**Theory of Change – Logical Framework**

Once the analysis of intervention strategies is completed using the objectives analysis, the Proposal Team can begin to build the project’s **theory of change**. Depending on the donor, various terms may be used instead of the term “theory of change,” such a **logical framework** or **logframe**—these terms are interchangeable.

A theory of change (or ToC) is a management tool used to **improve the design of projects and facilitate planning, execution, and evaluation** of the project. It involves identifying **strategic elements (inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts)** and their **causal relationships**, **indicators**, and **assumptions** or **risks** that may influence success and failure.

To ensure strategic alignment and consistency across projects at CIMMYT, project ToCs should be built based on the ToCs developed by the MAIZE and WHEAT CRPs (and other CRPs if relevant). This can be done by identifying which relevant CRP flagships and CGIAR sub-IDOs the project will contribute to, the R&D outcomes and any additional immediate outcomes, and what interventions and outputs support the achievement of these outcomes.

A critical step in developing the ToC is identifying the assumptions between the various levels of the ToC. These are particularly important because they link the project’s tangible work with the results we hope to achieve, identifying both assumptions about how and why project activities will lead to successful outcomes. Another important item to underline at this stage is the existence of risks that can affect the expected functioning of the vertical causal pathway. Certain internal and external factors such as reliability of financing for the project, political instability and natural disasters can affect the achievement of planned outputs, outcomes and impacts. It is therefore important to include the factors as part of the theory of change.

The theory of change can easily be transcribed to the template requested by the donor. Nonetheless, the visual depiction of the theory of change can be a great communication and marketing tool to demonstrate what the project is seeking to achieve and should be included in the proposal.

| **Logical Framework Template** | | | |
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| **OBJECTIVES**  (What we want to achieve) | **INDICATORS**  (How to measure change) | **MEANS OF** **VERIFICATION**  (Where / how to get information) | **ASSUMPTIONS**  (What else to be aware of) |
| **Goal**  The long-term results that an intervention seeks to achieve, which may be contributed to by factors outside the intervention. | **Impact Indicators**  Quantitative and/or qualitative criteria that provide a simple and reliable means to measure achievement or reflect changes connected to the goal. | How the information on the indicator will be collected *(can include who will collect it and how often).* |  |
| **Outcomes**  The primary result(s) that an intervention seeks to achieve, most commonly in terms of the knowledge, attitudes or practices of the target group. | **Outcome Indicators**  Quantitative and/or qualitative criteria that provide a simple and reliable means to measure achievement or reflect changes connected to the outcome. | How the information on the indicator will be collected *(by whom? How often?)* | External conditions not under the direct control of the intervention necessary if the **outcome** is to contribute to the **intervention goal**. |
| **Outputs/Deliverables**  The tangible products, goods and services and other immediate results that lead to the achievement of outcomes. | **Output Indicators**  Quantitative and/or qualitative criteria that provide a simple and reliable means to measure achievement or reflect changes connected to the outputs. | How the information on the indicator will be collected *(by whom? How often?)* | External factors not under the direct control of the intervention which could restrict the **outputs** leading to the **outcome**. |
| **Activities/Inputs**  The collection of tasks to be carried out in order to achieve the outputs. | **Process Indicators**  Quantitative and/or qualitative criteria that provide a simple and reliable means to measure achievement or reflect changes connected to the activities. | How the information on the indicator will be collected *(by whom? How often?)* | External factors not under the direct control of the intervention which could restrict **progress of activities**. |

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| **Goal** | **Impact Indicators** |  |  |
| **Outcomes** | **Outcome Indicators** |  |  |
| **Outputs/Deliverables** | **Output Indicators** |  |  |
| **Activities/Inputs** | **Process Indicators** |  |  |
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