

Integrating Gender into Causal Impact Assessments: understanding the scope of causal impact assessments and how to incorporate gender effectively

Monitoring & Impact Assessments

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MONITORING:

A systematic and ongoing process of collecting, analyzing, and using information to track the progress of research and development interventions or innovations over time. It helps guide activities, improve programs, and compares planned outputs and outcomes with observed results. Monitoring also identifies challenges and facilitates adaptive management by enabling timely corrective actions to achieve desired goals.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Objective assessment of a program's outcomes and durable or long-term changes resulting from research for development interventions. It is designed to study causes of and/or contributions to change by an initiative or intervention. It can employ quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods to measure changes in key outcomes and impacts over time.





Theory of Change

- A conceptual framework that outlines a series of interconnected steps tracing the progression from inputs to outputs, outcomes, and ultimately, impact.
- A theory of change explains how the activities undertaken by an intervention (such as a project, program or policy) contribute to a **chain of results that lead to the intended impacts.**
- It illustrates the **factual and counter-factual links** between program components and their desired effects





Theory of Change

- Inputs: Resources, funding, and expertise invested in the program
- Activities: Specific actions undertaken to achieve program goals
- **Outputs:** Immediate, tangible products and services delivered by program activities, such as training participants or distributing materials
- Outcomes: Short term or intermediate changes resulting from the program
- Impact: Long-term, sustainable changes in individuals, communities, or systems

• Assumptions: what do we need to happen for the impact pathway to take place





Index Based Livestock Insurance-ToC

Activities	Output	Outcome	Impact
Insurance companies offer their insurance	Pastoralists buy IBLI	Sustained use of the insurance over time	Sustainable increase in livestock production
plans to pastoralists Discount coupons	Payouts triggered when droughts occur.	Increase livestock investments	Increased food security
available to incentivize uptake (at initial stage)	Pastoralists increase product understanding and	Reduces distress animal sales	Improved resilience
	trust in insurance agents	Increases household income from livestock	Poverty reduction

MONITORING & EVALUATION (MEL)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IA)

GENDER Impact Platform

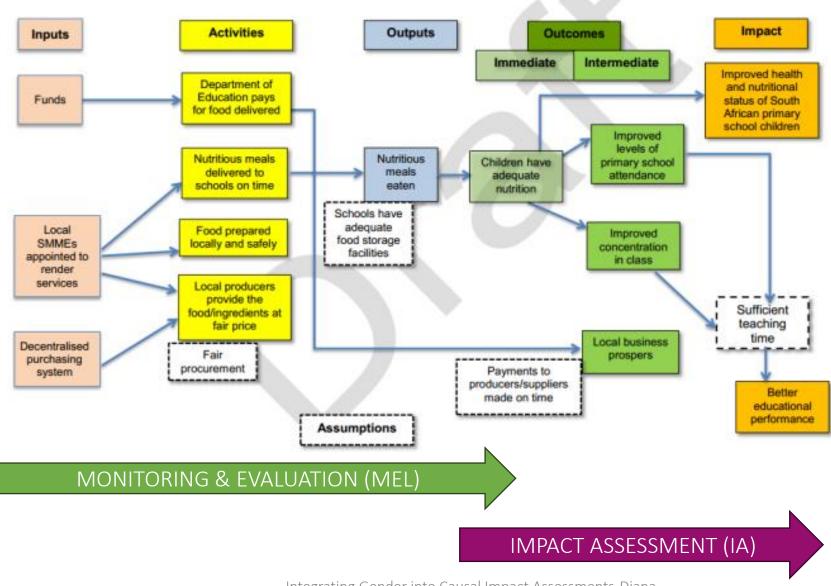
CGIAR

Integrating Gender into Causal Impact Assessments-Diana

Source of image of ToC: SPIA-Theory of Change (ToC) and its use in Impact Assessment (link)



ToC-School Meals Program



Source: The Theory of Change: An Overview: Y Chetty (2018) https://www.saqa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Theory-of-Change-Concept-Paper-2018-07-02-.pdf





- Track Progress: Monitor the progress of interventions over time, validate reported results, and provide stakeholders with a clear and reliable understanding of the project/innovation's status.
- Guide Improvement: Compare planned and actual outcomes, address challenges, take corrective actions to achieve desired goals.

> Help answer questions such as:

- How many farmers have participated in the agricultural extension activities? Of these participants, how many are men and how many are women?
- Do female farmers find the activities useful and aligned with their needs? What aspects do they believe could be improved?
- Have the agricultural extension activities been delivered as planned in terms of frequency, duration, and content?
- How many men have participated to the sensitization session on the role of women in agriculture? Do men find the sessions useful?
- > How do female farmers perceive the quality of the facilitators delivering the sessions on financial literacy?
- What specific skills or knowledge have farmers gained through the extension services, and how are they applying these in their agricultural practices?





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Do you think the following question assessments?	s are better addressed by monitoring syst	ems or impact	Menti Slide9_S3_Monitoring(Q [2
What shifts in attitudes and behaviors reg of the program?	arding gender roles and responsibilities have been observe	d as a result		
Is the agriculture extension program bein	g implemented as planned in terms of outreach and conten	?	Choose a slide to pres	ent
How well has the program reached differe	ent groups of farmers, including women , men and youth?		Ete ges. Hirk Der belanting spærtikens mer hætter mikkensend kynnsetlistergaspår Wind inder institusion mediationiers organing gese for eden med responsibilit af høppangare?	lin has been downed as pread
What changes in farming practices or pro	ductivity have been observed as a result of the extension a	ctivities?	h the optication endowing program thing in patients for any dense of the term of the Hore mellitum therping are marked different groups of the end-indegeneration. Which changes in hereing provident or productively inner interesting on a sense Marcineting.	n ramond goald?
Monitoring		Impact Assessment		
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Group exercise

Members of the women's group preparing food. Photo by C. de Bode/CGIAR

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Theory of Change

- Last week, we discussed about the following research topics:
- 1. The role of gender norms in shaping women's participation in livestock rearing and strategies to enhance vaccination uptake among farmers
- 2. Designing gender-inclusive extension services to promote the adoption of improved rice varieties among farmers
- 3. Enhancing women's financial literacy and inclusion to improve access to agricultural inputs and boost productivity





- Based on the research questions (descriptive, relational, and causal) discussed with your teams, develop a Theory of Change for the innovation or intervention that was the focus of your discussions.
- The Theory of Change does not need to be comprehensive; the goal is to outline a potential pathway for addressing the relational and causal questions discussed.
 - To guide the discussion, think about:
 - What are the activities that will be put in place to achieve the expected results?
 - What are the outputs expected directly from the activities that will be implemented (e.g., people participate in training sessions, people are aware of the vaccination campaigns, etc.)?
 - What changes do you expect to observe thanks to the innovation, in the short, medium and long term (e.g., men are more aware of the role of women in agriculture, farmers vaccinate their animals, households experience better yield, women have more control over income, etc.)?
- Complement the set of questions developed last time with questions that you aim to answer through monitoring systems
- Please nominate a facilitator and a rapporteur
- At the end of the group exercise, the rapporteur will present the key points discussed (~ 5 min per group)
- Time dedicate for discussion 20 minutes

