



# **What can drive an effective Theory of Change approach? – the DFID experience**

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## The background

‘A Theory of Change is a clearly articulated description of the rationale for an initiative and an explanation of how it is expected to achieve its outcomes and impact. It makes explicit the underlying assumptions and surfaces the factors that are likely to affect the achievement of outcomes. It comprises a diagram that lays out the logic in visual form and a corresponding narrative description.’

– *But it is the process that matters ...*

- Provides, detail, logic - and the gaps, strengthens programmes, communication, planning, M&E, unifies and clarifies, log frames ...
- But, can oversimplify, be reductionist, exclude the unknown, promote linearity rather than complexity
- Use needs to be responsive and pragmatic



# The Programme Partnership Arrangements' Theory of Change

Figure A1: Revised PPA theory of change

