



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative



Photo: Lauren Seibert, Peace Corps

Session 2:

## Developing Your Activity Theory of Change and Results Framework



## Definition

### What is a “theory of change”?

- **A theory of change describes a *process* of desired change.**
- **A theory of change contains a set of hypotheses, outcomes, and assumptions that make up causal pathways of change needed to bring about a desired long-term goal.**
- **What are hypotheses?**



## Why do we need a Theory of Change?

- **To build a common understanding around the process needed to achieve a desired change.**
- **To make explicit how activities and outputs will interact within the context.**
- **To highlight gaps and intellectual leaps in assumptions.**
- **To help identify critical junctures in the change process**
- **To have a conceptual map that articulates underlying assumptions, and the links between actions and outcomes.**
- **To identify critical areas addressed by external actors and how the program will link to them.**
- **To provide a detailed map showing pathways of change (e.g., how multiple activities will lead to achievement of short and longer term goals).**



## Elements of a Theory of Change

- **Problem statement**
- **Causal analysis**
- **Long-term goal**
- **Pathways of change**
- **Assumptions**
- **Stakeholder analysis**
- **Interventions**



## Problem Statement

- **Define the Problem Statement**
  - **What**
  - **Who**
  - **Where**
- **Examples:**
  - **High stunting in children under five living in Haka province**
  - **Low income for small-business women living in Dera city**

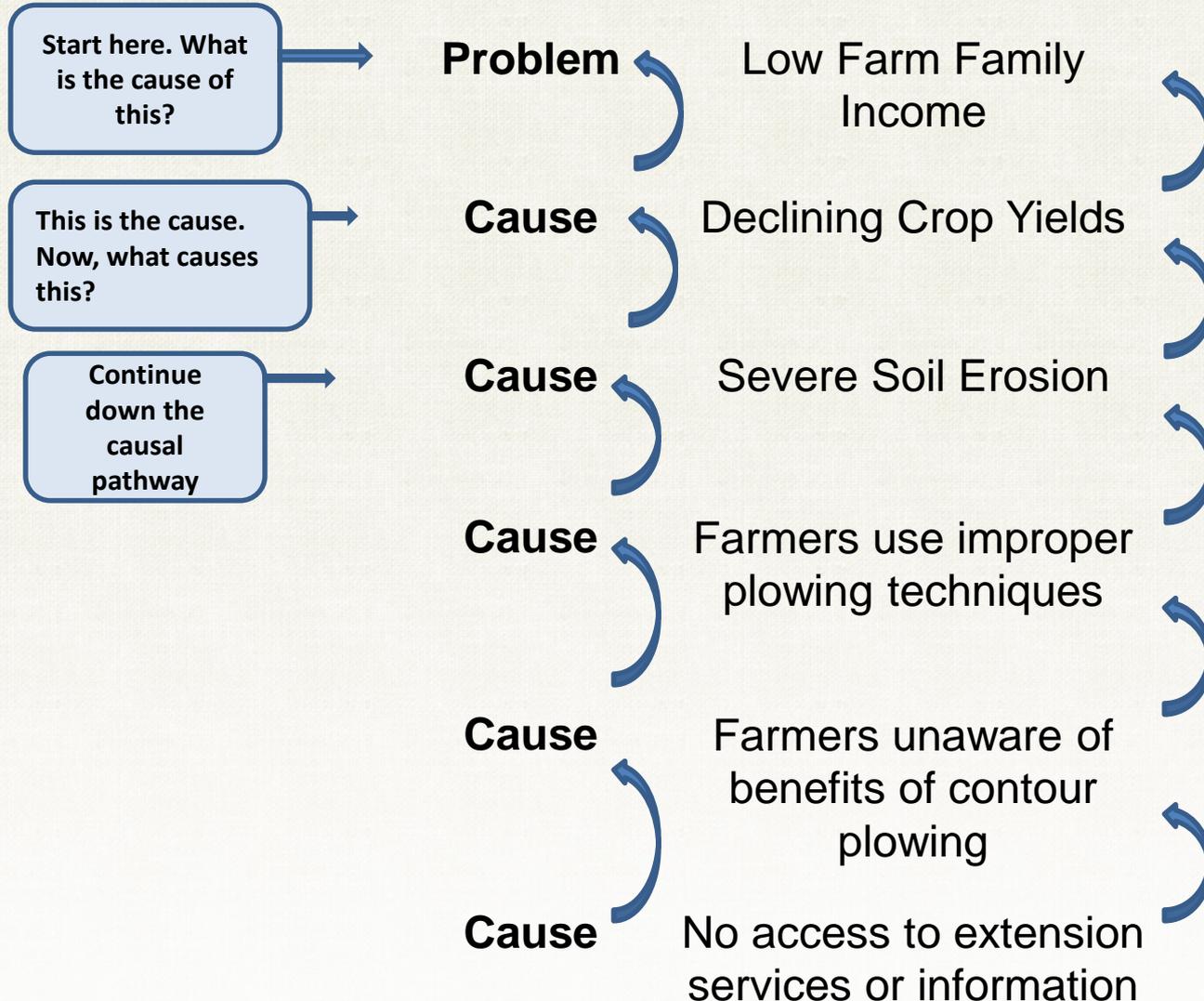


## Causal Analysis

- **Conduct causal analysis**
  - **What are the main causes of the problem you have identified?**
  - **Map the key underlying causes of the problem, and create a causal stream. Make sure to include all significant social, economic, political, historical, cultural, and geographic factors**



## Example of a Causal Stream





## Long-term Goal

- **Identify the Long-Term Goal**
  - **Enduring impact in the lives of the target group**
  - **E.g. Stunting eliminated amongst children under 5 in Haka province**



## Pathway of Change

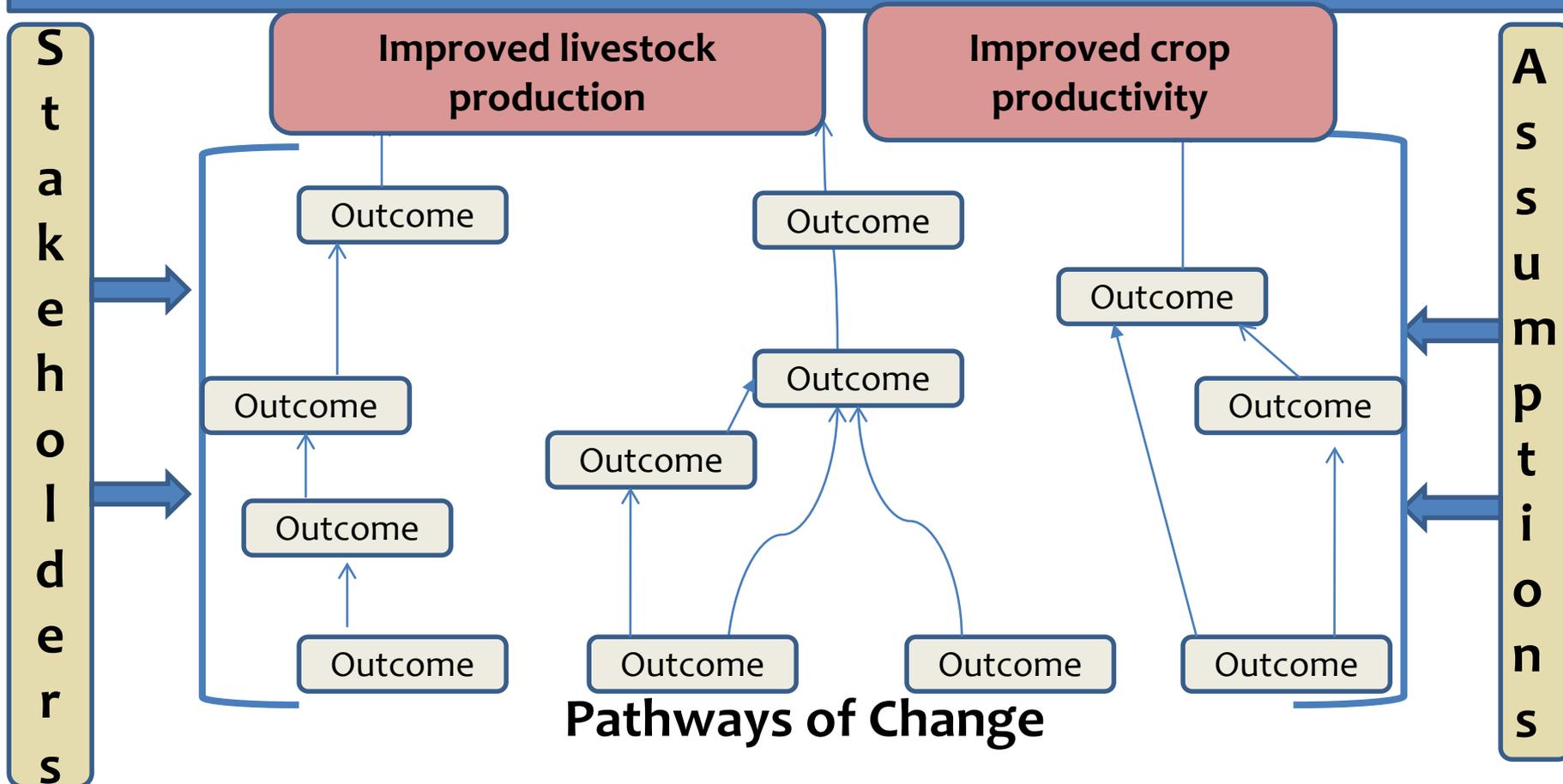
- **Identify Domains of Change**
- **Map pathways of change within these domains**
- **Pathways of change show sequential outcomes or conditions that must be realized before the next higher outcome in the chain can be achieved.**



## Pathway of Change

- **Numerous outcomes are part of each pathway of change, and contribute to the long-term goal**
- **Multiple pathways lead towards the long-term goal.**

# Goal: Improved food security for rural households



Problem: Food insecurity among poor rural households





## Assumptions

- **Pathways of Change are based on assumptions.**
- **Assumptions are underlying conditions that are important to the success of a pathway, but are beyond your control.**

**Use available evidence  
to support/form assumptions**



## Stakeholder analysis

- **Identify potential stakeholders (social, economic, political, cultural actors) and their level of interest**
- **Assess each stakeholder's power and influence and how this affects each pathway of change**
- **Identify assumptions related to stakeholder power**



## Interventions

- **The Theory of Change helps identify the most critical, or strategic interventions.**
- **Three components of the ToC process will help select a pathway of change and set of interventions:**
  - **a thorough review of necessary and sufficient outcomes (Assumptions)**
  - **a good understanding of your manageable interest and timeline of action available to you**
  - **a good understanding of stakeholder interests**



## Test your Theory of Change by asking is it...

- **Plausible**
- **Feasible**
- **Testable**



## Group Work

- 1. Review the NUTSENAG case study, with a particular focus on the Theory of Change section**
- 2. Draw the NUTSENAG Theory of Change clearly illustrating:**
  - **The Problem Statement**
  - **Causal Stream**
  - **Long-term Goal**
  - **Pathway(s) of Change**
  - **Assumptions**
  - **Stakeholder(s)**



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**Plausible • Feasible • Testable**



## Theory of Change: Redux

- ▶ **Recall that a Theory of Change helps us identify the problem we want to focus on, the root causes of it, our long-term goal, pathways to achieve our long-term goal, and assumptions that undergird those pathways.**
- ▶ **And then, it helps us choose the pathway(s) we want to focus on, and then it helps us identify the most critical or strategic interventions to implement**



# Theory of Change to Results Framework

**Move from the things we wish to achieve**



**to the activities and actions needed to achieve them**



# Theory of Change vs. Results Framework: Theory of Change

- **Broad: Shows all domains and pathways that may reach a goal, including those the project/activity will not/cannot directly address**
- **Non-linear and adaptive**
- **Describes conditions and rationales/ reasons for linkages that lead to the problem, and along pathways of change towards our long-term goal**
- **Used for understanding “the big picture”**



# Theory of Change vs Results Framework

## Framework: Results Framework

- **Specific: Based on specific pathway(s) of change that the project/activity has chosen, and the specific intervention(s) the project/activity will implement**
- **Linear and structured**
- **Illustrates outputs, outcomes, and impacts expected as a result of interventions, via the use of metrics and indicators**
- **Used for focused and specific project/activity monitoring, accountability, and reporting**

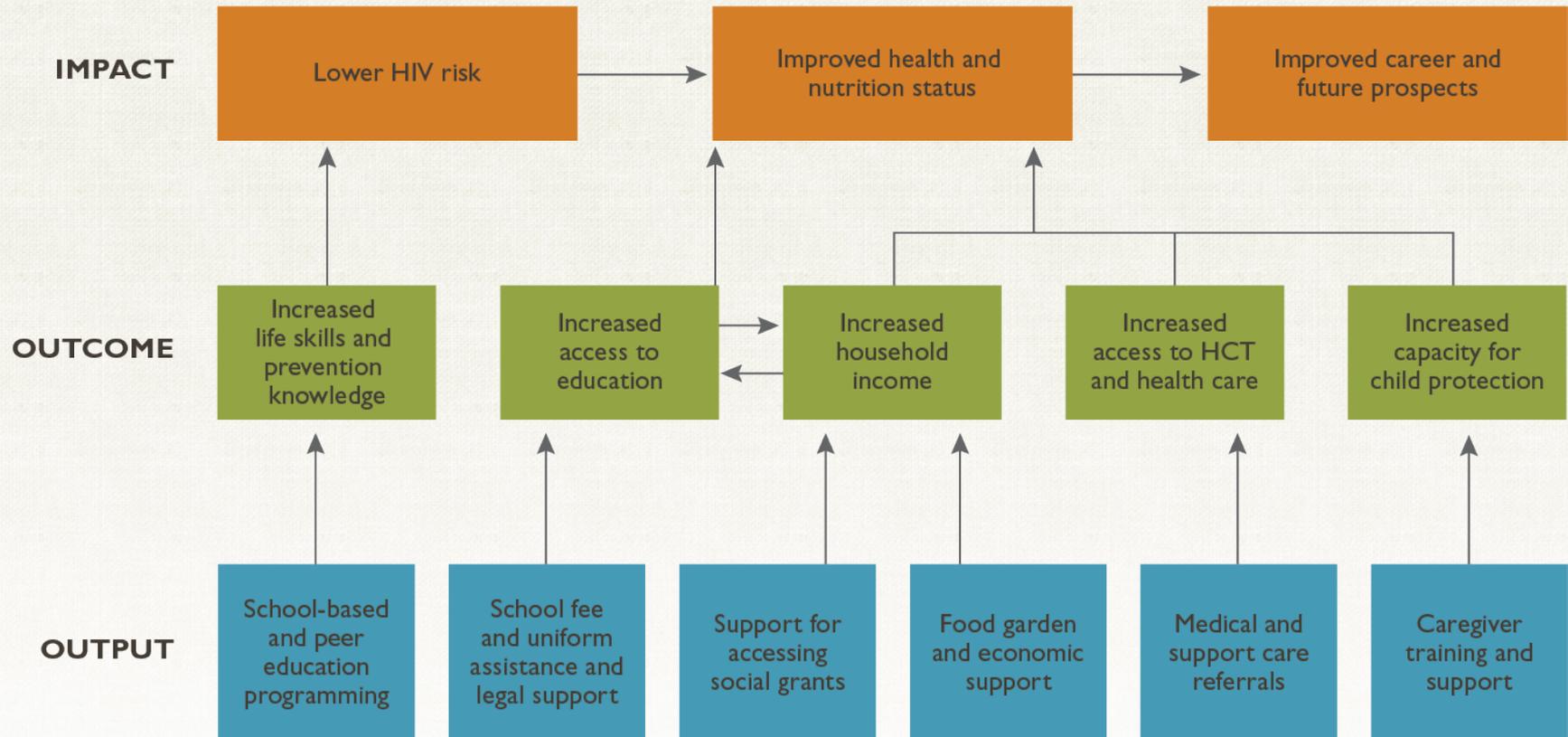


## Theory of Change vs Results Framework: Both

- **Assumptions**
- **Long-term goal**



## SAMPLE RESULTS FRAMEWORK





## Group Work – Part I

- **Identify the key pathway(s) of change and how they are linked to the NUSTENAG activity outputs, outcomes and impacts**
- **Draw your Results Framework**

**You have 20 minutes.**



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# Connect your activity to the FTF Results Framework

## FEED THE FUTURE GOAL

### Sustainably Reduce Global Poverty & Hunger

INDICATORS:

Prevalence of poverty &  
Prevalence of underweight & stunted children

#### OBJECTIVE

INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE SECTOR GROWTH

#### OBJECTIVE

IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL STATUS  
(WOMEN AND CHILDREN)



Improved agricultural productivity



Expanded markets & trade



Increased investment in agriculture & nutrition-related activities



Increased employment opportunities in targeted value chains



Increased resilience of vulnerable communities & households



Improved access to diverse & quality foods



Improved nutrition-related behaviors



Improved use of maternal & child health & nutrition services



## Think about a FTF activity

- **What is your Theory of Change?**
- **What is the Results Framework?**
- **How does the activity Results Framework relate to the FTF Results Framework?**



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**SUCCESS!**



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