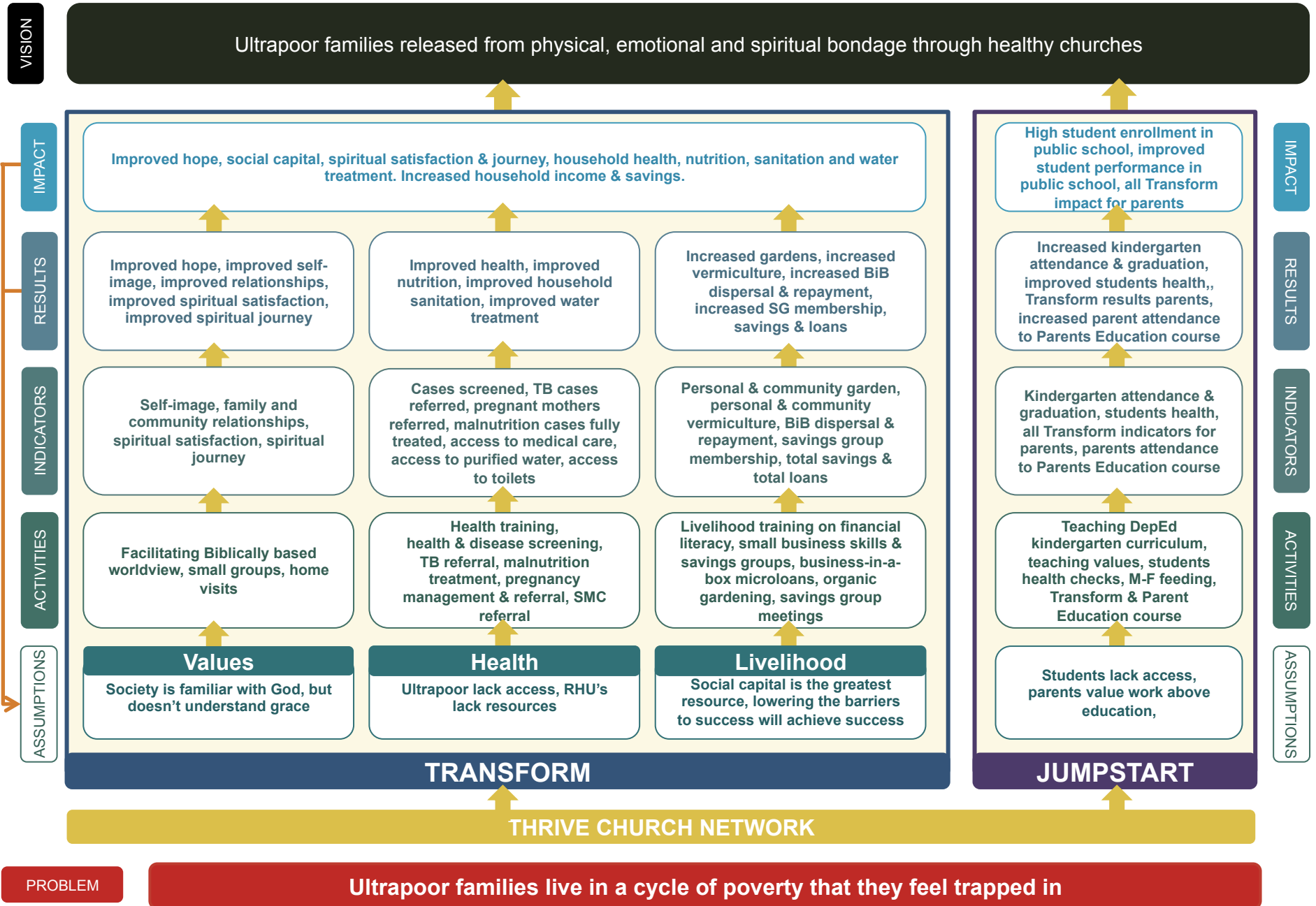# ICM – Evidence Working Group Presentation

Lincoln Lau, Director of Research

International Care Ministries

April 28, 2016

International Care Ministries (ICM)

- Non-profit organization based in the Philippines

- Vision: "To release families living in ultrapoverty from physical, emotional, and spiritual bondage"

- Core program: 16-week community-based intervention called *Transform* that targets households living in ultrapoverty *(i.e. living on < $0.50 USD per person per day)*

    - Program consists of lessons in three broad themes
        A. Values
        B. Health
        C. Livelihood

ICM

Ultrapoor families released from physical, emotional and spiritual bondage through healthy churches

TRANSFORM

	Values	**Health**	**Livelihood**

IMPACT

Improved hope, social capital, spiritual satisfaction & journey, household health, nutrition, sanitation and water treatment. Increased household income & savings.

RESULTS

Improved hope, improved self-image, improved relationships, improved spiritual satisfaction, improved spiritual journey	Improved health, improved nutrition, improved household sanitation, improved water treatment	Increased gardens, increased vermiculture, increased BiB dispersal & repayment, increased SG membership, savings & loans

INDICATORS

Self-image, family and community relationships, spiritual satisfaction, spiritual journey	Cases screened, TB cases referred, pregnant mothers referred, malnutrition cases fully treated, access to medical care, access to purified water, access to toilets	Personal & community garden, personal & community vermiculture, BiB dispersal & repayment, savings group membership, total savings & total loans

ACTIVITIES

Facilitating Biblically based worldview, small groups, home visits	Health training, health & disease screening, TB referral, malnutrition treatment, pregnancy management & referral, SMC referral	Livelihood training on financial literacy, small business skills & savings groups, business-in-a-box microloans, organic gardening, savings group meetings

ASSUMPTIONS

Values	**Health**	**Livelihood**
Society is familiar with God, but doesn't understand grace	Ultrapoor lack access, RHU's lack resources	Social capital is the greatest resource, lowering the barriers to success will achieve success

JUMPSTART

IMPACT

High student enrollment in public school, improved student performance in public school, all Transform impact for parents

RESULTS

Increased kindergarten attendance & graduation, improved students health,, Transform results parents, increased parent attendance to Parents Education course

INDICATORS

Kindergarten attendance & graduation, students health, all Transform indicators for parents, parents attendance to Parents Education course

ACTIVITIES

Teaching DepEd kindergarten curriculum, teaching values, students health checks, M-F feeding, Transform & Parent Education course

ASSUMPTIONS

Students lack access, parents value work above education,

THRIVE CHURCH NETWORK

PROBLEM

Ultrapoor families live in a cycle of poverty that they feel trapped in

Data at ICM

- Our aim is to be a data-driven organization

- Data is broadly categorized into: 1) Monitoring, 2) Evaluation, & 3) Learning

Monitoring
- Participant attendance, dropout, graduation, recovery, savings, etc.
- Distribution of food, medicines, materials, etc.

Evaluation
- All participants are screened for poverty prior to the start of the program (propensity scoring)
- Households are surveyed before and after *Transform*
  - Survey covers a variety of topics (e.g. social capital, income, savings, hygiene practices, food security, etc.)
  - A subset are surveyed 6, 12, 24 & 36 months post-intervention
  - Over 200,000 surveys have been administered by ICM in the last 4 years

Data at ICM

Learning
- Studies designed to address specific gaps in knowledge and research needs
    - *Examples:*
        - How does the education level of our trainers affect program effectiveness?
        - The relationship between baseline social capital in households and success of child feeding
        - Values taught informally vs Values taught formally, a randomized controlled trial

The Role of the Research Department
- In addition to organizing research projects (internally and with partners), to assist operations and individual departments (Values, Health, Livelihood, Education) in integrating data and research in the management of activities
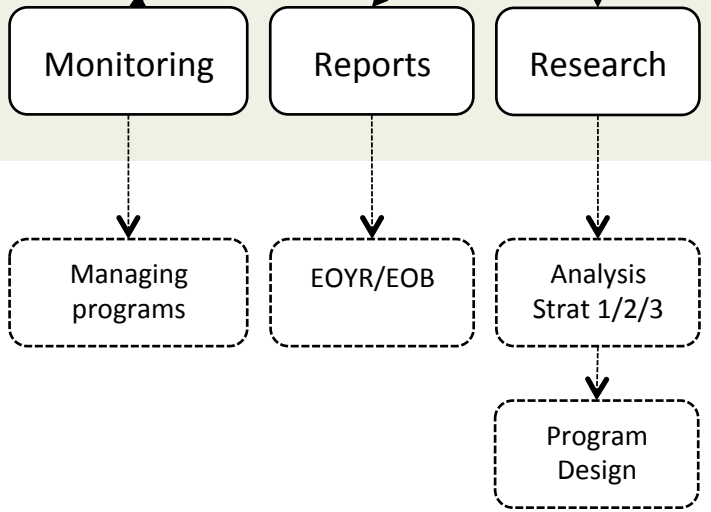   - Specifically, the design of 'Evaluation Frameworks'

DESIGN EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/SURVEYS

Edith
Values

Daniel/Peter
Transform

Hector
Health

Prevail

Michael
Livelihood

Research
Collaborate to finalize questionnaire and methods

Jojo
Thrive

Anna/Jackie
Jumpstart

Lincoln
Pre/Post Survey

Other Studies
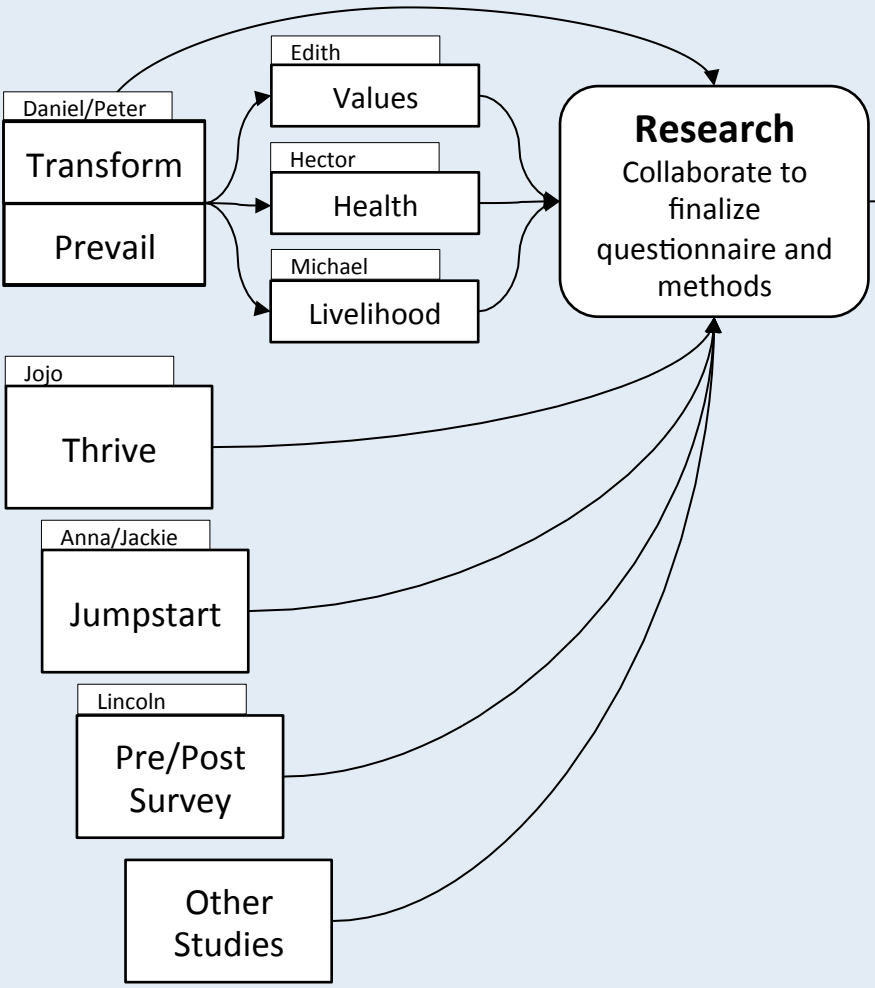
DATA COLLECTION & QUALITY

Metrics
Organize, hire and schedule: 1) Enumeration & 2) Encoding

Database
(Project Tmr, Nate's db, Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.)

ACCESS & DATA SYSTEMS

Monitoring

Reports

Research

Managing programs

EOYR/EOB

Analysis Strat 1/2/3

Program Design

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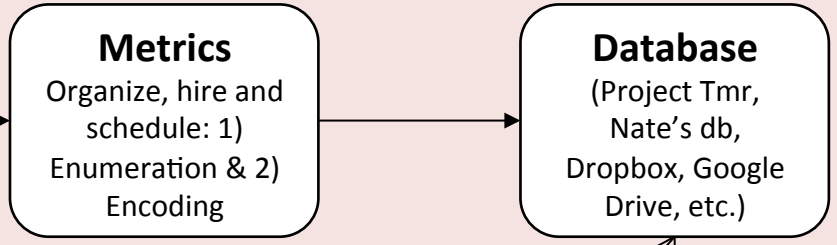
Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) at ICM

- Main study in partnership with Innovations in Poverty Action (IPA)
- Internal RCTs were also conducted to pilot the logistics, and collect data

  Purpose: To produce high quality evidence around program outcomes

Religious Variables/Indices
- The faith-based element of ICM's Transform program is also being studied as one of the outcomes. These are grouped into a number of indices:
    1. Intrinsic Religion
    2. Extrinsic Religion
    3. General Religion
    4. Religious Knowledge

- Other indices potentially relevant to faith-based organizations:
    - Life satisfaction (Kessler psychological scale), Trust, Community Activities, Powerful Others, Locus of Control, Life Orientation, Optimism, Grit, Self-Control

Lessons Learnt & Challenges

- As a data (indicator) driven organization, how do we factor in spiritual/ faith-based elements that all stakeholders can agree upon?

- Need to start somewhere – collect data (lots of piloting is ok)

- Use list randomization for sensitive questions

- *Analysis.* We observe change in many variables and indices, however identifying the causal pathways of these changes is a challenge

- *Creativity*. It has been necessary to be creative in study design and methods to implement studies which isolate specific interests as a faith-based organization without being contextually inappropriate