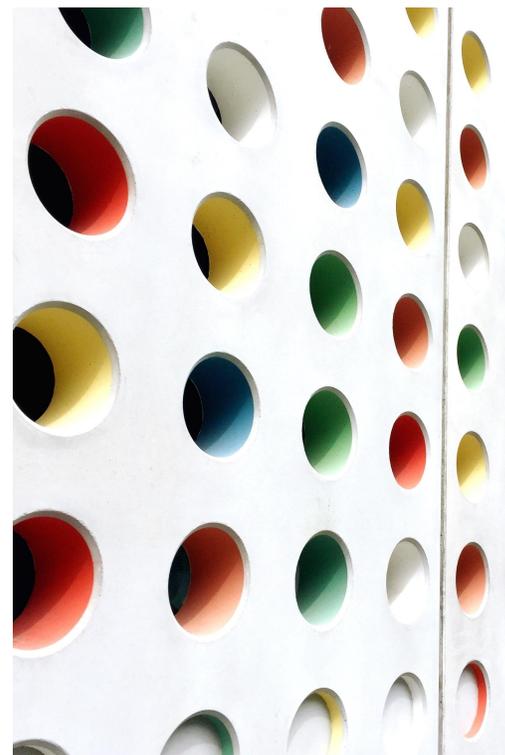# Theory of Change

Solomon Kayiwa Mugambe

A Theory of Change is perceived to be complex - *Theories of change are simpler than you think.

Wezesha Impact

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A **Theory of change** is explains how a given intervention, or set of interventions, is expected to lead to specific change.

A theory of change helps to:
- Identify solutions to effectively address the causes of problems that hinder progress and guide decisions on which approach should be taken.
- Identify the underlying assumptions and risks that will be vital to understand and revisit throughout the process to ensure the approach will contribute to the desired change.

The ToC is just a road map. – It is centered around the **How & Why?**

Road map   Engine of change.   THEORY OF ACTION.

The Theory of Change -

Is **an on-going process of reflection to explore change and how it happens** – and what that means in a particular context, sector, and/or group of people

It is a process designed to depict how a complex change initiative will unfold over time

- It's the articulation of **how and why** a given set of interventions will lead to **specific change** following a generally straightforward **"if/then"** logic

Why - The Theory of Change

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Helps you to be:

- **Thoughtful,**
- **Deliberate,**
- **Effective**

*Theory of change aims to bring **improved clarity** and **quality to the process of programme design and implementation** using a simple, flexible methodology.

It can help stakeholders and partners to understand and support the organisation's contribution to change, as well as strengthen collaboration with other organizations that aim to contribute to the same outcomes, leading to stronger or new partnerships and better complementarity and coordination.

Theory of Change Visualization

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Step 1

Imagine your community is faced with the **PROBLEM** eg.

High rate of Malaria

What could be the **CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM** eg. Lack of access to Mosquito nets

What are the **ROOT CAUSES for** the problem? **Eg. Stagnant water around communities**

Step 2

Imagine your **GOAL** *(Define the End after the problem is solved)* eg.

A malaria Free Community

What could be the **activities/solutions to solve the causes of the problem?** *Eg. Distribute Mosquito nets*

What are the **activities/solutions to solve the root causes for** the problems *eg. Drain stagnant water points*

ToC

- **Solutions/interventions**
- MUST match the
- **Root causes of the problems**

*Share Wezesha Impact Theory of Change

Conclusion

A good THEORY OF CHANGE is:

- Plausible,
- Feasible,
- Testable,

With a solid Theory of Change, We are better able to not only **articulate what we think success will look like** but **how we will know if we are on track over time.**

Practice guide

- Define the **problem** your activity or activities tackles.

- Name the **business activity/solution** and important elements that make up that activity. Use the solution tree. Remember: maybe you will need more than one important activity in order to achieve impact.

- **Output** is the work performed. For example: if you give training, it's the number of training sessions and the number of participants. If your business activity is a website, it could be the number of clicks.

- **Outcomes** are the changes your business activities bring about for the users after a specific amount of time (e.g. within 2 years). Examples include increased skills or knowledge, or an enlarged social network.

- **Impact** is the change in people's lives you aim for on the long term, e.g. the target group finding a sustainable job. Revisit your solution tree and vision.

Wezesha Impact