

Theory of Change Essentials

promoting locally-led change



Online training course

Course summary

A well-considered ToC is a powerful process and tool which uses inclusive and collaborative approaches to identify where projects/programmes can make transformational and sustainable change. However, ToCs are often developed too late in a design process and do not promote effective participation and locally-led change. This compromises their value and effectiveness.

This practical course is designed for you to gain the skills and confidence to craft powerful ToCs. Learn proven techniques for generating and exploring change options, building evidence-based pathways, and integrating your ToC into MEL plans. Through a step-by-step approach and interactive case studies, you'll master the process of developing ToCs at the program level. The principles and stages are also adaptable to organizational, thematic, and project levels, and their inter-relationship will also be explored during the course.

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those with an understanding of the concept of ToCs but limited experience of developing and/or using ToCs
- Programme and MEL staff (because creating a ToC is both a design and monitoring process)
- Those embarking on a journey of developing a ToC or managing/supporting a project with an existing ToC
- Trustees or funders and all those wanting to know more about the value and practicalities of this approach for design, implementation and M&E of projects, programmes and/or strategies

What is the course format?

Enjoy a facilitated, interactive, and collaborative experience through:

- Two interactive live Zoom sessions (3,5-hours each) with an emphasis on practical exercises to develop a ToC by using presentations, plenary discussions and group work around a case study.
- Opportunity to work on a case study between the sessions.
- A “drop in” Q+A session with and support from the trainer
- Self-reflection on consideration of how to use the learning.
- Access to the NTRAC e-learning platform and selected resources

We recommended that participants commit approximately 10 hours in total to fully benefit from this training: 7 hours for the live sessions, 0.5 -1 hour preparation (reading and familiarising with case studies), 1.5-2 hours on the intersessional work and facilitated “drop in”/support session (optional) in between the live sessions.

Course objectives

By the end of this course participants will be able to:

- Describe what ToCs are, what they include and how they relate to other planning and accountability processes
- Develop an understanding of why and how change happens, including consideration of power dynamics and the importance of a participatory approach
- Have practiced developing an inclusive, informed and representative ToC
- Be able to analyse the value and use of existing ToCs, with a view to supporting improvements as necessary
- Have considered how to take forward the learning from the workshop into your organisation

What you'll need

You will need a laptop and ideally also a headset, as well as access to broadband and internet. You will need to be able to download software (Zoom) to join the live sessions. INTRAC's e-learning platform (Moodle) is accessible via a browser. If you have any questions about these requirements, please do get in touch.

Course fee

The fee for this course is £399 which is inclusive of two 3,5 hours live sessions with a break in between for self-paced group work and a Q&A session facilitated by the trainer.

Coaching and mentoring is available at extra cost.

Training access scholarships are available for small NGOs /civil society organisations. [For more information, please visit our FAQ.](#)

Course calendar

(for detailed session-by-session content refer to the [course web page](#))

Date	Session	Topic
Day 1 11 am - 3 pm GMT+1 Tuesday 11 June 2024 (3,5 hrs)	1	Introduction to concepts and change
	2	Identifying an organisation's or partners' role in contributing to change
	3	Developing causal pathways for change (PoC)
Group work: using a case study to develop and test potential pathways of change leading to changes at outcome level.		
Day 2 11 am - 3 pm GMT+1 Thursday 13 June 2024 (3,5 hrs)	4	Pathways to change - continued
	5	Exploring and testing assumptions made within ToCs
	6	Exploring critical reflection of ToCs as products and processes for guiding or driving change

About the course trainer - Sue Newport



With over 25 years of experience in international development, Sue brings a wealth of expertise to various causes, particularly women's health, adolescent health, and fighting modern slavery. As an independent consultant, she now collaborates with diverse clients on projects that spark positive change. Sue's passion lies in crafting robust pathways for impact - through developing theories of change (ToC), logframes, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) systems. She has years of experience as a trainer for organizations like Bond, Crown Agents, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and natural England and she is also an associate lecturer at Brighton & Sussex Medical School on a variety of subjects, including MEAL.

Her impressive portfolio boasts leading and participating in evaluations for organizations like the World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF and others. Sue also supports organizations in refining their ToCs and MEAL plans, ensuring optimal impact measurement and accountability.