



THEORY OF CHANGE

TEMPLATE

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1. What is the definition of a theory of change?

There are various definitions of a Theory of Change (ToC). For the purpose of this template, a ToC is regarded as a representation of how an organization or initiative is expected to achieve results and an identification of the underlying assumptions made (Morra-Imas and Rist, 2009). Evaluators acknowledge the importance of a program theory as the basis for formulating and prioritizing evaluation questions, designing the evaluation, and interpreting evaluation findings (Rossie et al, 2004).



the dpme

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2. Elements of a theory of change

Situation	What is the context or reason for this change?	Aims	What will 'success' look like?	
Inputs and activities 	Outputs 	Change mechanism 	Outcomes 	
<p>Inputs (Refers to all the resources that contribute to the production of service delivery output).</p> <p>What financial outlay, staffing and other resources will be required?</p> <p>Activities (relate to the process or actions that use a range of inputs to produce the desired outputs and ultimately, outcomes).</p> <p>What will be delivered, such as training or guidance?</p>	<p><i>Outputs relate to the final product, goods and services produced for delivery.</i></p>	<p><i>What actions will be needed to achieve the change(s)? Are you removing frictions, changing behaviour etc.?</i></p>	<p>Short term <i>What will be the benefits and wider outcomes, both leading and lagging?</i></p> <p>Long term <i>What will be the sustainable and lasting changes, and what metrics will be used to measure these?</i></p>	<p><i>These are the results of achieving specific outcomes, the change - such as reducing poverty and creating jobs.</i></p> <p><i>What are the impacts and how do they fit with departmental and governmental priorities?</i></p>

Evidence assessment

What is the strength of the existing evidence base for this change?

Assumptions

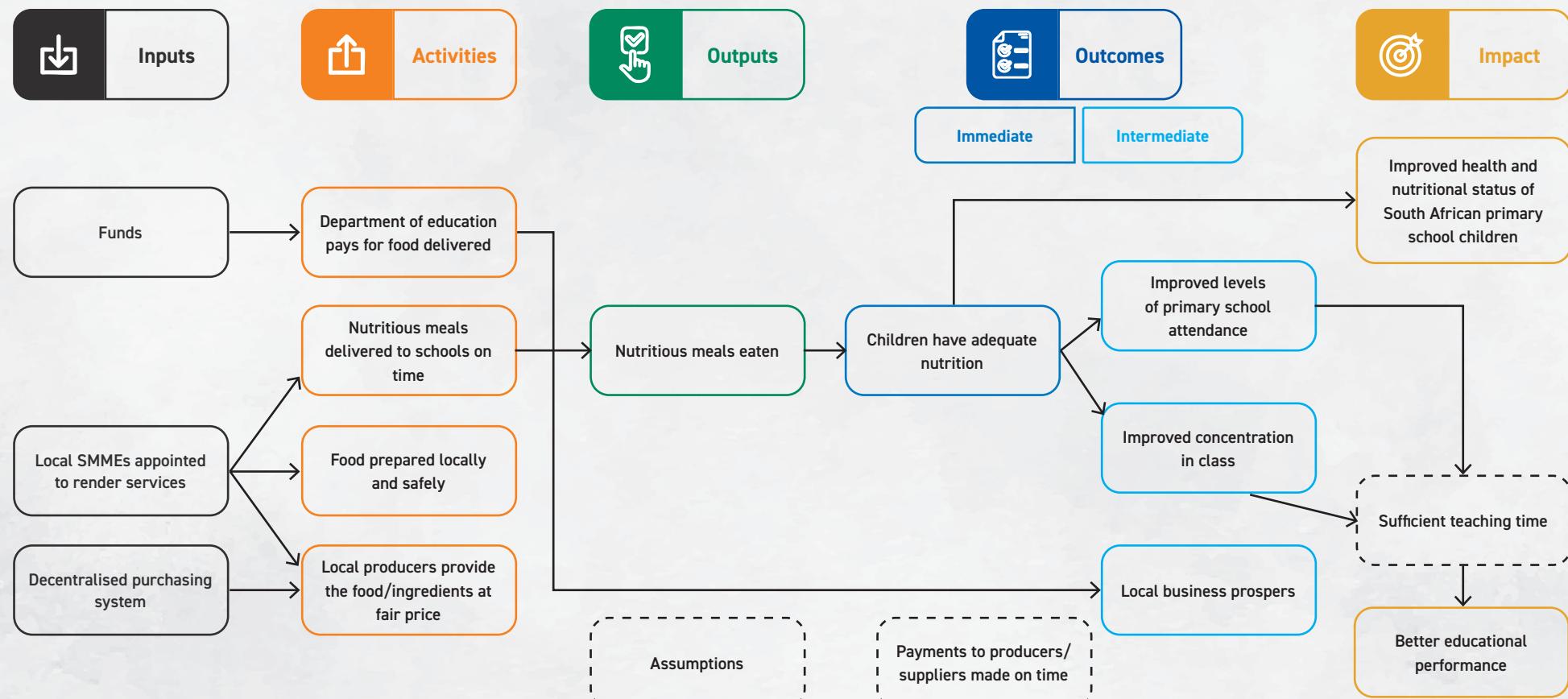
What is being assumed as part of the plan?

Possible unintended consequences

Are there any other outcomes that might result from this project?

Figure 1: Example of a Theory of Change

National School Nutrition Programme TOC



References

Morra-Imas, L. G., and Rist R.C., 2009: The Road to Results: Designing and conducting effective development evaluations, The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank

Rossi, P.H., Lipsey, M. W., and Freeman H.E., 2004: Evaluation A Systematic Approach, CA: Sage.