

# How a Theory of Change Drives Programming, Practice and Evaluation

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## What is a Theory of Change?

A purposeful, strategic picture of the interventions and activities required to produce the early and intermediate outcomes that are preconditions to a long-term change.

## What are the benefits of a Theory of Change?

- Creates a shared understanding of an organization’s intended outcomes and the practices required to achieve those outcomes
- Communicates the specific pathways through which outcomes are achieved for both internal and external stakeholders
- Facilitates decisions about the allocation of resources and the development of policies and procedures
- Guides the practices required from staff at every level of the organization
- Clarifies the constructs to measure and the relationships between constructs to assess to evaluate and improve the program

A well-articulated Theory of Change creates the shared understanding that an organization or program needs to guide the policies, procedures, and activities required to achieve its intended outcomes.

## Using the Theory of Change: Designing a Purposeful Routine or Activity

