Theory of Change / Problem Tree

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Logframe Example: Legazpi City, Philippines

**PROJECT DEV. OBJECTIVE**: Build resilience to climate change and enhance agricultural productivity to improve the livelihood of small-scale farmers in Legazpi City.

**IMPACTS**
- **Enhanced Food Security**
- **Improved Income of Small-Scale Farmers**

**OUTCOMES**
- **Increased Yield & Quality and Sustainability of Agri-Products**
- **Competitive Farm Gate Prices**
- **Increased Income of Women & Men Farmers**

**OUTPUTS**
- **Right Fertilizers & Nutrients Applied**
- **Farming Technologies Acquired by W/M Farmers**
- **Information Access Provided to W/M Farmers**
- **Farmers Adopt Climate-Adaptive & Pest Resistant Crop Varieties**

**ACTIVITIES**
- **Distribute NPK fertilizers w/essential nutrients to beneficiaries**
- **Conduct Seminar on Farming Technologies**
- **Establish Agricultural Database & Information System**
- **Distribute Climate-Adaptive & Pest-Resistant Plants/Seeds**

**ASSUMPTIONS**
- **Incidence of a Series of High Impact Disasters**
- **Sustained Demand for Farm Products**
- **Stable Prices for Farms**
- **Funding Support Assured**

**RISKS**
- **Price Speculations Creating Artificial Shortage**
- **Acceptance of W/M Farmers on Farming Technology & Need for Larger Stakeholder Participation**
- **Availability of Plants/Seeds Locally**

**INPUTS**
- **Logistics**
- **Human Power, Equipment**
- **Technology**
- **Funding/Finances**
- **Institutional Arrangements**
Making your case...

• ALL PROJECTS MUST BE BUILT ON A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF THE “DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM”

• This explains “why” you think your project will work!!

• “Theory of Change” is a narrative/graphical statement of the “problem” and the “intervention”

• Feeds directly into logical framework...
Problem Tree Best Practices

- Problems should be evidence-based
- Identify cause and effect relationships
- Immediate causes suggest the major aspects of the core problem
- Identify the right problem!
- MUST BE PARTICIPATORY!
- Allow time for reflection and revision
Problem Tree Example

Fish Production Declining

Species Decline

Protected Fish Sp.

Climate Change

Increase Access to Water

Water Quality Declining

Drought Inc.

Temp. Inc.

Conservation Areas

Deforestation of Forests + Mangroves

Reforestation + Meat Replacement

Increase (by building freshwater ponds)

Safeguarding + Sub Harvesting

Livelihood Change Release of Cuts

Illegal Fishing

Small Fish + Capture

Habitat Changes

Climate Change

2001

Community B.G.T.

Community B.G.T.

Floods Later

Flood Detection System

Drought Proofing

Temp Stabilizing

POP. Inc.

Change Release of Cuts

Options?
Problem Tree Example: Legazpi City, Philippines
Developing YOUR Problem Tree

- Divide into groups
- Use the flipchart/whiteboard
- Inclusive discussions
- Reflect on structure
- Report on your findings
1. Now, reverse **negative statements** from the problem tree into **positive ones**:
   - Imagine that the problem has already been solved!
   - “Reduced fisheries capture” → “sustained fisheries capture”

2. Modify the **causes** so they lead to the **desired effects**
   - “Habitat changed → habitat restored”
   - Thus, root causes become root solutions
   - Convert your problem tree to an objectives tree
Problems to Objectives

Problem Tree
Effects of the Focal Problem
- Effect 1
- Effect 2
- Effect 3

FOCAL PROBLEM
- Direct Cause 1
- Direct Cause 2
- Indirect Cause 1
- Indirect Cause 2

Causes of the Focal Problem

Objective Tree
Positive Outcomes
- Results 1
- Results 2
- Results 3

DESIRED RESULT
- Direct Cause 1
- Direct Cause 2
- Indirect Cause 1
- Indirect Cause 2

Means
Objectives Tree Best Practices

- Positive statements of the desired state of the system
  
- Are the statements **clear and unambiguous**?

- Are the **links** between each statement logical and **reasonable**?

- Is there a **need to add any other positive actions** and/or statements?

- Are the **positive actions at one level sufficient to lead to the result** in the level above it?

- Is the **overall structure simple and clear**?
Step 3: Applying the Objectives Tree
From Objectives to DMF Matrix/Logframe

IMPACT—OUTCOME—OUTPUTS—ACTIVITIES—INPUTS
Thank You! Thank You Very Much!

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