

# The Logical Framework (Logframe)

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## Tool overview

A Logical Framework, commonly known as a Logframe, is a project design, monitoring, and evaluation tool that provides a structured way to plan and communicate how a project is intended to work. It is a type of logic model that illustrates the relationship between activities, outputs, outcomes, and the overall goal of a project.

The Logframe helps teams think systematically about what they are trying to achieve, how they will achieve it, how success will be measured, and what external factors may influence success.

A Logframe serves several important purposes. As a design tool, it helps structure project planning by establishing clear links between activities and expected results and by identifying the assumptions and indicators needed to measure progress and success.

As a visualization tool, it presents the project's logic concisely so stakeholders can easily understand it. As a risk management tool, it highlights assumptions that may affect delivery or results, many of which may later become active risks requiring monitoring and mitigation during implementation.

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## Why use a logframe?

A logframe can help teams to:

- Clarify the project's overall goal and intended results
- Show the logical links between activities, outputs, and outcomes
- Identify indicators to measure progress and success
- Define how data will be collected and verified
- Surface assumptions and external factors that may affect success
- Strengthen project design and planning
- Support donor proposals, reporting, and evaluations
- Align stakeholders around a shared understanding of the project

The Logframe is often the foundation for other project management tools such as the Performance Management Plan (PMP), Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT), Risk Register, and Monitoring and Evaluation plans.

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## How to use this tool

The Logframe is built around two types of logic: **vertical logic** and **horizontal logic**.

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### Vertical logic

The vertical logic shows the cause-and-effect pathway between the levels of the project. It answers the question: **If we do this, then what should happen next?** For example:

- If we carry out the planned activities...
- Then we should produce the intended outputs...
- Which should contribute to the desired outcomes...
- Which in turn should help achieve the overall goal.

This structure helps stakeholders understand how day-to-day work contributes to broader strategic impact.

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### Horizontal logic

The horizontal logic focuses on how each level will be measured and what external conditions must hold true. It includes:

- **Indicators:** how progress or success will be measured
- **Means of verification:** where the data will come from
- **Assumptions:** external factors or conditions needed for success

Assumptions are especially important because projects operate in environments with factors outside the team's control. If assumptions do not hold true, the project may not achieve the expected results. For example:

- Communities remain willing to participate
- Funding continues as planned
- Political or environmental conditions remain stable

These assumptions often form the basis of the project's initial risk identification and analysis.

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### Logframe structure and variations

There is no single universally agreed template for a Logframe. The Project DPro methodology commonly uses a 16-box matrix with four levels of objectives:

- Goal
- Outcome
- Output
- Activities

However, you may encounter five-level Logframes, particularly in longer-term or more complex projects. In these cases, outcomes are often split into:

- Immediate outcomes
- Intermediate or longer-term outcomes

Different organizations and donors may also use different terminology, such as “purpose,” “results,” or “impact.” Regardless of the format or terminology used, the principles of vertical and horizontal logic remain the same.

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### Tips for using a logframe effectively

Keep the Logframe concise and high-level. It should provide a clear summary of the project’s logic without becoming overly detailed or difficult to interpret. Use indicators that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).

Review assumptions regularly throughout implementation. What begins as an assumption may later become a risk or issue requiring active management.

Treat the Logframe as a living tool. While it is often created during project design or proposal development, it should be reviewed and updated as the project evolves.

Finally, ensure all stakeholders understand and agree with the Logframe early in the project lifecycle to build alignment and shared expectations.

A Logframe provides a simple but powerful way to design, communicate, and monitor a project’s logic. By clearly linking activities to results, defining how success will be measured, and surfacing critical assumptions, it helps teams improve planning, strengthen accountability, and increase the likelihood of achieving meaningful impact.

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### Logframe template example

| Hierarchy of objectives | Indicators | Means of verification | Assumptions |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Goal                    |            |                       |             |
| Outcome                 |            |                       |             |
| Output                  |            |                       |             |
| Activities              |            |                       |             |

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### Further reading on the logframe

| Logframe links                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">PM4NGOs Logframe Video (YouTube)</a>            |
| <a href="#">Intrac's The Logical Framework</a>              |
| <a href="#">PM4NGOs Project DPro Guide</a>                  |
| <a href="#">Indikit's Standardized Indicators</a>           |
| <a href="#">Practical Guidance on Developing Indicators</a> |
| <a href="#">PM4NGOs MEAL DPro Guide</a>                     |

Ready to get started and create a logframe for your project? Download a [ready-to-go logframe template here](#).

## The Logical Framework (Logframe)

### Logframe example (2)

| Hierarchy of objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Means of verification                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Assumptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Goal</b><br>To improve the economic resilience of the people living in the XXXX region                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outcome</b><br>1. Increased economic stability for women-headed households in the XXXX region                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1.1 % increase in the number of women-headed households who can pay for basic necessities within 6 months of project implementation.<br>1.2 % increase in participants' monthly income by the end of the project.<br>1.3 Percentage of project participants who express they are more financially stable as a result of the micro-credit business by the end of the project. | 1.1 Financial Reports from the Project; Reports from the municipality, the electricity company, and the landlords. Receipts of payments made.<br>1.2 Income statements<br>1.3 Post-Project Survey, Post-Project Focus Groups | No additional external factors contribute to the economic instability of the targeted participants.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Output</b><br>1. Projec participants are trained on financial literacy and project requirements<br>2. Participants receive small-business loans<br>3. Participants develop business plans and submit them to the project team                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1. # of women who complete the training course within the first phase of the project.<br>2. # of loans disbursed by the end of month 6.<br>3. # of complete business plans received and accepted by the end of phase 1.                                                                                                                                                      | 1. Training attendance sheet<br>2. Signed and authorized loan disbursement receipt<br>3. Business plan sign-off                                                                                                              | There is sufficient need within the community for the products the women will produce to establish a market that will increase their monthly income.<br>The supply chains remain open so that participants can obtain raw materials to produce consumable goods. |
| <b>Activities</b><br>1.1 Develop criteria for selecting women head of household participants.<br>1.2 Select women to participate in project.<br>1.3 Train women on financial literacy and project requirements.<br>2.1 Determine loan amounts and terms of repayment for participants<br>2.2 Develop repayment schedule for participants.<br>3.1 Create business plan template for participants to use.<br>Send business plan template to all participants and provide deadline for completion. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## The Logical Framework (Logframe)

### Logframe example (1)

| Hierarchy of objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Means of verification                                                                                                                          | Assumptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Goal</b><br>To improve the quality of river water in Delta River                                                                                                                                                                     | % reduction in the presence of pollutants in the Delta River                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Water quality tests                                                                                                                            | No need for assumptions at this level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Outcome</b><br>Improved access to quality latrines for the Delta River community                                                                                                                                                     | % increase in the use of latrines by the end of the project in comparison with before the project.<br>% of community members who express satisfaction with the distance, quality, and condition of the latrines by the end of the project.                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey data</li> <li>Focus group</li> <li>Discussions with community</li> </ul>                         | There are no additional sources of pollution in the Delta River.<br>Latrines are maintained by the municipality to ensure they continue to function at the highest quality possible.                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Output</b><br>1.1 Quality latrines are constructed<br>1.2 Local municipality trained on the maintenance of the latrine<br>1.3 Delta River community advocates trained on value and use of latrines                                   | 1.1 # of latrines constructed within 50 meters of households by the end of phase 2 of the project<br>1.2 # of municipality staff trained on who demonstrates knowledge of technical maintenance of the latrines by the end of the project.<br>1.3 # of community advocates trained on and demonstrate knowledge of the usage and value of latrines by the end of phase 1 | 1.1 Engineering survey data<br>1.2 Training attendance sheets and pre/post assessment<br>1.3 Training attendance sheet and pre/post assessment | 1.1 Access to the latrines and awareness of benefits will ensure that the community uses the latrines<br>1.2 Municipality staff remain in their position and transfer the knowledge of maintenance to new staff members<br>1.3 Community advocates have enough power and influence to convince the community to use the latrines |
| <b>Activities</b><br>1.1.1 Latrine specifications and locations are confirmed in coordination with the engineering team<br>1.1.2 Build the latrine cap and structure<br>1.1.3 Install the latrine structure and conduct a quality check | Inputs: Latrine construction materials, WASH engineer, training curricula on latrine maintenance, advocacy materials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |