conventional M&E driven by funder requirements.

The Monitoring and Evaluation working group redefined M&E practices to build equity and resilience by synthesizing practical insights, engaging in key meetings, and focusing on practitioner feedback. Their outputs include a practice brief and blog post, providing valuable guidance for implementing equitable M&E practices.
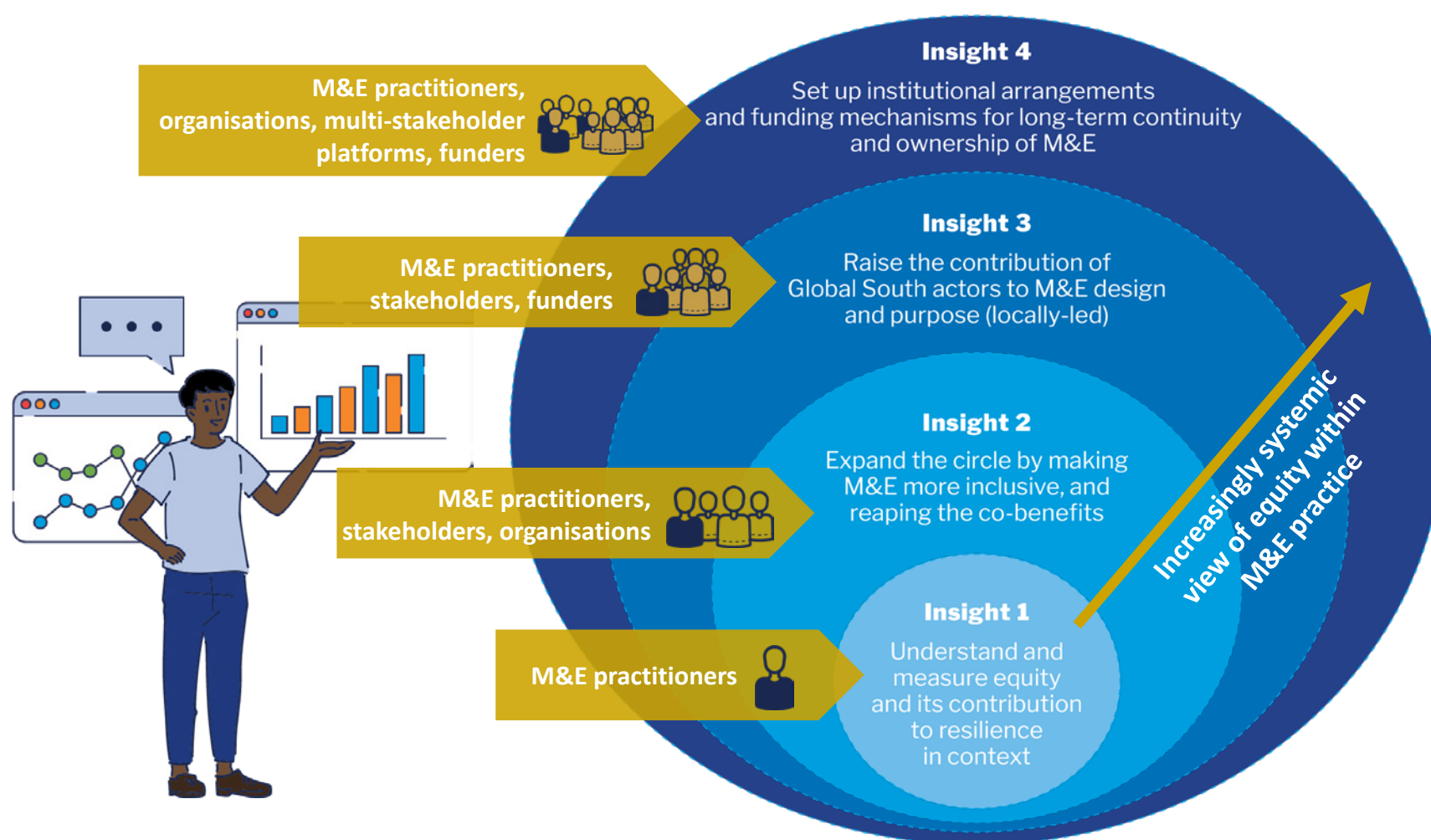
Engagement Process:

- The working group provided a rare opportunity for deep reflection and co-creation among M&E practitioners, leading to a rich synthesis of practical insights.

- **Reflective Co-creation:** The group synthesized "voices from practice" through deep reflection and co-creation, offering insights on using M&E to build equity and resilience.

- **Key Meetings:** Engaged in several key meetings, including presenting at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association's (SAMEA) Community of Practice on M&E for a Just Transition, to focus on demand-driven insights tailored for practitioners.

- **Practitioner Focus:** Developed a practice brief based on practitioner feedback, emphasizing the ongoing nature of achieving equitable resilience in M&E, and the importance of capacity building and demonstrating the co-benefits of inclusive, equitable M&E.

Insight 4 — M&E practitioners, organisations, multi-stakeholder platforms, funders — Set up institutional arrangements and funding mechanisms for long-term continuity and ownership of M&E

Insight 3 — M&E practitioners, stakeholders, funders — Raise the contribution of Global South actors to M&E design and purpose (locally-led)

Insight 2 — M&E practitioners, stakeholders, organisations — Expand the circle by making M&E more inclusive, and reaping the co-benefits

Insight 1 — M&E practitioners — Understand and measure equity and its contribution to resilience in context

Increasingly systemic view of equity within M&E practice

Key Insights:

- **Systems Thinking:** Integrating M&E into broader systems to support aspirational values like equitable resilience and a Just Transition. This involves embedding M&E processes deeply into the operational and strategic frameworks of organizations.

- **Capacity Building:** Emphasizing the need to build the skills and capabilities of all stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, evaluation commissioners, funding agencies, project managers, and participants, to effectively engage in equitable M&E practices.

- **Ongoing Process:** Recognizing that achieving M&E for equitable resilience is not a one-time effort but a continuous process that requires sustained commitment and iterative improvements.

- **Co-benefits Demonstration:** Highlighting the importance of providing evidence of the additional benefits of inclusive, equitable M&E, such as increased agency, motivation, stronger relationships, expanded networks, social cohesion, coherence, and shifts in power dynamics. This evidence is crucial for advocating more inclusive approaches, particularly in impact evaluations.

Locally-led development requires continuity in M&E

Locally implemented
Primarily an outside approach, including external priorities that local people or organisations are supposed to implement.

Locally managed
The approach comes from outside, but is 'transplanted' to local management.

Locally led and owned
Local people and groups design the approach and set priorities. Outsiders assist with resources.

LESS LOCAL OWNERSHIP ←——————————→ MORE LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Key Outputs:

Practice Brief: Using monitoring and evaluation to build transformative equity and resilience in South Africa.

Blog: Using monitoring and evaluation to build equity and resilience.

Harnessing the power of monitoring and evaluation for equitable resilience working group:

Using monitoring and evaluation to build transformative equity and resilience in South Africa — LESSONS FROM PRACTICE — SEPTEMBER 2023