

TWP 'HOW TO' NOTE #7

Review and Reflection

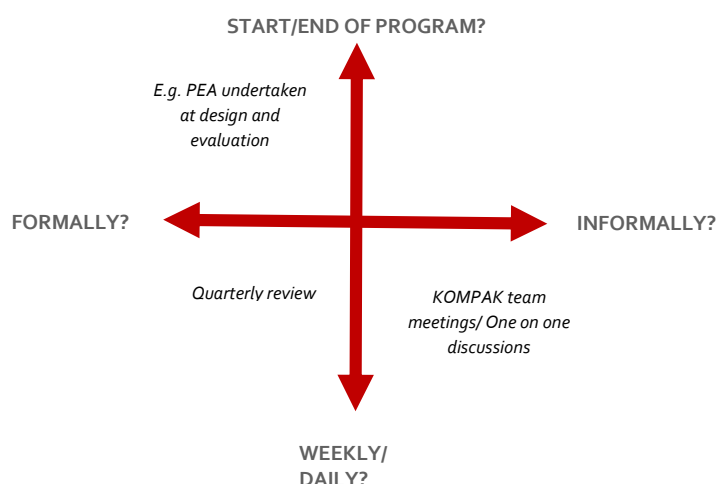
Critical to a political view of the world is also being open to constant review, interrogation and reflection. This is because politics (people's interests, how they react to act other and their circumstance) is unpredictable, and thus it is very hard to know exactly how a reform will unfold at the outset of a project. As a result, instead of locking in projects for three years up-front at design, a TWP approach engages in a constant process of review and project adjustment.

For KOMPAK, this means revisiting our analysis, activities and assumptions in light of: new information we have learnt; changes in the local political context; and lessons from implementing our activities.

How often should we undertake review and reflection?

There is no hard and fast rule about how frequently a team trying to 'TWP' should stop and reflect on its progress and the changing political context.

However, for KOMPAK, we know that the most successful teams may be using some form of **informal team meeting (daily or weekly) or one-on-one discussions** to constantly adapt their strategy, make small adjustments to their project in light of new information that has come to hand, and to respond to changes in the political context. See the bottom right hand side of the diagram on the right.



Some KOMPAK teams may also take the time to **update their actor and institution maps (see Note #5) as well as their political strategies (see Note #6) prior to each quarterly review**. This allows teams to then respond to the following questions (in addition to those already set) during the formal peer-review process:

1. What's changed in the political context and how should our program respond?
 - i. Have there been any significant changes in the political context that require you to adjust how you frame the problem you are trying to address? If so, how?
 - ii. Have any key actors on your map, or their relationships and interests, changed since the last quarterly review? Is our project still focused on the right people/ networks?
 - iii. Have there been any big changes in the formal (e.g. legislation or policy) or informal rules (e.g. norms, religious edicts etc) which effect the issue you are working on? What does this mean for our own program strategy?
 - iv. Given the changes discussed above, do we need to revisit any of our activities, budget allocations, outputs or even outcomes? Is our project outcome still realistic? Remember that our outcomes always need to be 'technically sound and politically possible'.