



How to develop and confirm your logic model

Once you have a theory of change explaining why your intervention or service's outcomes are important for children's development, your next step is to determine what the intervention or service will do to achieve these outcomes. This is what your logic model will do.

What is a logic model?

A logic model is a graphical representation of how the resources required to implement a programme or service will lead to specific outputs, which should in turn contribute to the short- and long-term outcomes you identified in your theory of change. So, it is vitally important that you have confirmed your theory of change before developing your logic model.

The logic model is particularly useful for evaluation. It can provide structure to your evaluation, helping you to prioritise and focus your data collection and analysis on the main aspects of the intervention or service and the relationships between them.

Building your logic model

Your logic model should represent a logical extension of what was originally specified in your theory of change, including what the intervention/service will do, who its recipients will be, and what its intended short-term benefits are. Within system evaluation you may have one overall system logic model as well as multiple logic models for the different interventions within the system. The figure below sets out the basic elements of a logic model. These include the inputs (resources), outputs (activities), and short-, medium- and long-term outcomes. We summarise the key elements of the logic model below.

A template to build your own logic model is available to download:

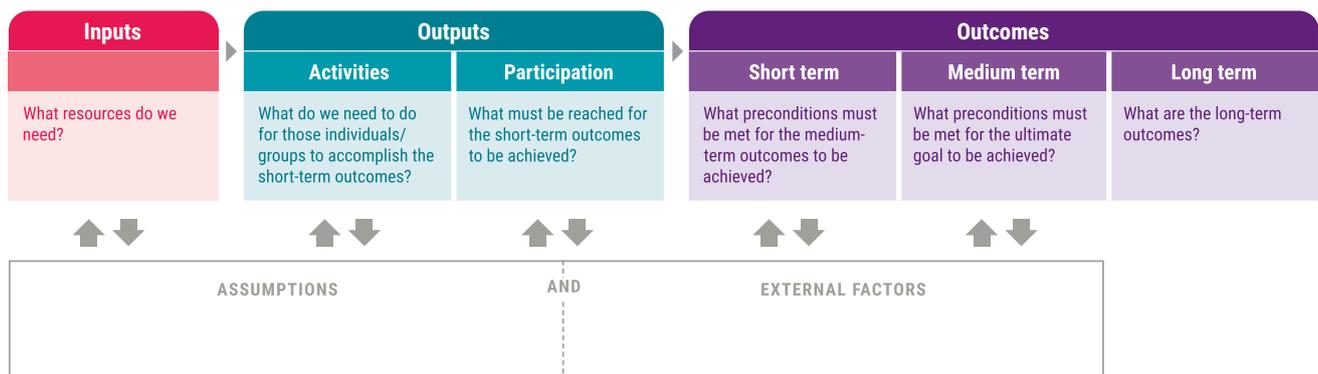
<https://www.eif.org.uk/files/pdf/eif-logic-model-template.pdf>

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Steps 2&3:
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The basic elements of a logic model



Outcomes

When developing your logic model, you will need to identify short-, medium- and long-term outcomes. Some of this work will already have been done when confirming your theory of change, although your logic model will probably specify outcomes in greater detail. You should continually consider the feasibility of your outcomes by asking yourself whether the outcomes are important, reasonable and realistic, and also what the potential is for unintended or negative outcomes.



Outputs

Outputs are your key deliverables, in other words, what the intervention/service will do and who it will reach. Common sense dictates that interventions will not deliver results if their core activities do not take place, or if children and caregivers do not attend the intervention. The logic model is when these details should first be considered, so that their feasibility can be confirmed in later steps.

Inputs (resources)

Inputs refer to the resources required to implement the intervention or service. These include staffing, such as practitioners delivering the activities; training and qualification requirements; time, both in terms of delivery but also management and supervision time; and direct costs, such as the production or purchase of materials and equipment, and transportation or venue costs. You should carefully estimate what resources are needed for the intervention to achieve its expected outputs and outcomes.

Assumptions and external factors

Assumptions are expectations about how external processes occurring in the wider system will impact on the intervention or service. These assumptions may include expectations about the ongoing availability of various resources, including funding, venue space and an appropriately qualified workforce. Assumptions also include expectations about what is required from local leaders, the way in which the intervention or service should be aligned with key local factors and priorities, and the quality of interagency relationships and referral systems.

External factors are similar to assumptions, however, while assumptions are ideas about what should be in place for it to be successful, external factors describe circumstances that currently exist. Examples of external factors include local priorities and infrastructure, seasonal considerations (including school cycles) and other factors that may negatively or positively affect the longer-term outcomes. For example, an intervention aiming to increase young people's access to employment in the context of a recession will make the need for such an intervention greater but limit how successful it will be.

Confirming your logic model

A logic model could be considered initially confirmed when all the elements shown in the model above have been properly considered. We suggest you then bring together the primary stakeholders for a workshop to ensure that the model is relevant and practical.

This summary is based on the EIF guide:

- *10 steps for evaluation success:* <https://www.eif.org.uk/resource/10-steps-for-evaluation-success>

