



Ripple Effects Mapping (REM)

What is Ripple Effects Mapping?

Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) is a strengths-based and participatory evaluation approach that captures diverse perspectives and illustrates the expected and unexpected outcomes of a project or initiative. REM facilitators use “Appreciative Inquiry” to gather stories and reflections, which are then mapped in real time, either virtually or in person. The end result is an illustration of the key impacts of the project on individuals, groups and communities.

Organizes results from complex collaborations and initiatives

Fosters a sense of achievement, confidence, and motivation

Provides a visual map of impacts to share with partners

Empowers participants' voices through real-time and follow-up member checking*

Benefits of Ripple Effects Mapping

Reveals unrealized relationships, connections, and influences

Explores unexpected results

Allows participants to define significance and meaning

Gathers rich data through stories

Supports connection and camaraderie between participants



WHY ORGANIZATIONS CHOOSE REM



REM captures the “harder to measure” impacts of a complex project or initiative and the ripple effects and relationships it creates across individuals/units, organizations and partner organizations and in communities.



REM helps organizations focus on strengths and celebrate successes.



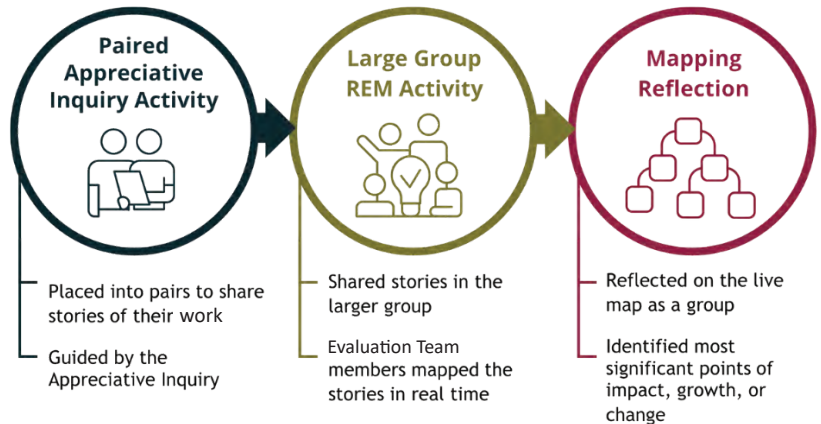
REM is useful when the story and work may be nonlinear or had to be responsive to changing contexts.



While REM is not designed to capture all possible outcomes, it can supplement overall evaluation activities.

WHAT DOES A REM SESSION LOOK LIKE?

- 1** Group size is ideally 8 to 12 members but can be done with more people.
- 2** It can be conducted online or in person by REM facilitation team (2-3 REM staff per session).
- 3** Total time required for a REM session is 60-90 minutes.
 - Introduction and brief overview (10 min)
 - Appreciative inquiry interview (10 min)
 - Mapping Your Impacts (30-60 min)
 - Reflection (5-10 min)



EXAMPLE OF MAP FROM REM SESSION

