Logic Models in Development Evaluations

Steve Montague

A logic model is a diagram of the common elements in a program, showing what the program is supposed to do, with whom, and why. Logic models depict the theory of a program, showing its underlying cause-and-effect assumptions. Understanding the logic of a program is an essential part of the evaluation process, and can help all elements of program management.

IPDET’s Core Curriculum introduces logic models, and the Core’s small group work gives participants an initial opportunity to use this tool. This workshop builds on the Core Curriculum and offers an additional opportunity to explore logic models in more detail, to explicitly tie logic models to established theories of change and to offer participants some practical innovations and guidance for their development and use.

Approach

The workshop takes a practical, step-by-step approach to developing and using logic models in program planning and evaluation while recognizing real world conditions of complexity and the need to incorporate reach, assumptions, external factors and risks into the dialogue.

Participants will work on a series of individual and small group exercises. There will be ample time for questions and plenty of practical examples. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Read and understand a logic model recognizing a variety of approaches, terminologies and formats
- Articulate the benefits and challenges of developing and using a logic model for describing program theory
- Develop a logic model - including key theory of change elements - for a specific program
- Use logic models in the development of evaluation plans
- Move beyond classic/traditional approaches to consider new innovations to:
  - Incorporate “spheres of influence” into logic models
  - Develop logic models for complicated and complex programs
  - Directly link assumptions, external factors and risk considerations to logic models

Content

- Understanding the history, purposes and uses of logic models
- Facilitating the logic modeling process
- Dealing with different perspectives and respecting cultural diversity
- Grappling with different terminology and exploring various formats
- Assessing logic models – tools and criteria
- Logic modeling process
- How theories of action and change shape results logic
- Program results archetypes
- Linking assumptions, external factors and risks to logic models
- Building results logic for the real world
- Reach and spheres of influence
- Dealing with complexity
- Making logic models practical
- Using results chains and plans
- A practical reference hierarchy of related indicators