

Tracking Transformational Change

December 2022

Version 1



Supported by:



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Intended purpose and audience

This guidance focuses on transformational change, which is one of the key pillars of the WISER Africa programme. It presents the approach WISER projects can use to collect stories of change and other evidence to support project reporting on the likelihood of enabling transformation.

This guidance has been developed by the WISER Programme Team, as part of its technical support to projects on MEL activities. The WISER Programme Team are responsible for developing robust systems for project monitoring, results reporting and evaluation to support efficient programme management and accountability against your grant agreements. They also support the generation of robust evidence for lesson learning and enable communication across projects and with other stakeholders interested in WISER, to share experiences and knowledge, and learn together.

This guidance will be updated during the WISER programme as needed, to take account of learning from implementing MEL in practice. We invite Implementing Partners to provide feedback on what could be improved based on your experience of using the guidance. Feedback should be sent to: wiser@metoffice.gov.uk.

2. Introduction and background

The Met Office has been commissioned by the FCDO to manage the Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) programme, leading on its design, management and coordination, and a range of technical assistance. The Met Office is a global centre of excellence in weather and climate science, and the United Kingdom's national weather service. The Met Office is a trusted and long-term partner of the UK Government, development agencies, developing country governments, research institutions, UN bodies, academia, non-governmental organisations, and national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS) worldwide. The Met Office works closely with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) spanning several areas from governance and technical commissions to membership and representation on the Scientific Advisory Panel to WMO and the WMO Research Board. Our UK membership to WMO means we are a trusted partner to NMHSs globally.

Since 2015, WISER has enhanced the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services (WCIS) in East Africa and the Sahel through 17 projects over two phases of implementation. Working regionally, nationally and with communities, WISER has had a significant impact. It has met the needs of a variety of users of WCIS from farmers and fisherfolk to journalists, government officials, the disaster risk sector, non-governmental organisations, and vital businesses such as energy providers and aviation services. In doing so, WISER has supported 3.3 million households to access enhanced WCIS, helping them to make decisions that strengthen their resilience, delivering at least £200 million in socio-economic benefit.

To advance existing achievements, and further innovate and expand geographically into new areas and partnerships which can continue to strengthen the development, delivery, and use of WCIS across the continent, a new phase of WISER in Africa has been launched. From 2022 to 2026, funded with UK aid from the British people under FCDO, WISER Africa will provide up to £15.7 million to continue its work in East and West Africa and expand into Southern Africa.

The aim of WISER is to continue to strengthen the uptake and use of co-produced WCIS in decision-making from the local to the regional level, building resilience to the impacts of extreme weather, seasonal events, and longer-term climate change. WISER aims to enhance WCIS by also putting greater focus on gender equality and inclusion, transformational change, and lesson learning both within the programme and across other ARCAN pillars, and globally, seeking to maximise systemic effects through greater collaboration and learning.

WISER Africa is part of the [FCDO Africa Regional Climate and Nature \(ARCAN\) programme](#). Other pillars of ARCAN focus on transboundary water management, nature, energy transitions, and climate finance and policy. ARCAN's overarching aim is to increase

the resilience of African economies and communities to climate change, tackle nature and biodiversity loss and catalyse energy transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

3. Transformation

Transformational change typically means ‘change which catalyses further changes’, enabling either, a shift from one state to another (e.g., from conventional to lower carbon or more climate-resilient patterns of development), or faster change (e.g., speeding up progress on cutting the rate of deforestation).¹

Transformational change for WISER relates to the fundamental ways in which the uptake and use of WISER-supported WCIS can be further enhanced, to progress towards the programme’s longer-term goal of improving the resilience of community users and the adaptive capacity of countries in Africa to prepare for and respond to extreme weather, seasonal events and longer-term climate change.

WISER aims to support transformation through five dimensions of change as set out under the [UK International Climate Finance](#):

1. **Innovation (a driver of transformational change):** Innovative approaches, partnerships and technologies are used where possible, with the potential to demonstrate new ways of doing things, which could lead to wider and sustained change.
2. **Evidence of effectiveness is shared (a driver of transformational change):** WISER approaches which have proved successful in one location are made widely available and lessons on their usefulness are credible and shared widely.
3. **Replicability (a mechanism to deliver transformational change):** Good ideas piloted by WISER Africa are replicated by others in the same country and/or more widely.
4. **At scale (a mechanism to deliver transformational change):** When interventions are used at a greater scale than before, have sufficient impact to influence policy or planning, or expand benefits (e.g., access to WCIS, technologies, financing flows) to a level where they create a fundamental shift in outcomes at a regional or national level. Examples might include an increase in the scale of user engagement and response to early warning services, or the number of institutional partnerships engaged with WCIS design or use.
5. **Sustainability (an enabler of impact):** Change is likely to be sustained once WISER support ends. Examples might include the availability of longer-term financing or resources, institutional integration of new approaches in standard operating procedures and strong political commitment to pursue integrating WCIS into policies or strategic plans.

These five dimensions of change can be discrete but also work together to demonstrate the programme’s potential towards transformation. WISER’s five dimensions reflect

¹ UK International Climate Finance Results, 2022

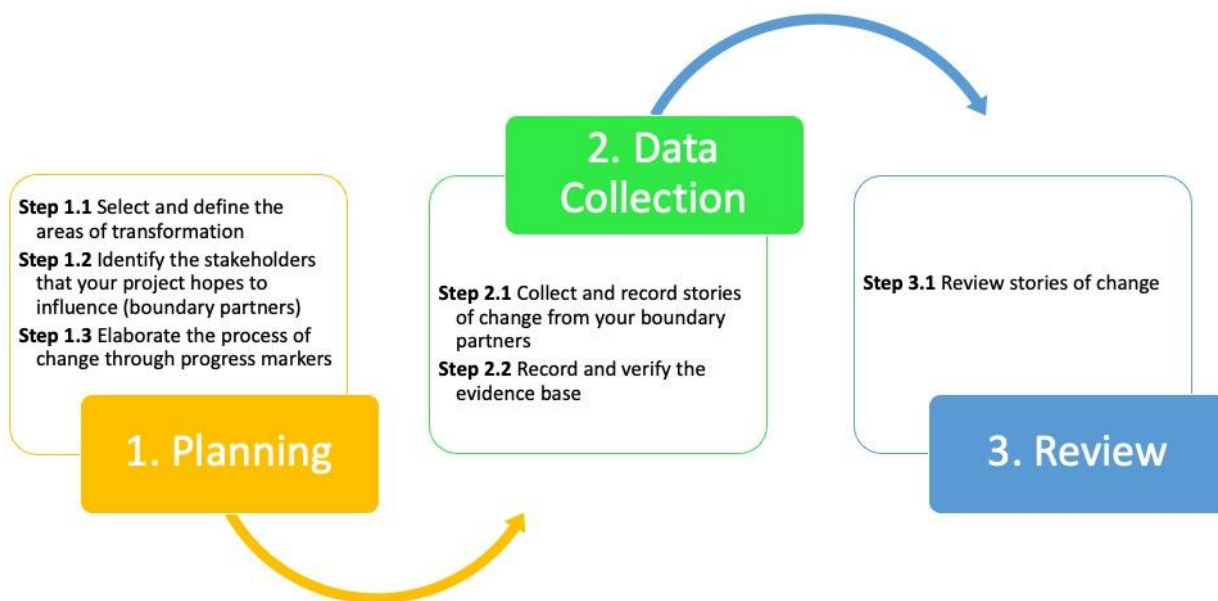
common elements of transformation in other DFID and FCDO-funded programmes (e.g. BRACED, ARRCC) and climate funds supporting resilience planning and investment (e.g. [Climate Investment Funds](#)).

While progress in each of these dimensions is indicative of transformational change, ideally, there should be progress in all five dimensions to ensure transformation under WISER Africa as a programme overall is likely to occur. For example, scaling without sustainability might indicate achievements are not robust over the long term. The WISER Programme Team will draw on project examples of transformational change to inform evidence and learning across projects and regions once implementation commences. This will feed into results and learning from WISER through to the UK International Climate Finance.

To demonstrate the extent WISER supports the potential for transformation, a suite of output and outcome indicators in the WISER Africa programme Logframe are used as proxies for transformation (see Table 1 below). This means that even if projects undertake specific data collection to demonstrate transformational change, it is possible that project data collected for other outputs and outcomes are also contributing to a wider understanding of transformation in WISER.

4. Assessing Transformation in WISER

The following section provides a step-by-step guide on documenting progress towards transformational change through three distinct phases: (1) Planning; (2) Data collection; and (3) Review, shown in Figure 1 below.



Key definitions

Dimensions of transformation are areas where the project expects to deliver change.

Boundary partners are individuals, groups or organizations which the project hopes to influence.

Progress markers are the desired changes you expect to see inherent in your project design that link outputs to outcomes to impact and to transformational change.

Significant change stories are short narrative descriptions of change brought about by the project. They are typically provided by project staff and/or boundary partners.

Adapted from Davies, R, and J. Dart. (2005). The Most Significant Change Technique: A Guide to Its Use, and ILAC. (2005). Outcome mapping: A method for tracking behavioural changes in development programs.

The approach builds on the progress you have already made during the design and inception phase in developing your Theory of Change and Logframe, and on identifying the areas of transformation you aim to influence. This section offers a “story-based” approach (rather than an “indicator-based” approach) to capturing change, which was inspired by the Most Significant Change and Outcome Mapping methods.² These methods were chosen for their ease and to help you overcome some of the challenges that traditional MEL methods face in measuring transformational change.

Each project in the WISER Africa programme is different, with its own distinct Theory of Change and a variety of boundary partners. The approach explained in below is therefore intended as general guidance only, and we encourage Implementing Partners to tailor the method and tools for capturing transformational change to their own project realities and experiences.

Phase 1: Planning

Start with planning, using the dimensions of transformation you have already identified as relevant to your project, in your Theory of Change and/or Logframe. Remember, you most likely already have the information needed to complete the planning steps, and this phase is about revisiting and compiling this information into a robust framework, rather than generating new content and ideas.

Step 1.1 Select and define the dimensions of transformation relevant to your project: The dimensions of transformation that you select will guide data collection and help narrow down the types of changes you are looking to capture. You will have chosen one or more of the five dimensions of transformation presented in Section 2 on page 6.

You should also ensure that the principles of equity and inclusion are considered (see box on the right).

If you have used WISER indicators in your Logframe (rather than your own), you should check whether the indicator is linked to a dimension of transformation. Table 1 below shows the indicators in the WISER Africa programme Logframe and which dimensions of transformation they link to.

Equity and inclusion principles can support transformational change

- Projects that avoid perpetuating inequalities of access and use of knowledge
- Projects that foster equal opportunities for different social groups (women and men, the youth or the elderly, people from ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities) to benefit from weather and climate services
- Inclusive approaches that create an enabling environment for weather and climate information to support different user needs

² More information on the methodological basis of this approach can be found in Appendix 4.

Outcome Indicator 3	Number of people (women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) that use WCIS to inform their decision-making (ICF KPI 15: Scale; Sustainability)
Intermediary Outcome 1	Number of people (women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) with access to weather and climate information services through a range of channels (ICF KPI 15: Scale)
Intermediary Outcome 2	Number of organisations and institutions with increased access to weather and climate information services (ICF KPI 15: Scale; Sustainability)
Intermediary Outcome 3	Number of weather and climate information services being delivered in line with agreed standard operating procedures (of which specifically integrate GESI) (ICF KPI 15: Scale; Sustainability)
Output Indicator 1.1	Number of people (women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) in producer, intermediary and user organisations trained in areas related to the generation, co-production and use of weather and climate information services, of which 70% agree the training is useful (ICF KPI Replicability)
Output Indicator 1.2	Number of adaptations or innovations to weather and climate information services that are responsive to improved understanding of user needs (ICF KPI 15: Innovation, Scale)
Output Indicator 1.3	Number of people (women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) engaged in co-production processes with > 70% rating the process to 'improve' or 'considerably improve' their ability to use weather and climate information in their decision making (ICF KPI 15: Replicability)
Output Indicator 2.1	Number of global, regional, national and local forums, decision-making platforms and cooperation mechanisms established or strengthened that support user led weather and climate information services, and plans for continued sustainability (ICF KPI 15: Sustainability, evidence of effectiveness is shared)
Output Indicator 2.2	Number of partnerships or networks established or strengthened to support user-led (RCC/NMHS, women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) weather and climate services and plans for continued sustainability (ICF KPI 15: Sustainability, evidence of effectiveness is shared)
Output Indicator 3.1	Number of RCCs and NMHSs with increased ability to generate and deliver enhanced weather and climate information services, including CapEx to upgrade technology and hardware (ICF KPI 15: Scale)
Output Indicator 3.2	Number of RCCs and NMHSs with modernisation plans focusing on improved service delivery and progress against them (ICF KPI 15: Scale)
Intermediary Outcome Indicator 4	Number of users (institutions/organisations, women, men, PWDs, young people and older people and other groups identified as marginalised) in the value chain that have increased awareness of the value of using WCIS in decision-making (ICF KPI 15: Scale; Sustainability)

Output Indicator 4.1	Amount of public funding WISER attracts for the increased generation, uptake and use of weather and climate information (ICF KPI 11) (ICF KPI 15: Sustainability; potentially Scale/Replicability/Innovation depending on what is being funded)
Output Indicator 4.2	Number of evidence/knowledge products produced by organisations supported by WISER to influence use of services and analysis in decision-making (ICF KPI 15: innovation)
Output Indicator 4.3	No of evidence products rated useful by key institutions/users supported by WISER (ICF KPI 15: Replicability)
Output Indicator 4.4	Number of learning activities (e.g. evidence exchanges held such as on SEB evidence, joint analysis, learning initiatives, WISER-supported documents/tools shared) that support an enabling environment for the use of services and analysis in decision-making (ICF KPI 15 evidence of effectiveness is shared)
Output Indicator 5.1	Number of programme and project adaptations put in place annually as a result of internal learning-based activity (ICF KPI 15: Replicability)
Output Indicator 5.2	Number of learning activities within and between WISER projects (ICF KPI 15: Sustainability)

Table 1. WISER Africa indicators linked to the five dimensions of transformation to be tracked by the programme

Step 1.2 Define your boundary partners: Next, for the selected dimension(s) of transformation your project is focusing on, define the key stakeholders your project engages or aims to influence to bring about change. The boundary partners are not necessarily only stakeholders directly supported by the project and can be individuals, groups or organisations. They might include, for example, national and/or regional meteorological services and civil society organisations. Some diversity in partners is important. Clarity on your project's boundary partners will help you to develop progress markers under the next step. These boundary partners will also be key sources of the stories of change you will collect later in the process.

Step 1.3 Elaborate the process of change through progress markers: This next step sets out the sequence of incremental changes leading towards the potential for (higher-level) transformational change. Most transformational changes take time to materialise and might be difficult to capture before (or even at) the end of your project. Progress markers will be helpful to monitor your project's progress towards supporting transformational change and to make sure that you are on track to achieve these changes. Progress markers also enable you to test your Theory of Change and learn during implementation.

First, define the transformational change(s) that you seek to contribute to under the selected dimension(s) of transformation. As a reminder, these transformational changes may already be articulated in your project design documents (i.e. Theory of Change and Logframe) and might be indirect benefits of your intervention. Some projects might have more than one transformational change they seek to achieve.

Second, working backwards from the transformational change(s) your project is aiming to support, set out the sequence of incremental changes you expect to see before the high-level change(s) materialises. These incremental change statements will be your progress markers. It might help to think about the sequence of changes as those that you:³

- **Expect to see:** These define the immediate changes in your key stakeholders you expect to see if your project activities are successfully delivered. They are typically at or just beyond the output level.
- **Like to see:** These define the kinds of changes you will see if your project is starting to have an effect beyond its direct activities and outputs.
- **Love to see:** These define and capture the transformational change potential of the project and are likely to be more dependent on sets of key stakeholders and partners as well as a broader set of assumptions about the wider enabling environment for project success. The timeframe for seeing these changes could be after the project close.

Tips for progress markers

1. Progress markers will describe a sequence of changes in behaviours, actions and relationships that build the foundation for contributing to transformational change(s).
2. Progress marker statements should always be clear as to which individual, group, or organisation the described change pertains to.
3. The number of progress markers will depend on the complexity and size of your project, but we urge you to limit them to a manageable number.
4. Ideally, progress markers will be clearly linked to your Theory of Change. This can be done by noting which results progress markers contribute to under a given area of transformation (e.g., in the progress marker capture sheet – Appendix 1).

The key assumption is that as your implementation progresses, you are ideally looking for a shift in most changes recorded under “expected to see”, then to “like to see”, and then even possibly to those progress markers under “love to see.” Some projects might wish to employ a different categorisation of progress markers that better fits their Theory of Change. However, the concept of defining a sequence of incremental changes that ultimately lead to the expected transformational change should remain.

³ These descriptions have been adapted from BRACED. (2015). M&E Guidance Notes: BRACED Programme.

A template for capturing your progress markers is in Appendix 1. Examples of progress markers are in Appendix 2.

Phase 2: Data collection

Make sure you also read the guidance on Stories of Change found [here](#) in the MEL folder when you work through this phase.

Step 2.1 Elicit and record significant stories of change: You can track your project's progress towards its expected transformational change(s) through the periodic collection and recording of significant stories of change. Stories of change are short (often ranging from 2-3 paragraphs, to half a page or one full page) narrative descriptions of the most significant changes that took place in the reporting period to support transformation. They should (at a minimum) identify the change that took place, its significance and the project's contribution to it.

Stories of change can be collected through one of two methods or their combination:

1. Stories of change can be recorded by members of the project team who observe or learn about significant changes through their day-to-day work or interaction with boundary partners.
2. Projects can also interview a set of boundary partners either individually or in a focus group about the most significant change(s) they observed during the reporting period.

See the box below for tips on how to collect stories of change through interviews, and Appendix 3 for an interview guide. When eliciting stories of change from boundary partners or project team members, projects should use a high-level, open question around the dimension(s) of transformation. This approach gives the story-teller more freedom to focus on changes that matter the most to them, and also enable the collection of stories on unexpected and negative changes.

Tips for collecting significant change stories through interviews:

1. Conduct interviews with a diverse sample of boundary partners (e.g., people working at different administrative or political levels, members of civil society organisations, community members), and ideally with as many women as men. It is important to ensure that different voices are heard. This can also help uncover stories of significant changes that the project team did not necessarily anticipate
2. Always explain to the storyteller how his/her story will be used (e.g., donor reporting, online publication etc.) and seek explicit consent
3. Always record who collected the story, from whom (unless the interviewee did not consent to this) and when
4. Document the story as it is told, as close to the story-teller's own words as possible.
5. Be open to hearing and recording unexpected or negative changes, as well as positive ones
6. Translate the questions into the local language of the storyteller. You might need to slightly rephrase the question to ensure that it has the same meaning as in the original language

Projects should decide for themselves what the frequency of data collection should be, taking into account the resources available to them and the expected pace of the change process. We however expect that at a minimum you collect data for your stories of change at least every six months, so you can report and share your stories with the WISER Programme Team annually. Your stories are to capture information on the process of change and not just the end benefits of the project, and to harmonise data collection and analysis with your results reporting schedule. Projects should try to collect at least two significant stories of change each time you undertake data collection, from a diverse sample of boundary partners.

Step 2.2 Record and verify the evidence base: Make sure that for each significant story of change you record, you save the supporting evidence. You might decide to set up a separate project folder for this purpose.

For stories of change collected from project staff, the evidence could, for example, include meeting minutes or unsolicited emails from boundary partners where they describe certain

changes. To support verification (see below), project staff should also file additional documentation, such as Memorandums of Understanding between institutional partners, official budgets published for climate-sensitive sectors, policy documents, or news stories.

For the stories of change collected directly from boundary partners, the evidence can include interview recordings, transcripts or reports.

Stories of change should also be validated, whenever possible. This step is essential to ensure the validity and robustness of the qualitative information collected through this method. The team member(s) best suited to verify the change stories might vary project by project, and could typically include the M&E Officer, Project Manager or Team Leader.

For projects that rely primarily on stories of change recorded by staff, checking that adequate evidence underpinning the stories is saved in your project folder will typically be sufficient. Projects that collect stories of change from boundary partners should consider selecting a small sample of stories and triangulating their content with secondary sources, such as the documentation identified above for project staff, and/or with the interviewee.

Phase 3: Review

Step 3.1 Review stories of change

Optional, but good-practice steps:

Step 3.1A Share the results with the project team and boundary partners: Sharing the stories of change and key findings with the project team, and where possible boundary partners, can promote learning and adaptive management.

Step 3.1B Revise progress markers: Depending on the findings of the secondary analyses, projects may wish to refine their progress markers. For example, projects might find that their interventions led to change processes they did not originally anticipate and wish to capture these through additional or adjusted progress markers. Changes to progress markers and the reason for the changes should always be recorded by the project team, and you should ensure that the level of ambition of progress markers is maintained. You should also keep a record of earlier versions of the progress marker capture sheet.

As part of your six-monthly Programme Progress Review (see Section 5 in the WISER MEL guidance found [here](#) in the MEL folder), reflect on your stories of change and the information collected to date. Consider the following questions:

- What is this story telling you about what is going well in your WISER project?
- What are the different factors highlighted in the story of change that tell you your project is going well?
- What is this story telling you about what might not be going so well in your WISER project?

- What are the different factors highlighted in the story of change that might suggest your project is not going so well?
- How can you use what you have learned from this story of change to improve your WISER project?

5. Including Transformation in your project reporting

You will need to report to the WISER Programme Team on your progress towards transformational change, and the WISER reporting template you will complete (found [here](#) in the Reporting Templates folder) has a section on Transformation in it. You should use this section to tell us about your progress, successes and challenges, and include your stories of change (at least) annually.

The section on transformation in the WISER reporting template is in the same format as the Progress Marker Capture Sheet in Appendix 1 in this guidance. This should make it easier for you to report your work on transformation to us.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Progress marker capture sheet

Dimension of transformation (innovation, evidence of effectiveness is shared, replicability, scale and sustainability):

<Specify dimension of transformation>

Summary of expected transformational benefit:

<Briefly describe the change under this dimension of transformation that you expect to achieve if implementation is successful>

Boundary partners:

<List the key stakeholders your project engages or influences to bring about change under this dimension of transformation>

Progress markers:

Expect to see:

1. <List the statements of anticipated change>

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Like to see:

1. <List the statements of anticipated change>

2.

3.

4.

5.

Love to see:

1. <List the statements of anticipated change>

2.

Links to Theory of Change/Logframe:

<Describe which results in your Theory of Change/Logframe the progress markers are contributing to. You might wish to number your progress markers for easier referencing>

Critical reflection and changes to progress markers (review these every six months as part of your Quarterly Review Meeting):

Quarterly Review Meeting 1:

<State the progress achieved against the progress markers and any changes you may have needed to make to the progress markers this period and the reasons behind them. You might also want to describe here the key findings and learnings from the analysis of stories of change during the period>

Quarterly Review Meeting 2:

<State the progress achieved against the progress markers and any changes you may have needed to make to the progress markers this period and the reasons behind them. You might also want to describe here the key findings and learnings from the analysis of stories of change during the period>

Quarterly Review Meeting 3:

<State the progress achieved against the progress markers and any changes you may have needed to make to the progress markers this period and the reasons behind them. You might also want to describe here the key findings and learnings from the analysis of stories of change during the period>

Quarterly Review Meeting 4:

<State the progress achieved against the progress markers and any changes you may have needed to make to the progress markers this period and the reasons behind them. You might also want to describe here the key findings and learnings from the analysis of stories of change during the period>

Appendix 2: Examples of progress markers

A2.1: Forest Justice in Tanzania⁴

Expect to see
The project expects to see CSOs raising awareness amongst communities in the areas where they are working on forest governance, forest biodiversity values and linkages between forest management and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Like to see
The project would like to see CSOs taking individual and joint actions to promote the plight of Tanzania's high biodiversity forests and to highlight forest biodiversity loss.
Love to see
The project would love to see CSOs working together effectively to lobby successfully for adequate protection of Tanzania's high biodiversity forests, specifically that all Eastern Arc forest reserves and nature reserves have management plans that protect biodiversity values and that are being implemented and monitored.

A2.2. Climate and Development Knowledge Network⁵

Expect to see
Groups/countries increasingly identify and agree priorities and desired outcomes in advance of meetings with international climate change negotiations
Group/country delegations plan attendance at different sessions (e.g. based on full understanding of the linkages between them)
Groups/countries spend longer in preparation before international climate change meetings
Like to see
Delegations make a greater number/proportion of interventions and submissions in areas relevant to their national or group interests
Delegates increasingly stand up for their opinions, confront other delegates and their positions, and/or constructively disagree with other delegations

⁴ Simon Hearn & Kisuma Mapunda. (2012). Strengthening Civil Society in Tanzania - Is Outcome Mapping Helping the Act Programme and Its Partners Influence Change? ODI Publication. Available at: <http://www.accountability.or.tz/sites/default/files/OM%202012-for%20website.pdf>

⁵ Jessica Mackenzie. (2015). RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach (ROMA). ODI presentation at the LSHTM Symposium. (2015). Available at: https://www.researchtoaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/DemoImpactWorkshop_ODI_OutcomeMapping.pdf

Delegates cite relevant legal precedents or technical research to support their propositions or to challenge the wording in agreements
Love to see
Increased proportion of delegates have technical background and/or have been selected to attend meetings due to their technical backgrounds rather than their seniority
Delegates increasingly chair or provide lead input into an increased proportion of working groups or meetings
Groups/countries/constituencies are asked to enter formal links with other (influential) groups

Appendix 3: The Outcome Harvesting form and template for writing up your Outcome Harvesting Statement

NOTE: READ THE GUIDANCE ON STORIES OF CHANGE BEFORE USING THESE TEMPLATES

[Name of Implementing Partner]

[Name of WISER Project]

What is Outcome Harvesting?

Outcome Harvesting enables us to focus on the detail behind specific examples of change that happened as part of [insert Implementing Partner's name]'s WISER Africa project, called [insert name of project].

Outcome Harvesting is a method that enables project managers, workers and evaluators to identify, formulate, verify, and make sense of outcomes. Outcome Harvesting is a forensic approach and does not measure progress towards predetermined outcomes or objectives, but rather collects evidence of what has been achieved, and works backwards to determine whether and how the project or intervention contributed to the change. Outcome Harvesting is useful in complex programming environments, where cause and effect may not be fully understood.

What are you being asked to do?

Below is a short questionnaire that asks you to think about a case study of only one change that you know about that has happened because of [insert Implementing Partner's name]'s WISER Africa project, called [insert name of project]. [insert Implementing Partner's name]'s project has contributed to the case study that you are reporting.

The change that you report on can be anything that you know about personally or have experienced (not something that you have read about or someone else has told you about).

You should provide as much detail as possible, as well as references to additional documents that support what you say that you think we should see.

There are five questions and the total time taken to respond should be approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Afterwards

- The data collector will write up a short story of change from your response and send it to you for checking.
- Once you have approved the statement, it is sent to someone else to validate (someone who knows about the case study you have reported on).
- It will be used in the evaluation as qualitative evidence.

YOUR NAME	
WHAT IS THE ORGANISATION YOU WORK FOR?	

WHAT IS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (SO WE CAN SEND YOU THE OUTCOME STATEMENT TO CHECK)

OUTCOME DESCRIPTION

In one or two sentences, summarise a change in behaviour, relationships, activities, or actions that you know about, that relates to the work of the WISER project and/or its partners in your country. That is: who changed what, when and where?

WHO CHANGED?

Be as specific as possible about the individual, group, community, organisation or institution that changed. Please give as much information as possible.

WHEN DID THE CHANGE TAKE PLACE?

Be as specific as possible about the date that the change took place. If it happened over a period of time, be as accurate as you can about the start and end dates?


WHERE DID THE CHANGE TAKE PLACE?

Specifically: did the change take place at a community or local level, or more widely across a region, or even more widely across the whole nation?



WHAT WAS THE WISER PROJECT'S CONTRIBUTION?

What was the WISER project's role in influencing the change that you have told us about? Where any other notable organisations or individuals involved? Please be as specific as possible if the change also came about because of particular activities, processes, services, etc.



TEMPLATE FOR WRITING UP THE STORY OF CHANGE

Use this template to structure your short story of change

SUMMARY

Write this section last. Summarise the key points into a short statement. Word Count: 75

DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of who changed what, when and where. Word count: 200

SIGNIFICANCE

What is the significance of this outcome for your WISER project, its partners or other stakeholders?
Word Count: 75

CONTRIBUTION

What was the implementing partner's contribution to this outcome? Word Count:75

DATA COLLECTOR	
STORY-TELLER	

VALIDATOR	
ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	

Appendix 4: Additional information on the method

Measuring the potential for transformational change through traditional MEL methods can be challenging. This is because most often these changes cannot be linked directly to end user outcomes and take time to emerge due to the long results chain involved. Such changes can also be difficult to predict in advance, especially for complex or highly innovative programmes where cause and effect relationships underlying the Theory of Change are not fully understood at the time of inception. Finally, the quantification or monetarisation of transformational change is often not possible, requiring robust qualitative methods to capture progress.

The approach included in this guidance was inspired by Outcome Harvesting (OH) and Outcome Mapping (OM) - two MEL techniques that take complexity into account and have emerged over the past decade. These are typically qualitative methods that are flexible and highly adaptable yet produce robust information that can be used for MEL purposes. They place a strong emphasis on explaining how change happens (processes and drivers) as well as when change happens (in what situations and contexts). They are also able to cover the 'messy' results of projects – including the unexpected results, the intangible, and the indirect consequences of development work.⁶

This guidance borrows elements from OH and OM to adopt an approach that can be more readily implemented within the parameters of WISER Africa projects. For example, unlike the traditional OH approach, we are not recommending that Implementing Partners undertake the final two steps in the process of analysing and interpreting the outcomes. This will be done by the WISER Programme Team and reflected back to all Implementing Partners as part of the review cycle.

⁶ Davies, R, and J. Dart. (2005). The 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) Technique: A Guide to Its Use.

