

Using a Theory of Change for Project Planning, Implementation and M&E



SC4CCM Project Goal

To find simple, affordable, sustainable supply chain solutions to address the unique challenges faced by community health workers

But ...

We had to start by establishing what the most important challenges were



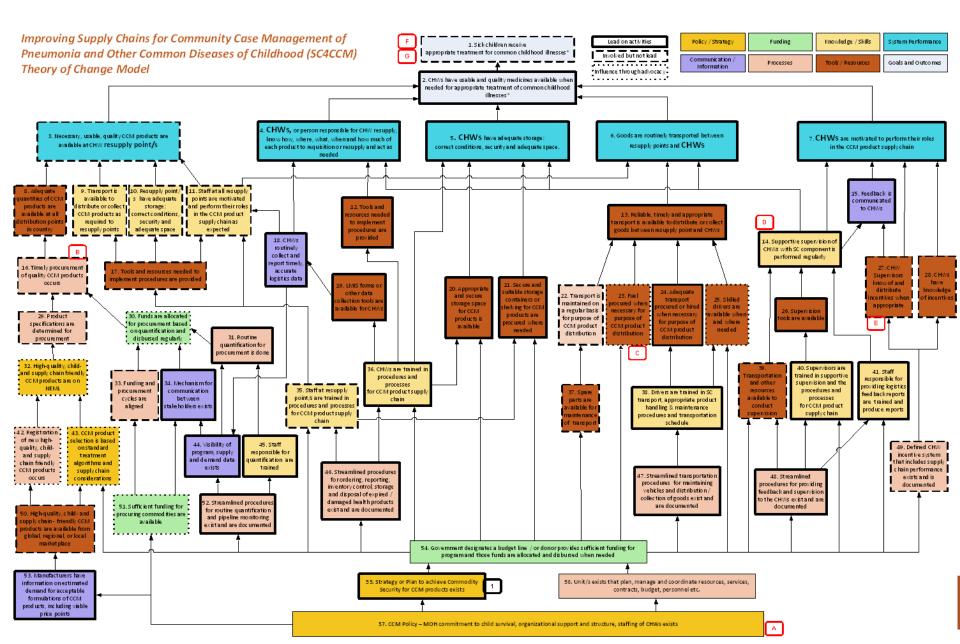
Using a TOC as a Technical Framework for Planning & Implementation

- Defining the important contributing factors for achieving the goal (five main preconditions)
- Conducting a baseline survey to characterize performance of each precondition
- Using data to diagnose the important bottlenecks in the supply chain
- Designing interventions that prioritize the most effective pathway to achieving improvements



SC4CCM Project TOC





SC4CCM Main Preconditions

Derived from the main country level objective and immediate preconditions

GOAL LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Sick children receive appropriate treatment for common childhood illnesses

Main Country Level Objective: CHWs have usable and quality medicines available when needed for appropriate treatment of common childhood illnesses

Precondition 1:

Necessary, usable, quality CCM products are available at CHW resupply point/s

Precondition 2:

CHWs, or person responsible for CHW resupply, know how, where, what, when and how much of each product to requisition or resupply and act as needed

Precondition 3: CHWs have

adequate storage: correct conditions, security and adequate space.

Precondition 4:

Goods are routinely transported between resupply points and CHWs

Precondition 5:

CHWs are motivated to perform their roles in the CCM product supply chain



Planning & Implementation in Malawi

Mapping baseline results to the TOC helped identify transport, data visibility/knowledge of resupply, and motivation as the most important system weaknesses to address

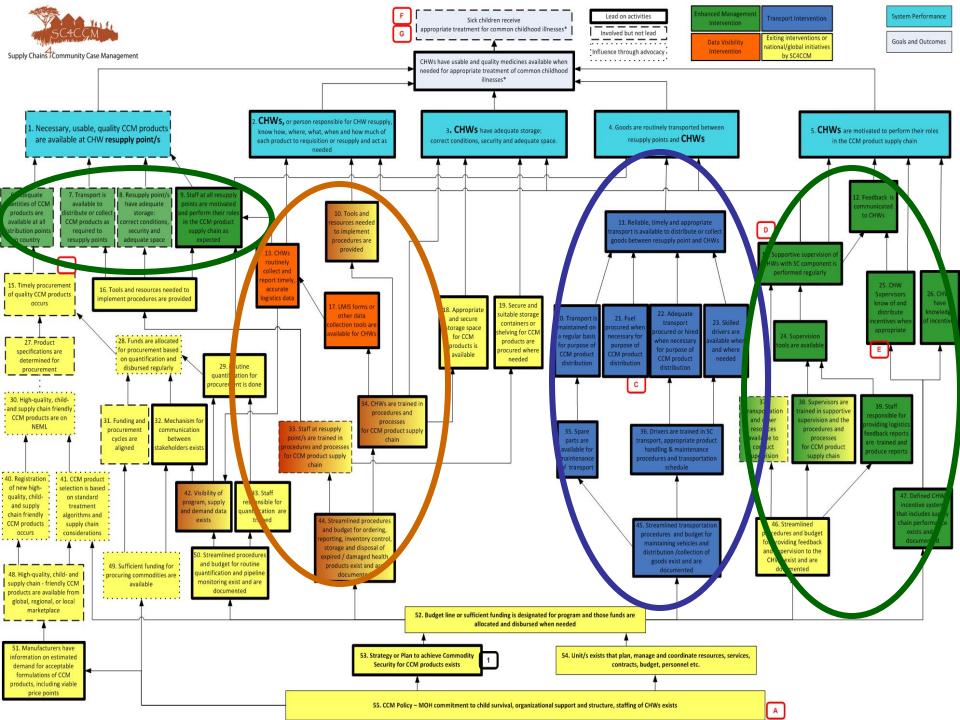
Efficient Product Transport (EPT)

Enhanced Management Approach (EM)

Data Visibility

Interventions were then designed to address all these bottlenecks, with **steps in the causal pathway** identified to guide implementation





Planning & Implementation in Rwanda, Ethiopia

- SC4CCM used the same process to design interventions and develop country specific TOCs for Ethiopia and Rwanda
- The TOC serves as a guide to ensure that implementation includes all elements of the intervention causal pathway

Once each intervention was rolled out, progress is measured using monitoring data, again guided by the TOC



Using the TOC for M&E

- A TOC is a hypothesis (for project or country), and a road map for determining 'what do we need to know?'
- Like other frameworks, TOC is used for indicator development
 - 'Main' preconditions ~ 'Core' indicators
 - Each precondition ~ 1 or more indicators
- TOC causal pathways show relationships between indicators
- Assumptions are stated explicitly, but may change



Country specific TOCs and M&E

TOC, indicators and narrative make up the country-specific **M&E Plans** in each country

Data from routine monitoring are:

- -Reviewed in sequence with the TOC to identify where gaps are located in the chain of preconditions
- -Used by teams to conduct an analysis and plan intervention support to address those gaps, aiming towards improving the higher preconditions

Midline and endline evaluations look at the **validity** of hypotheses



Challenges

Defining multiple (non-linear) relationships between preconditions

Determining the level of influence project work will have on each precondition

Determining which data are critical at interim stages, i.e. limiting amount of data collected for monitoring

Adapting TOC to drastic changes in assumptions during implementation period (i.e. Malawi)



Benefits of a TOC for Planning, Implementation, M&E for Supply Chains

 TOCs help define program indicators, diagram data relationships and evaluate hypotheses

- TOCs can be a useful tool for experienced supply chain managers even before having rigorous M&E data
 - Experience can be used to chart causal pathways, highlight interdependencies and identify likely bottlenecks and gaps
- TOCs offer supply chain managers a level of precision and a structure to facilitate prioritization that is missing from current approaches

Benefits of a TOC for Planning, Implementation, M&E for Supply Chains

 Learning: TOCs allows the project to document how and why change happens

 Linking improved product availability to any one intervention is difficult; measuring the degree of implementation in TOC causal pathways allows you to connect intervention results to changes in product availability



Thank you!

