Quick Guide: How to support an IP to build a results framework

During engagement development, with the help of the Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines, all UNOPS projects with grant support activities shall create an appropriate results framework.

The IP's results framework should, at a minimum, include the following:

→ The specific data that will be collected, including indicator definitions used by the IP;

→ Who will collect indicator data;

→ When data will be collected;

→ How data will be collected, including the forms and tools that will be used; and

→ Who will share and receive the data and the associated timeline, including a reporting flow algorithm or matrix.

Projects should discuss what M&E resources and guidelines are available from the funding source.

It is important to ensure that the IP results framework is linked to the UNOPS project results framework and fulfills any funding source requirements on defined outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets.

The project team should consult with stakeholders, such as relevant government ministries and departments, the funding source and local stakeholders, to understand how the project aligns with national and/or regional priorities.

The project team and/or the funding source should develop a theory of change.

The project team should review the UNSDCF, the SDGs and other relevant national or regional strategies, including the associated indicators and targets.

Selecting indicators

Together with the selected IPs, the project team should use the project's theory of change and results framework to select a list of clearly defined key indicators to measure progress. Although many indicators can demonstrate the success of

a particular project, it is important to narrow down the indicators to the ones that will best demonstrate that the IP has implemented its activities as planned and achieved its outcomes. The indicators should be aimed at the outcome of the project, and also include process tracking indicators. The outcomes and impact are the primary focus of the interventions, rather than solely focusing on the process.

The choice of indicators can also be influenced by the country context, the project schedule or the budget available. Some of the indicators should be comparable over time and also with other countries or regions.

The indicators should be based on the theory of change and these are the indicators that will demonstrate that the project has accomplished its objective and impact.

Helpful resources

The following resources provide helpful information to explain a theory of change, results framework or log frame. There are many M&E resources available, especially from the project's funding source. The following list is a sample of external resources and is not exhaustive:

➜ United Nations Development Group, Monitoring and Evaluation: UNDAF Companion Guidance;

➜ OECD, Development Co-operation Report 2024;

➜ EVAL Academy, Differences between Theory of Change, Log Frames, Results Frameworks and Logic Models – what are they and when to use them;

➜ World Bank, Designing A Results Framework for Achieving Results: A How-To Guide;

➜ OECD, OECD Toolkit - Impact by design - Effective Results Frameworks for Sustainable Development;

➜ Bond, Monitoring and evaluation tools;

➜ Anne Garbutt, INTRAC, Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit for Small NGOs; and

➜ United States Agency for International Development, MEASURE Evaluation.