

DCED Standard for Results Measurement: A summary

*"Effective use of data – learning by measuring - is at the heart of how we should manage complexity."*¹

The DCED Standard for Results Measurement provides programmes working in complex market systems with the framework, tools and incentives to monitor their results in a systematic way. Credibility is enhanced through an optional external audit of the measurement process used by the programme.

The DCED Standard was developed in 2008 in collaboration with many programmes in the field; it includes all the elements now accepted as 'good practice'.

The elements of the DCED Standard

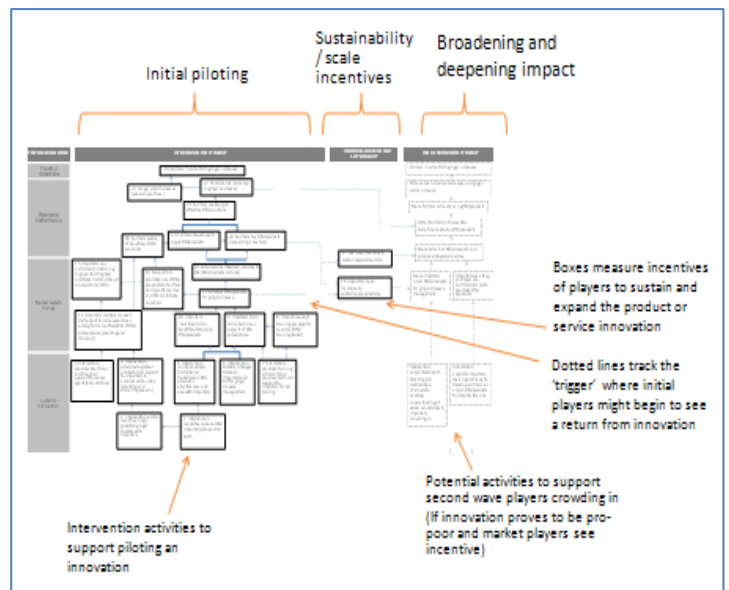
1. Articulating the results chain
2. Defining indicators of change, and other information needs
3. Measuring attributable change
4. Capturing wider changes in the system or market
5. Tracking costs and impact
6. Reporting costs and results
7. Managing the system for results measurement

The first step in the Standard calls for managers to articulate the results chain: the logic of their work, already implicit but rarely illustrated in a clear form. This format enables managers to be explicit about the assumptions on which their work is based – including for example sequencing and parallel logics. The rest of the Standard framework flows from the programme logic, supporting managers to see whether it is valid.

Programmes and organisations complying with the Standard are increasingly seen as being committed to effectiveness and excellence. Many donors, INGOs, field programmes and consultants are actively using the framework of the DCED Standard to improve their monitoring systems; click on the map for more details.



Example of a results chain (Samarth NMPD Nepal)



What are the Benefits?

The DCED Standard for Results Measurement offers the following benefits to programmes:

- the opportunity to think through the logic or results chains, leading to greater clarity between all partners on the basis for their collaboration
- a management tool to orient staff efforts around the logic, and to encourage understanding of how their work contributes to the ultimate goals
- the means to generate approximate numbers for results that have some credibility, including incentives to seek wider market change
- interaction with other programmes, for exchange and learning in key skill areas around results measurement
- recognition in the field, as being seriously engaged in the results measurement and effectiveness agendas
- time-saving, through not having to 'reinvent the wheel' for widely-accepted good practice in results measurement processes.

For more information

Contact Admin@Enterprise-Development.org or visit www.enterprise-development.org/measuring-results-the-dced-standard



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

¹ [Owen Barder, Centre for Global Development](http://www.owenbarder.com)