**Strategies for Validating Your Theory of Change and Assumptions**

* Make the theory of change (ToC) visible in the daily life of the team and project participants.
* Create a large-scale copy of the ToC visual with key assumptions. Place it on the wall of the team’s meeting room. Use a copy of the same visual to place in a prominent place where partners’ and project stakeholders meet and work.
* Create a regular monthly agenda item about a relevant aspect of the ToC for discussion at team and partners’ meetings.
* Create project milestones about reflecting on the ToC and MEL analysis. Ensure ToC related milestones coincide with reporting so that the two processes support each other.
* Ensure the ToC products are up-to-date, engaging and appropriate for different uses and users. Good quality ToC use relies on documentation being available relating to different stages of its development and use.

**Guiding Questions to Test Theories of Change and Assumptions**

* When X changed, did Z really happen? Why? Under which conditions did it work?
* Are expected targets being met? If not, why?
* What evidence do we now have that supports our assumptions about causality?
* Are there differences in results across geographic areas? If so, how can these differences be explained?
* Does the theory of change hold for all people? What about youth, women and/or minority groups?
* Are other factors contributing to change that have not been identified?
* Which assumptions hold and which need to be modified?
* How would changes in context affect the theory of change?
* How is the political, social and economic environment affecting pace of change or possibilities for high-level impact?
* Is the project having any unintended consequences (either negative or positive)?