



Designing a logical Framework matrix





1. Background

Presently, the EFC/SFC/PIB template has provisions for indicating scheme level outputs and outcomes, their respective targets and progress (year-wise estimates) in sections 2 and 8. The sponsoring Ministry/Department has to provide relevant information on outputs and outcomes in these sections. However, proposals drafted by the sponsoring Ministry/Department do not have clearly mentioned outputs, outcomes and relevant measurable indicators. Also, at times, the mechanisms for capturing data on the proposed indicators are not clearly laid down. This leaves the measurement plan for the proposed scheme incomplete at its design stage itself. Additionally, in cases where the proposed scheme does have indicators defined, often, process or input indicators are phrased as output indicators. Similarly, output or intermediate outcomes are phrased as outcome indicators. This is primarily due to the lack of standardized approach and systematic capacities in the concerned Ministries/Departments to build an M&E plan right at the design stage.

The EFC/SFC/PIB proposal forms the basis of scheme guidelines, which is regularly referred to during scheme implementation, monitoring, evaluation and appraisal process. Naturally, the absence of details like key indicators to be tracked, their means of measurement and the underlying assumptions at the EFC/SFC stage translate into poorly designed schemes in terms of their M&E plan. This hinders not only the scheme implementation (setting responsibility and accountability across various activities) by limiting evidence-based tactical maneuvering but also, by constraining the effective and objective assessment of scheme performance at a strategic level.

DMEO, NITI Aayog has developed the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) for each CS/CSS scheme, jointly with Ministries/Departments. DMEO, as part of its comments on EFC/SFC/PIB proposals, has been suggesting key outputs and outcomes and measurable indicators and thereby, ensuring indicator quality through, primarily on sections 2.1, 2.2 and 8.2 and 8.3 on outputs and outcomes. However, all such comments from DMEO are in good faith that the indicators will be considered by sponsoring Ministry/Department and data capture mechanism will be developed for periodic monitoring and evaluation on these key indicators and that risks and assumptions involved during scheme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stage will be articulated by the sponsoring Ministry/Department.

In view of the above, it is imperative that a structured, objective and clear approach is adopted across the Government of India to ensure 'quality at entry' in terms of M&E integration into the new schemes/programmes being designed and launched across Ministries/Departments.

