

Theory of Change 101

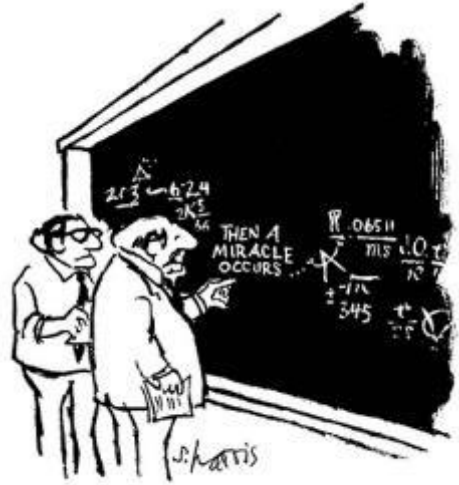
What is a Theory of Change?

A Theory of Change is often referred to as the 'missing middle' between the work we do and our mission or vision.

The purpose of the Theory of Change is to explain how the work we do leads to outcomes which are necessary for our vision of the future to be realized.

Theory of Change can be applied to our organizations as a whole or developed for particular initiatives.

Unlike a mission or vision statement, a Theory of Change is actionable and is an excellent starting point for mapping complete logic models and programming plans. A Theory of Change can also have its own indicators of success.



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Image credit: Sidney Harris

What are the elements of a Theory of Change?

It can be helpful to think of a Theory of Change as a process that connects your actions to your long-term vision.

If we do something...then something will change...resulting in positive impact...contributing to a better future.

