Using Theories of Change for Design, Monitoring & Evaluation

Two examples from Crown Agents and Care International
April 2015
Overview

- Overview of the Peacebuilding Design, Monitoring & Evaluation project lead by Care International

- How Crown Agents is using Theories of Change in design and programming
Overview of the Peacebuilding Design, Monitoring & Evaluation Project /

A capacity building and research project using the Theory of Change Approach
Peacebuilding DME Project

- 3 year EU-funded project in Nepal, DRC, and Uganda
- Peacebuilding projects
- Light touch methods using Theories of Change approach for DME developed, piloted and refined
- Field research and testing in 3 countries with 21 partners, 19 projects, 38 Theories of Change (ToC)
- Used OECD DAC criteria for coherent language, translation, standards
Theory of Change we used for the project

- OECD DAC definition: “We believe that by doing X (action) successfully, we will produce Y (movement towards peace)”

- If we do______ then ____ will result because __________.
Major Research Findings

Using the Theories of Change approach:

- Clarifies project logic
- Reveals our assumptions about how change happens and what activities add up to that change
- Identifies the gaps between local level activities and national level changes
- Can foster collaboration between agencies and avoids duplication
- Identifies appropriate target actors, not just easy to reach
- Helps make the case for the importance of doing context/conflict analysis
- Highlights ineffective activities that don’t add up to our desired change
- Enhances conflict sensitivity by grounding our intervention in context
What Crown Agents does in regards to ToCs

- Not-for-profit making consultancy
- Based in the UK
- Working in over 40 countries
- 22 offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America
How Crown Agents uses Theories of Change (ToC)

- Use ToC in the initial design of its projects/programmes
- Tries to be very specific. Avoiding words like capacity building, strengthening, links, training, engage, empower.
- Review against the Hierarchy of Results, and then put into a Logical Framework
- Reviewing ToC as part of the regular monitoring process
- Building into the project/programme design ToC review will assist in addressing issues of Gender, Conflict-sensitivity
- Using ToC make programming more effective, efficient and leads to greater results
Challenges

- Incorporating organisationally depends on:
  - Knowledge
  - Comfort-level
  - Seeing the usefulness or value
  - Falling back into habits.

- Donor TORs can help or hinder using ToC effectively
Thank you /