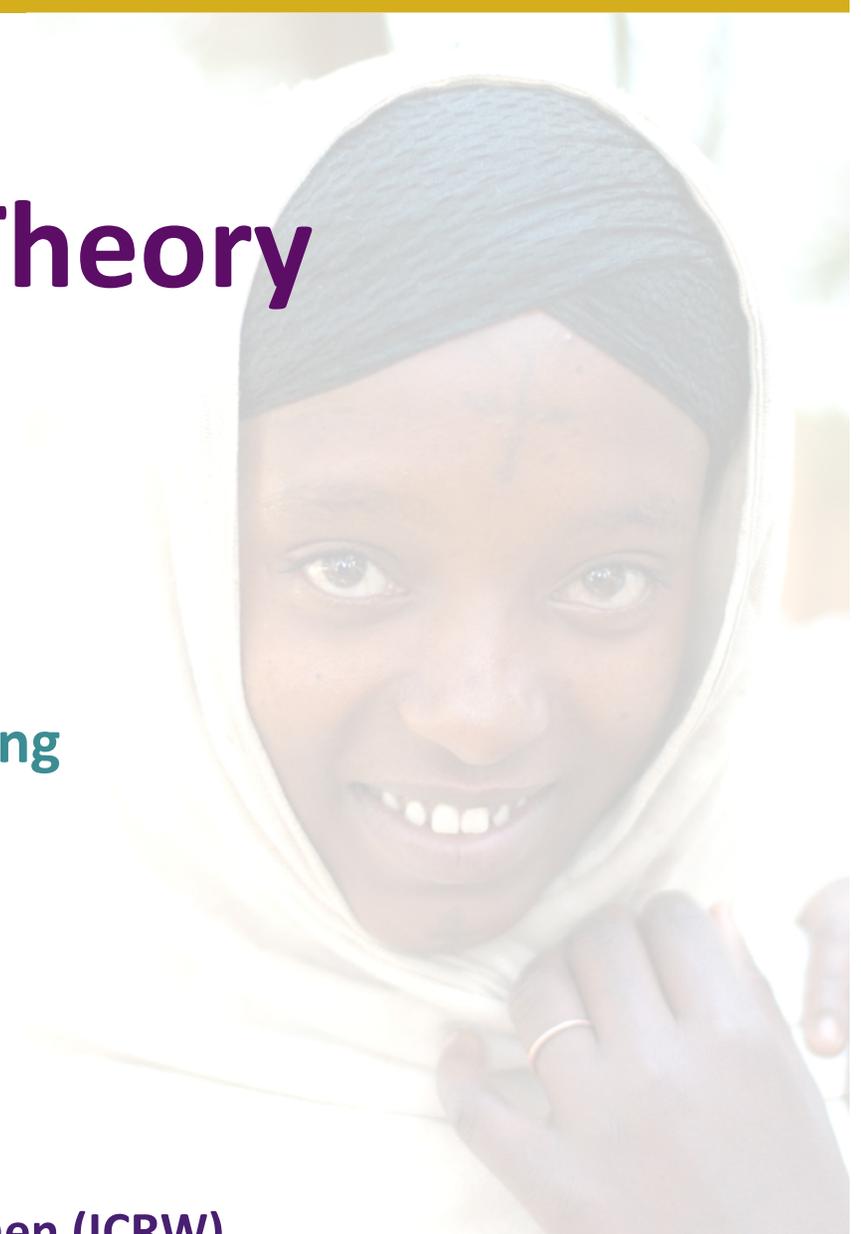# Demystifying the Theory of Change

**Girls Not Brides
2015 Global Member Meeting**

**Casablanca, Morocco
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Photo Credit: Robyne Hayes, ICRW

Objectives of the Session:

- Participants have a better understanding of GNB's Theory of Change (TOC)

- Participants are able to map their organization's work to GNB's TOC

- Participants are more familiar with the idea of a Theory of Change and can create a simple, customized TOC for their child marriage work

VISION:
A world without child marriage where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

GIRLS NOT BRIDES
The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

www.GirlsNotBrides.org

IMPACT

Girls can decide if, when, and whom to marry	Married girls lead healthy, empowered lives

RESULTS

Girls at risk of child marriage participate more in decisions that affect them, including regarding marriage	Girls at risk of child marriage benefit from improved educational and economic opportunities as alternatives to child marriage	Girls are better able to avoid early pregnancy and to refuse unwanted sex	Married girls are better protected from violence, exploitation or abuse	Married girls increasingly access and use services and supports of all kinds	Married girls increasingly access divorce, annulment and child custody	Community, traditional and religious leaders take greater action to end child marriage and realise the rights of girls	Community, traditional and religious leaders increasingly support alternative roles for girls beyond marriage	Men and boys increasingly take action to end child marriage	Families engage less in exchange of dowry and bride price	Service providers take greater action to prevent child marriage and support the needs of married girls	Law enforcement officials increase implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks to prevent child marriage and protect married girls	Law enforcement officials increase use of civil registration systems for birth and marriage

OUTCOMES

GIRLS
- Girls are increasingly aware of their rights
- Girls have the opportunity to develop solidarity with one another through peer groups and collective action
- Alternative economic, social roles for girls and women exist and are valued
- Increased access of married and unmarried girls to health, education, economic, and legal support

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
- Families, communities and young people are increasingly aware of the harmful impact of child marriage and alternatives available
- Families, communities and young people value alternative options to child marriage
- Families and communities prefer not to marry girls as children
- Men prefer not to marry girls who are still children
- Increased use of media to inform and support norm change to end child marriage

SERVICES
- Increased access to safe, quality formal and non-formal education for girls
- Increased access to health services for adolescent girls, married and unmarried
- Health and education services establish protocols on identifying the warning signs and addressing the risks of child marriage
- Improved economic security for girls
- Increased commitment of programmes to prevent and mitigate risk of child marriage

LAWS AND POLICIES
- National laws reflect international and regional human rights standards
- Robust legal framework against child marriage in place that sets 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage and protects girls' and women's rights
- Governments develop supportive policy frameworks with adequate resourcing across Ministries to increase educational, economic and social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage and married girls
- Strengthened civil registration systems for birth and marriage
- Increased accountability and monitoring of national / regional / community institutions

STRATEGIES

EMPOWER GIRLS
A wide range of programmes invest in girls, their participation and their well-being

MOBILISE FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES
Families, communities and young people are engaged to change attitudes and behaviours related to child marriage

PROVIDE SERVICES
Services across sectors reinforce one another and are tailored to the specific needs of girls at risk of child marriage and married girls

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT LAWS & POLICIES
A robust legal and policy framework for preventing child marriage and supporting married girls is in place and effectively enforced

CATALYSING STRATEGY

Ending child marriage will require long-term, sustainable efforts. Change will ultimately take place within communities, but has to be supported and catalysed by collective efforts at national, regional and international levels. Adequate resources must be made available to support effective implementation of strategies. All those working to address child marriage should evaluate programmes, share promising practices, and coordinate their efforts to achieve maximum scale and impact. Recognising that child marriage does not take place in a vacuum, efforts to end child marriage should not be isolated from broader development efforts and should play an integral part in achieving development goals around the world.

PROBLEM:
Every year approximately 14 million girls are married as children across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. Child marriage is rooted in gender inequality and in the low value accorded to girls, and is exacerbated by poverty, insecurity and conflict. It denies girls their rights, choice and participation, and undermines numerous development priorities, hindering progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world.

Theory of Change: Purpose
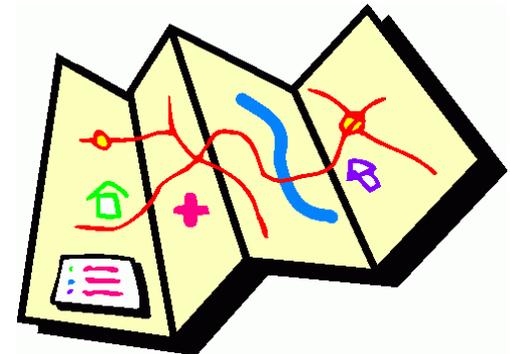
Theory of Change can be used:

- In organizational strategic planning

- As a communications and advocacy tool
  - To present key program elements to staff, partners, donors, and governments
  - To advocate for necessary actions

- To develop an M&E system

Theory of Change: Key elements

Key elements/terms?

- Inputs
- Activities
- Outputs
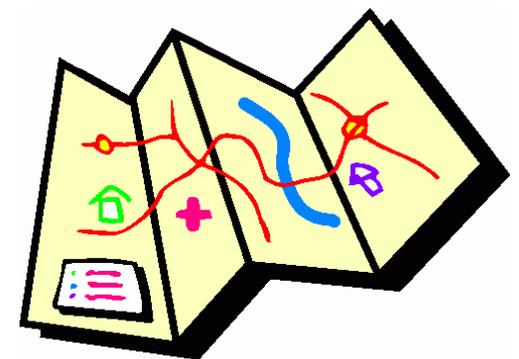- Outcomes

- Strategies
- Results
- Goal
- Impact
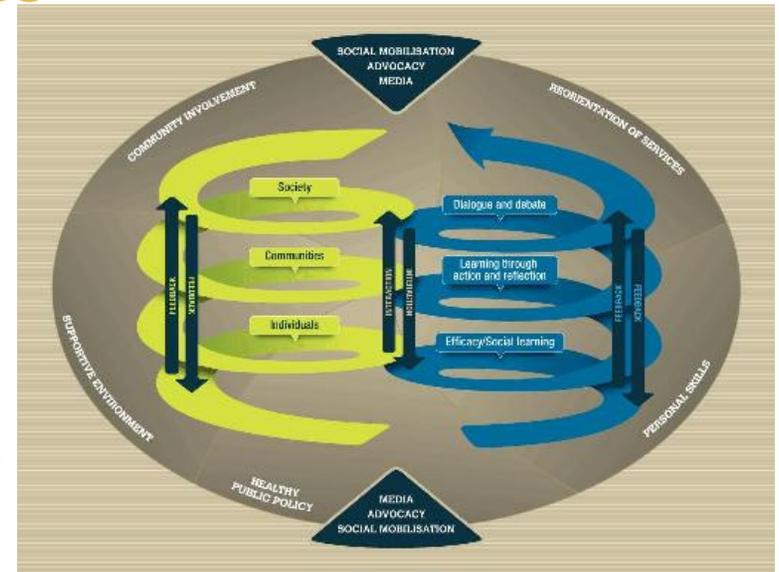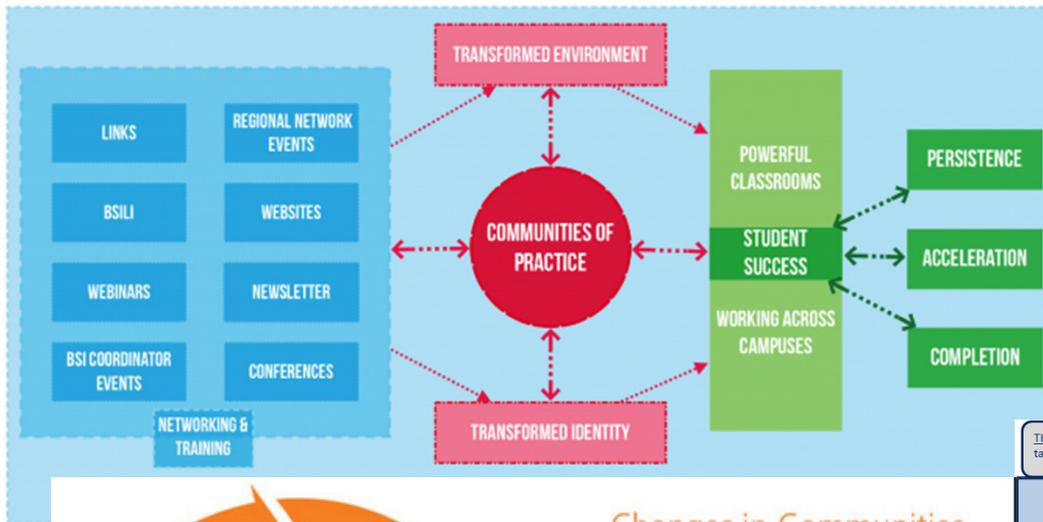
Theory of Change: Definition

Theory of Change Definition:

– Describes how and why a program is expected to work.

– It explains the underlying causal chain or *theory* that connects the building blocks and ultimate goal.

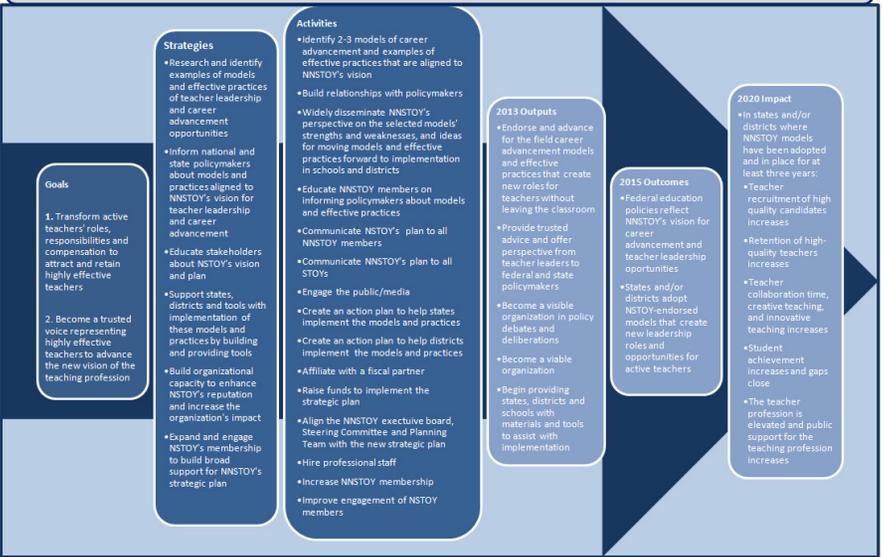– Often depicted as a map or pathway of change

Theory of Change: Examples

Building a Theory of Change

ICRW International Center for Research on Women
where insight and action connect

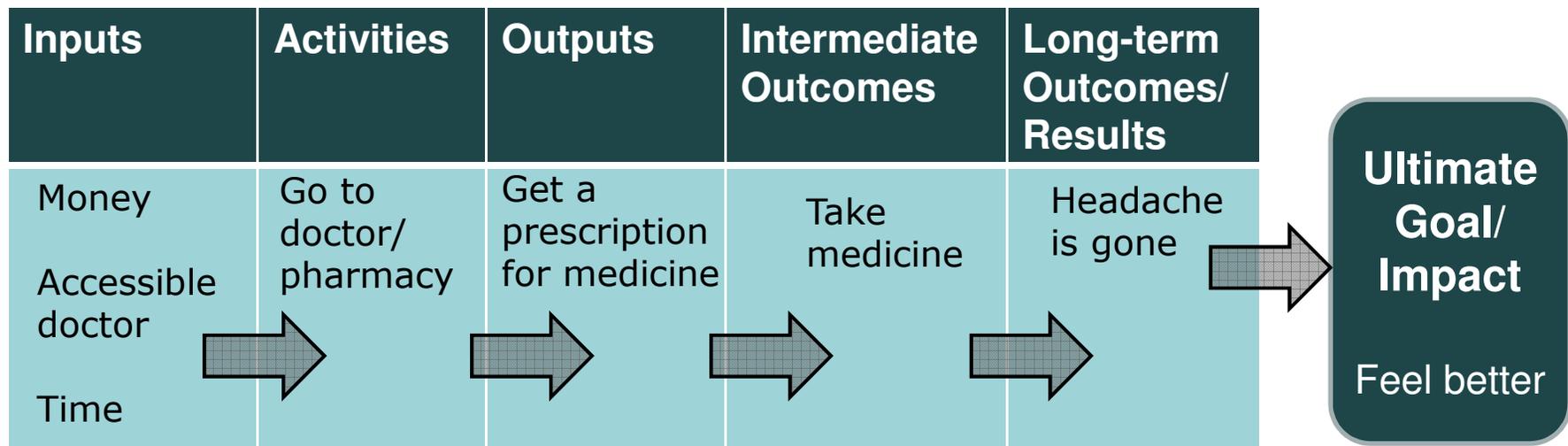| Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes/ Results	
People Time Materials Funds dedicated to or consumed by the program	The action a program takes to achieve desired results	Immediate results- e.g. who is reached; in what ways; number of products sold	The changes expected as a direct result of the program	The changes expected as an indirect result/ longer-term result of a program The changes expected as a result of aggregated program activities	**Ultimate Goal/ Impact** The intended aim of the program

Assumptions:
The necessary conditions that enable the activities to lead to the expected outputs, outcomes, goal

Theory of Change: Example

ICRW International Center for Research on Women
where insight and action connect

Problem: headache

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes/ Results
Money Accessible doctor Time	Go to doctor/ pharmacy	Get a prescription for medicine	Take medicine	Headache is gone

Ultimate Goal/ Impact

Feel better

Assumptions:
-We take the medication as prescribed
-The medication actually improves our headache

Theory of Change Example:
After-school program for girls

ICRW — International Center for Research on Women — where insight and action connect

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes/ Results	
Out-of-school girls

Trained teachers for after-school program

Trained facilitators for community dialogues | Provide lifeskills and livelihoods trainings for girls who are out of school and most at risk of early marriage

Sensitize families of the harms of early marriage through community | Girls attend trainings

Girls learn new livelihoods skills

Parents attend community dialogue sessions | Girls have greater self-confidence

Girls earn their own money and contribute to the family

Parents and families have an understanding of the harmful | Girls are able to stand up for their own rights and desires

Both girls and their families no longer believe that girls need a husband to support them

Families discourage early marriage | **Ultimate Goal/ Impact**

Reduce child marriage |

Assumptions:
-The trainings are actually effective
-There is a local market for the livelihoods skills the girls learned

Theory of Change

If **activities** + **outputs**, then this will lead to **intermediate outcomes**, contributing to **long-term outcomes**, and ultimately leading to **goal**

Theory of Change: Activity

(Child marriage-related aspects of your programming)
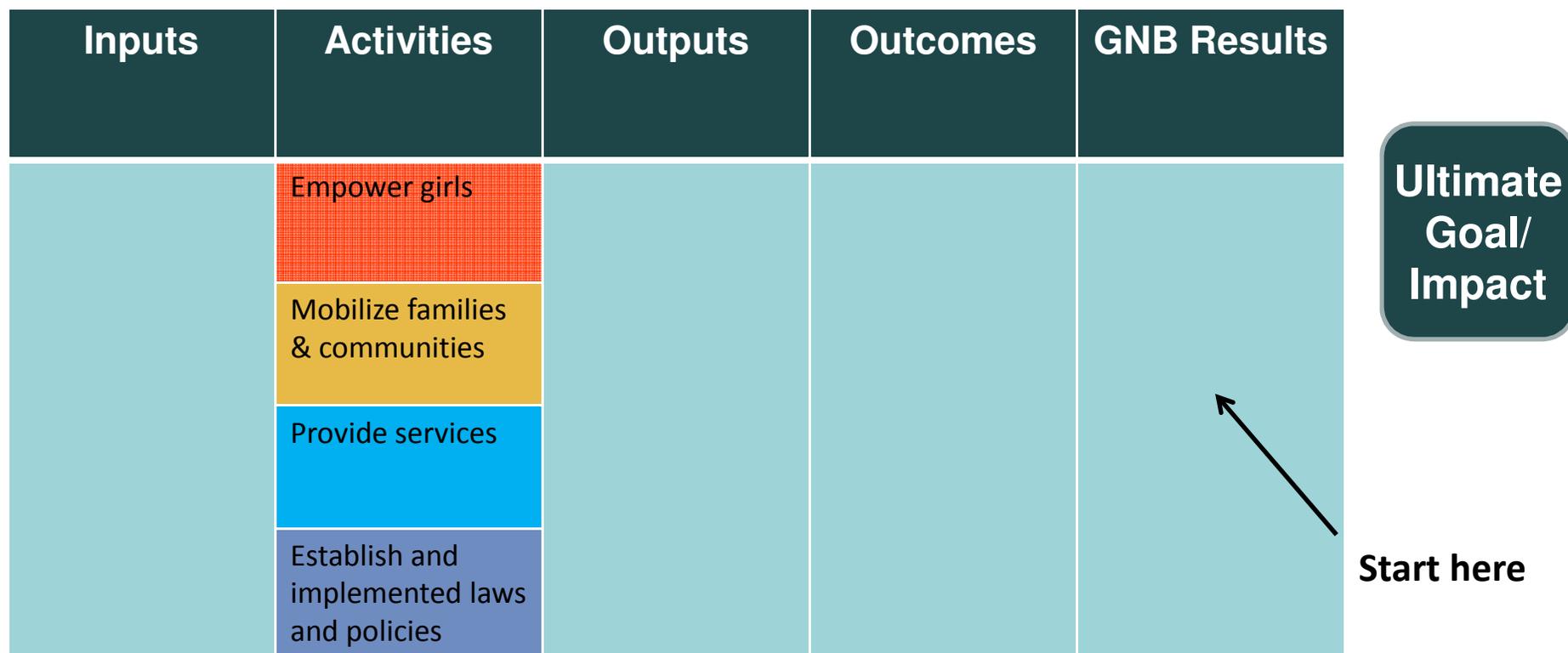
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	GNB Results

Ultimate Goal/ Impact

Assumptions:

Theory of Change: Activity

*How to design a program with a particular **Result** in mind*

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	GNB Results
	Empower girls			
	Mobilize families & communities			
	Provide services			
	Establish and implemented laws and policies			

Ultimate Goal/ Impact

Start here

Thank You!

Photo: www.kakenyasdream.org