Theory of change definition

• A method of planning that helps to explain why a desired change is needed, and how the change should be expected to occur in a particular context

• It is structured such that desired targets and goals are established early in planning process thus agreeing targets, outputs, outcomes and impacts
Suggested six step process

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Capacity needs assessment
3. Defining the interventions
4. Building partnerships for implementation of capacity development
5. Implementation of capacity development efforts
6. Monitoring and evaluation
Mental health care workers train and supervise lay health workers

Tertiary Care
Sever cases return to hospitals

Lay health workers do the right screening

TRAINED LAY HEALTH WORKERS SCREEN

Adults (most are mild)
Depression requires intervention as required

Community awareness activities

Community trust lay workers

5% reduction in cases and depression

5% reduction in mortality of lay health workers

Reduction in prevalence of depression in Machakos
Using theory of change to design and evaluate public health interventions: a systematic review

Erica Breuer\textsuperscript{1*}, Lucy Lee\textsuperscript{2}, Mary De Silva\textsuperscript{2} and Crick Lund\textsuperscript{1}

Theory of Change: a theory-driven approach to enhance the Medical Research Council's framework for complex interventions

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Vaccination example as Theory of Change

**Input**
- Vaccination programme

**Output**
- Vaccinations given

**Outcome**
- Immune children

**Impact**
- ↓ incidence of disease

**Long Term Impact**
- Improved life chances

But what about... e.g.
- Capacity development
- National ownership
- Sustainability

Strain Replacement
- Poorly stored vaccines
- Incorrectly given vaccine
- Civil unrest...

"Assumptions" are a critical part of programme development & management
International Health Regulations: Theory of Change

Capacity building
- Support for systems co-ordination
- Workforce development

Technical assistance
- Strengthen surveillance systems and public health diagnostic capability
- Develop chemical-toxicological public health services
- Support external evaluations, simulation exercises and after-action reviews

Activities

Outputs
- Workforce capacity increased in shortage-skill areas and systems leadership
- Network of emergency operations centres and emergency response systems established
- Laboratory systems and networks strengthened, including AMR
- “One Health” inter-sectoral capacity improved

Outcomes
- Strengthening of health protection systems and co-ordination in partner countries
- Health protection workforce strengthened to address public health threats
- Health protective technical systems enhanced and expanded

Impact
- Improved global health security at national, regional and global levels
Suggested six step process

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Capacity needs assessment
3. Defining the interventions
4. Building partnerships for implementation of capacity development
5. Implementation of capacity development efforts
6. Monitoring and evaluation
Questions to address

• What other steps could help to define a Theory of Change in the capacity development context? Any steps or sub steps you think should be added?

• Can the development of a capacity development plan help execute effectively the theory of change?
Suggested definitions for monitoring and evaluation

**Monitoring** – the process of observing the progress or quality of work over a period of time to keep it under systematic review and make improvements as necessary. Monitoring is continuous throughout the life of a body of work.

**Evaluation** – the systematic and objective examination of the design, implementation and results of a body of work. It is intended to promote learning to improve policy and practice and enhance accountability. An evaluation is a moment in the life of a body of work.