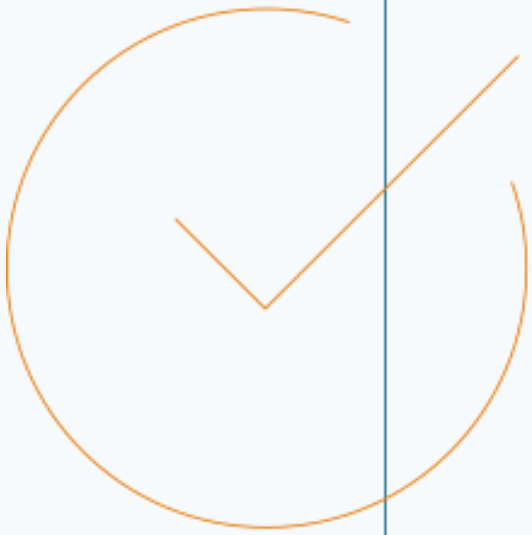
Education Scalability Checklist

EEA Webinar
August 31, 2023



Intro

BACKGROUND

VVOB – *Education for Development*

- Non-profit, head office in Belgium + offices in 8 partner countries, including Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Strategic and implementing partner to Ministries of Education.
- Focus on strengthening systems for professional development of teachers and school leaders.
- Early childhood education | Primary education | General secondary education | Secondary TVET.

ESC origins & uptake

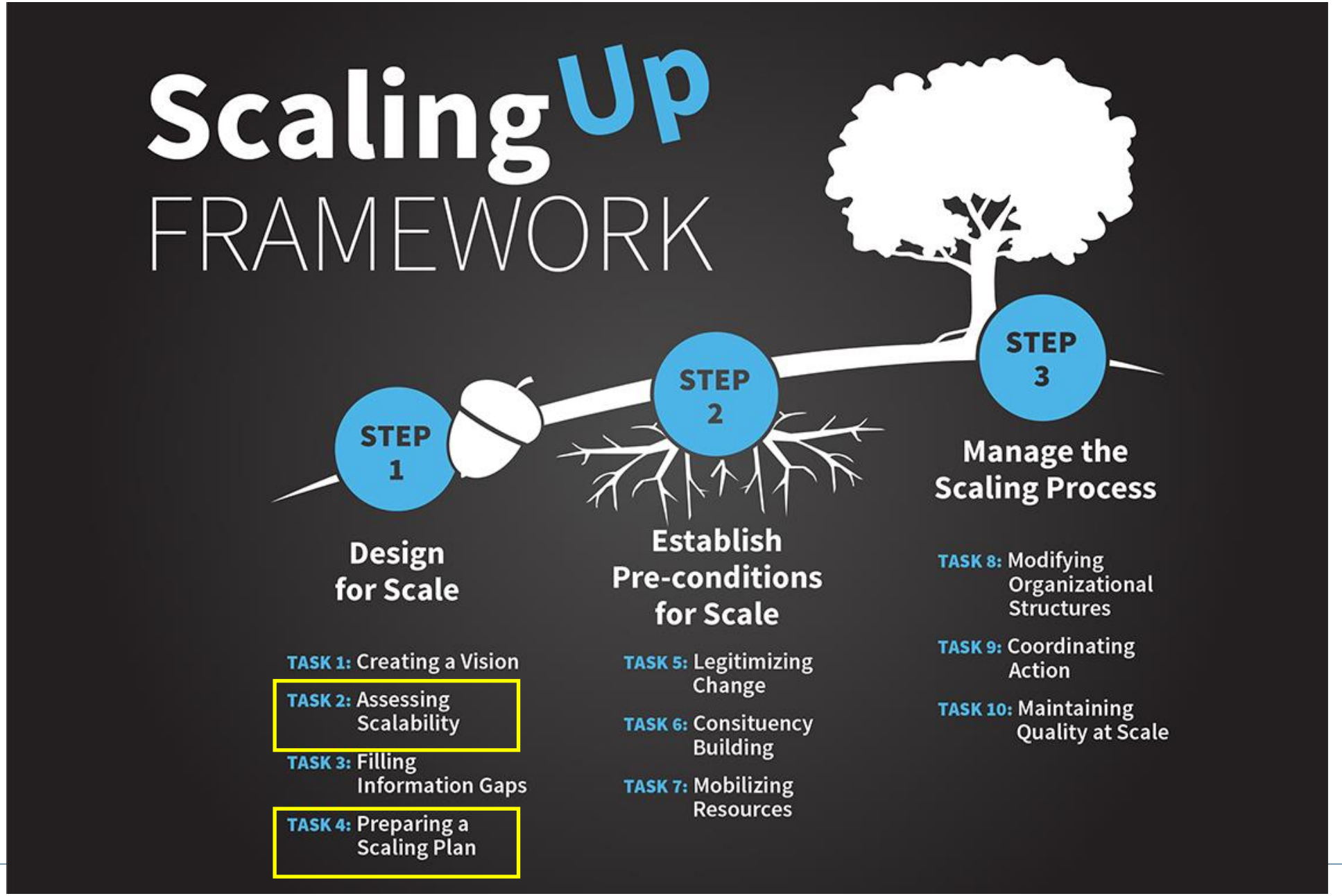
- Based on sector-agnostic scalability assessment checklist developed by MSI.
- Adapted for education sector by Brookings CUE, Educate!, MSI, Pratham, STiR Education, and VVOB.
- Tool (ENG, ES, FR) + User Guide (ENG, ES, FR) + Explainer video (ENG).
- Used across VVOB interventions; uptake by i.a. Global School Leaders, GPE KIX LAC, …

BACKGROUND

Scaling principles assumed by ESC

- Education initiative (aka innovation, intervention, model) = Just the means.
- ESC = Just a tool.
- Goal = Expand impact and sustain it at optimal scale.
- "Adopting organisation" = Government
- Method = Replication
  - Policy adoption ("scaling up")
  - Institutionalisation in existing education system ("scaling deep")

ESC >> WHEN + WHAT FOR



ESC >> WHEN + WHAT FOR

Rules of thumb

Diagnostic + Planning Tool >> Best used to trigger reflection on scaling and feed development of scaling plan.

Not particularly helpful when used as ~~one-off scorecard~~.

Starting early = Building foundations for ease of scaling.

Min. 1 x / year throughout scaling process ("pause & reflect moments").

Expand group of users step-by-step as part of process.

Never too late to start.

AHEAD OF USING ESC

Training

- Originating organisation >> Min. 1 facilitator needs to be familiar with ESC and basics of scaling processes.
- Materials (ESC, User Guide, Explainer Video) + Learn-by-Doing.
- Welcome to reach out to VVOB for tips & tricks.

Creating a vision

- Initiative (innovation, intervention, model) >> What is being scaled up?
- Dimensions of scaling up >> Where and for whom does scaling occur?
- Methods >> How will scaling be accomplished?
- Organisational roles >> Who performs key functions? How do roles evolve?

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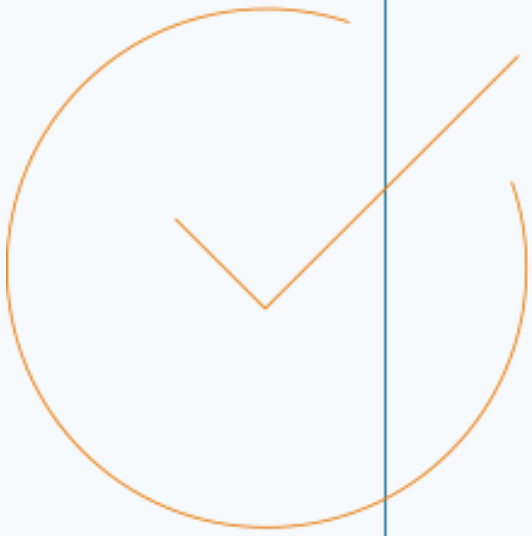
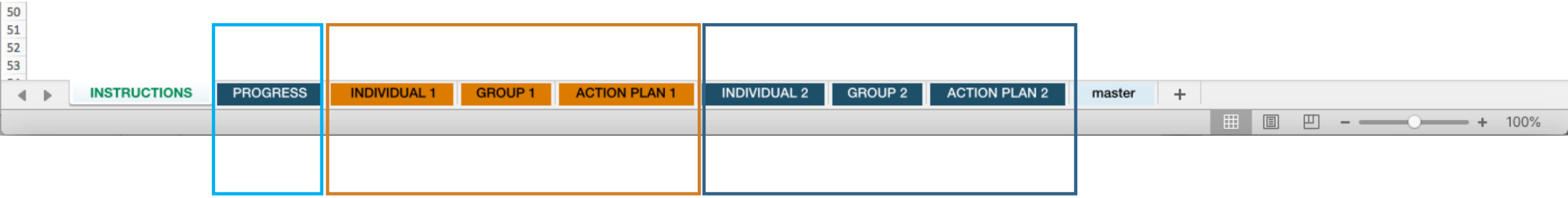


Basic structure of ESC & Diagnostic

BASIC STRUCTURE

3 recurring sheets:
2 diagnostic (individual & group) + 1 planning (action plan)

+ 1 sheet (progress) that automatically tracks change over time



Tracker 1st diagnostic + planning 2nd diagnostic + planning

DIAGNOSTIC

How convincing is the scaling strategy? (A.)

Is the initiative credible? (B.)

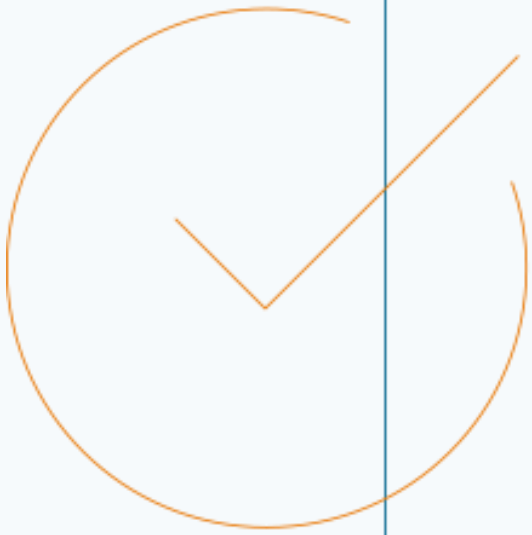
How strong is the support for the initiative and the change it entails? (C.)

Does the initiative have relative advantage over the current state of affairs and alternative solutions? (D.)

How easy is the initiative to transfer and adopt by the education system, particularly the adopting government institutions? (E.)

How good is the fit between the initiative and the education system, particularly the adopting government institutions? (F.)

Is there a sustainable source of funding? (G.)

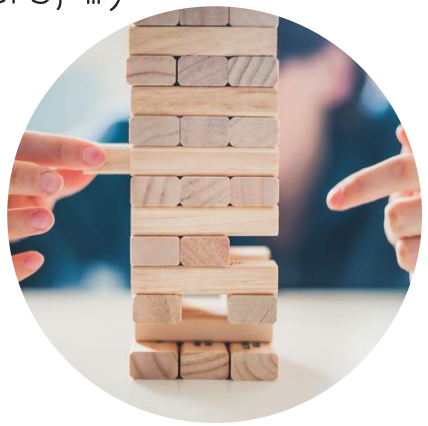


Lessons emerging from planning

PLANNING FOR SCALE >> EMERGING LESSONS

Best addressed first >> Ease of transfer and adoption (E.)

- Simplify solution ("playing Jenga")
- Structure solution (document, standardise together with users, …)
- Test on small scale
- Align with existing curriculum, professional standards, …
- Focus monitoring on (few) priority indicators



Start early on >> Credibility (B.), support base (C.)

- "Good enough, right-on-time" evidence first
- Seeing = Believing
- Foster champions
- Identify where resistance to change comes from, listen, and address quickly

PLANNING FOR SCALE >> EMERGING LESSONS

Then >> Fit with system (F.), securing sustainable funding (G.)

- Build strong relationships with key stakeholders at different levels of education system (! Attention to "middle-tier").
- Shift leadership over key functions; build capacity where needed.
- Move from basic to full-fledged scaling strategy together with key stakeholders (A.)

- Identify existing government budget lines to tap into.
- Further simplify solution to reduce cost.
- Carry out cost analysis (ideally: cost-benefit analysis) (B., D.)
- Approach external donors together.

Education Scalability Checklist

Thank you & stay in touch!

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