



# Demonstrating Impact – Theories of Change

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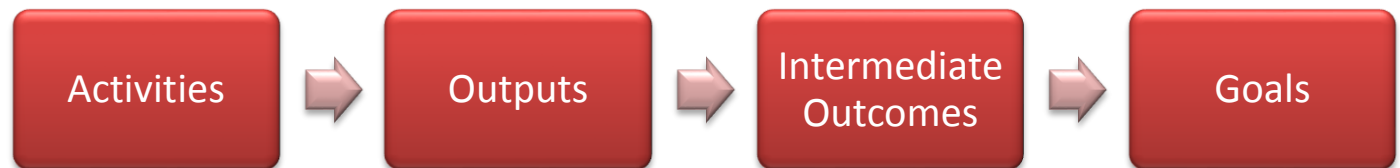


## Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity (SHARE)

- DFID-funded RPC
- Relevant and rigorous research to contribute to realising universal and sustainable access to safe sanitation and hygiene
- Research uptake central: *communication of research and synthesis influences better sector decision-making and increased priority for sanitation and hygiene*

## What's a Theory of Change (ToC)?

- DFID: useful framework to make explicit **what kind of change** an RPC is designed to achieve, **how it will achieve** that change, and **how it will measure** the degree of change
- Participatory, backwards mapping process that defines all the building blocks required to bring about a long-term given goal



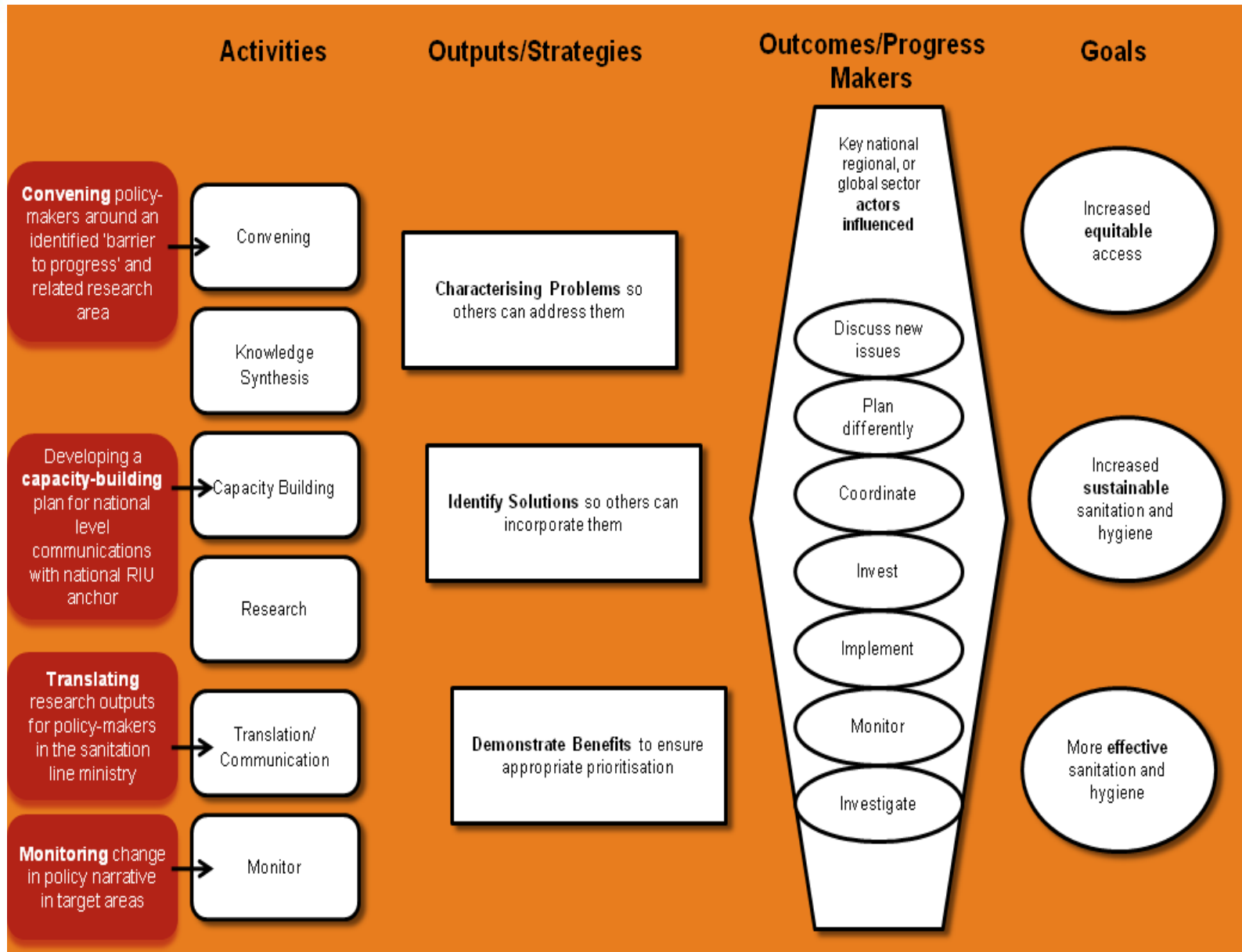
- Based on assumptions about the change process



## Why use a ToC?

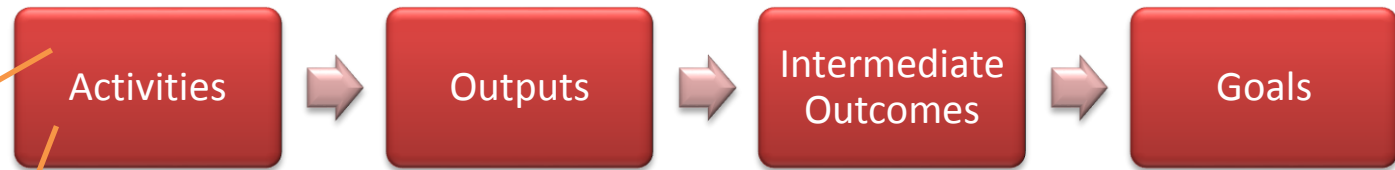
- Helps teams work together to develop and communicate a shared understanding
- Assumptions can be examined and challenged
- **Realistic** assessment of potential influence and impact and the **plausibility** of reaching their goal with time and resources available

# SHARE's ToC



# Using ToCs to demonstrate impact

- Provides a template for evaluation and data collection



How well were your activities carried out?

- E.g. how can we show that users have benefitted from our work/research?

Did they reach the intended audience?

- Pre and post assessments of users e.g. workshop feedback forms, case studies and qualitative research – speak to users and find out how research/outputs have influenced their work
- Direct observation of behaviour e.g. in global non-academic meetings/presentations/publications is our work cited
- Inferring impact: results consistent with expected theory and positive evidence for each element? If so, can make the case that your research has impacted!

# SHARE's experience – Inclusive WASH

- Guides formation of Outcome Mapping exercises
- Precise targets, concrete outcomes, measurable indicators & specific activities

Target	Outcome Challenge	Indicators (Progress Markers)	RIU ACTIVITIES	Results
DFID	Mainstream the issue of disability in the WASH sector.	<p><b>Expect to see</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DFID advisors request SHARE research and synthesis on inclusive sanitation.</li> <li>2. Country offices request SHARE support for strengthening investment in inclusive WASH.</li> </ol> <p><b>Like to see</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Country offices adapt and adopt inclusive sanitation strategies based on SHARE research.</li> <li>4. Inclusive sanitation is incorporated into investment prioritisation (eg evaluation for the inclusive WASH project).</li> </ol> <p><b>Love to see</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. DFID country offices support increased investment in inclusive sanitation.</li> <li>6. DFID adapt their investment strategies based on SHARE research findings.</li> <li>7. Incorporates SHARE research into policy.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-study, WEDC held participatory barrier analysis workshops in both countries with national and regional stakeholders, where roles and responsibilities were mapped. Further workshops held by WaterAid in Aug &amp; Sept 2013 on the participatory barrier analysis, to update on the research and consider steps forward.</li> <li>• BOND Disability &amp; Development Group meeting with WaterAid, UCL and Handicap International on sharing practical experiences of conducting disability research in May 2013.</li> <li>• Lynne Featherstone (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development) and Ade Adepitan (MBE, Paralympian and British television presenter) visit project in Uganda in Oct 2013.</li> <li>• Project was presented to DFID WASH team at Whitehall, with dial in from a number of country offices, in Nov 2013.</li> <li>• Project team continued to engage with PUSS (concrete example of how it is possible to mainstream disability in a different sector (WASH) &amp; feeding messages from the study's baseline findings into speech – Dec).</li> <li>• Findings informed WaterAid's report to International Development Select Committee to contribute to the new inquiry into Disability and Development in Jan 2014.</li> <li>• Study baseline findings will be fed into the Joint Sector Review process in Uganda in September 2014.</li> <li>• Project outputs shared at DFID World Toilet Day stand in Nov 2014.</li> <li>• Feature on 'Inclusive WASH' written for DFID's intranet in 2015.</li> <li>• Findings were presented to DFID (WASH and Equity teams), with dial in from country offices, in Sept 2015. Compendium of Accessible WASH Technologies and other tools shared with those in attendance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynne Featherstone becomes a champion for inclusive WASH, committing during a speech in a Dec 2013 event to include inclusive WASH in School programme and to influence others.</li> <li>• Lynne Featherstone has written blogs that mention the Undoing Inequity study.</li> <li>• DFID contacted WaterAid to ask for guidance on disability in the WASH sector.</li> <li>• Findings informed IDSC's recommendations to DFID on mainstreaming disability in development. DFID since published a Disability Framework.</li> <li>• Brownbag on Undoing Inequity held at DFID HQ in Sept 2015 – attended by WASH and Equity Advisors – upon the request of the Equity team.</li> </ul>

# Advantages for SHARE

- Demonstrates how particular actions resulted in certain outcomes
- Good for reporting to DFID (annual report), our Advisory Group (annual meeting) and interested stakeholders (newsletter, website)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015  
SHARE Research Consortium  
Submitted to DFID, July 2015



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### Newsletter - May 2015

This month we report on:

- Participating in the [KCL WASH Week](#)
- An international [seminar on sustainability and value-for-money \(VFM\) in WASH](#)
- Celebrating [Menstrual Hygiene Day](#)
- The [WASH & CLEAN toolkit](#) arriving in Bangladesh

We are delighted to announce the publication of:

- A new journal paper reporting SHARE-funded research: [Laboratory Development and Field Testing of Sentinel Toys to Assess Environmental Faecal Exposure of Young Children in Rural India](#)
- An informative [policy brief](#) on sanitary child stool disposal
- A research [poster](#) and [two reports](#) on making WASH inclusive in Uganda and Zambia
- Four updated [briefing notes](#) exploring the impacts of poor WASH on women and girls in India

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## Undoing Inequity

Location: Zambia  
Dates: 2011 to 2014  
Contact: [jimwellbar@wateraid.org](mailto:jimwellbar@wateraid.org)  
Status: Completed

**About** Partners Resources

This action research project, undertaken by [WaterAid](#), the [Water Engineering and Development Centre \(WEDC\)](#) at Loughborough University and [Imperial Children's Disability Unit](#), aims to understand the environmental, attitudinal and institutional barriers that (WASH), and to design and test an inclusive WASH approach to address those barriers in several districts in Uganda and Zambia.

- Working document that allows us to reflect on progress and amend activities accordingly





## Limitations of ToCs

- Subjective – only reflect views of those in room
- Limits to what can be achieved by participatory planning processes for large projects – diversity of views
- Assumptions may not be explicitly captured in ToCs
- Simplicity may limit ToCs' capacity to adequately represent complex projects and only ever represent one combination of influences on outcomes
- Must not lose sight of opportunistic nature of influencing policy via such planning!



## References

- Clinks, 2015. *Demonstrating Outcomes*. Available [here](#).
- Davies, R. 2012. *Where there is no single Theory of Change: The uses of Decision Tree models*. Available [here](#).
- Research to Action, 2015. *What DFID want*. Available [here](#).
- Theory of Change, 2015. *What is Theory of Change*. Available [here](#).

## Resources

- SHARE **website**: [www.shareresearch.org](http://www.shareresearch.org)
- **Twitter**: [@SHAREresearch](https://twitter.com/SHAREresearch)
- [Sign up for our newsletter](#)
- For further information on the **Inclusive WASH** project:  
[http://shareresearch.org/Page/Detail/equity#Undoing inequity](http://shareresearch.org/Page/Detail/equity#Undoing%20inequity)