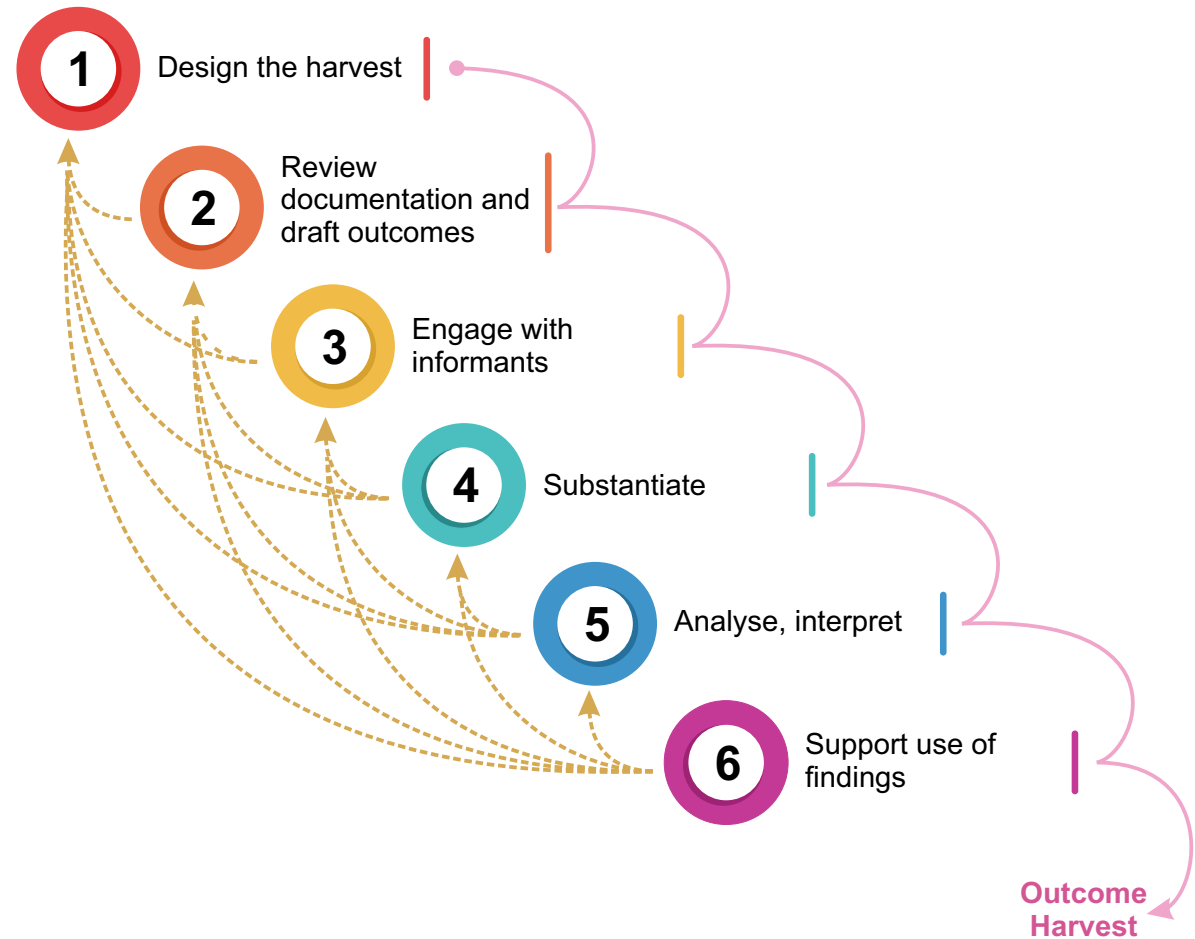


Outcome Harvesting

Outcome Harvesting is a method that enables evaluators, grant makers, and managers to identify, formulate, verify, and make sense of outcomes. Employing Outcome Harvesting, the evaluator or harvester collects (“harvests”) evidence of what has changed (“outcomes”) and, then, working backwards, determines whether and how an intervention has contributed to these changes. This information comes from reports, personal interviews, and other sources. The outcomes can be positive or negative, intended or unintended, direct or indirect, but the connection between the intervention and the outcomes should be plausible.

Outcome Harvesting can be used for monitoring as well as for evaluation (including developmental, formative or summative evaluation) of interventions or organisations. Outcome Harvesting is suitable for evaluation in dynamic, uncertain (i.e., complex) situations, and especially recommended when:

- the focus of evaluation is on outcome rather than on activities
- the programming context is complex, in other words when objectives and the paths to achieve them are largely unpredictable and predefined objectives and theories of change must be modified over time to respond to changes in the context
- the purpose is evaluation.



Steps in Outcome Harvesting