



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

## **PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDED KEY RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**For the 2008 Results-Based Management Policy Statement**

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**2008 Results-Based Management Policy Statement**

**Amended Results-Based Management Vocabulary – Results Chain Terms and Definitions**

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**Abbreviations**

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
GC	Government of Canada
LFA	logical framework analysis
MfDR	managing for development results
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
RBM	results-based management
RRMD	Results and Risk Management Division
SPPB	Strategic Policy and Performance Branch
TBS	Treasury Board Secretariat
UNDG	United Nations Development Group

## **1. Introduction**

This document provides the rationale for decisions made to amend the current key results-based management (RBM) terms, definitions, and methodology used by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). There are three reasons for doing so:

1. There is a need for better coherence within CIDA when using RBM terms, definitions, and methodology at corporate, program, and investment levels.
2. Based on recent Government of Canada (GC) initiatives such as the *Federal Accountability Act* and the Management, Resources and Results Structure Policy, there is a need to better demonstrate Canadian value added in CIDA programming and to do so using common GC standards. CIDA must better show how Canadian taxpayer dollars are used to deliver development assistance in order to contribute, in collaboration with other development organizations (shared accountability), to the achievement of development results.
3. There is a need to align and harmonize CIDA's RBM terminology with what is used by the international donor community (e.g. outputs). According to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), development organizations should try to use common performance management related terminology and practices when addressing RBM activities.

These decisions are based on:

- CIDA's shared accountability: GC and International Development partners;
- key findings and recommendations of the Analysis Report on CIDA Key Results-based Management Terms and Related Definitions produced July 27, 2007, (prepared by the Results and Risk Management Division (RRMD));
- consolidated comments received from the Branch Performance Management Specialists regarding the analysis report cited above; and
- conclusions reached by the RRMD as to what would be the most appropriate recommendations for amending key RBM terms, definitions, and methodology.

The endorsed key RBM terms and definitions focus essentially on terms used to develop a results chain. All other related RBM terms and definitions (attribution, efficiency, indicator, etc.) will be presented in a separate document (i.e. a CIDA RBM lexicon) in order to allow more flexibility for changes over time.

Key RBM terms and definitions are presented as follows:

1. Decision
2. New definition
3. Other definitions considered (e.g. Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC), CIDA, United Nation Development Group (UNDG))
4. Examples
5. Explanation

## 2. Results chain terms and definitions

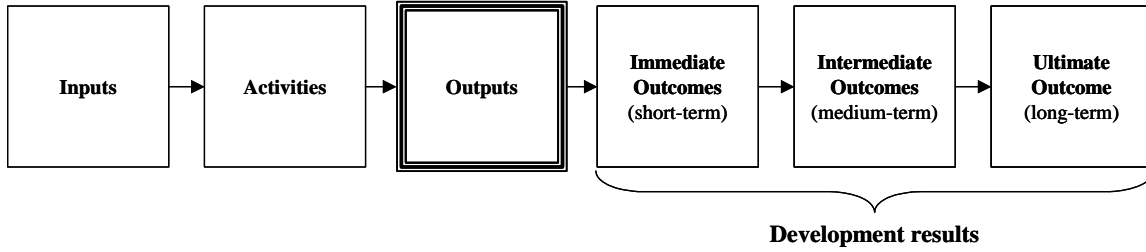
### 2.1 Results chain (logic model)

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt the TBS definition.		
<b>New definition:</b> A depiction of the causal or logical relationships between inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes of a given policy, program, or initiative.		
<b>Other definitions considered:</b>		
2004 TBS: A depiction of the causal or logical relationships between, inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes of a given policy, program, or initiative.	1996 CIDA: Generally seen to correspond to the output, purpose, and goal levels of a logical framework analysis (LFA).	2002 OECD DAC: The causal sequence for a development intervention that stipulates the necessary sequence to achieve desired objectives—beginning with inputs, moving through activities and outputs, and culminating in outcomes, impacts, and feedback. In some agencies, reach is part of the results chain.
<b>Examples:</b> See examples on page 8.		
<b>Explanation:</b> The TBS definition is more concise and better represents the components of a results chain.		

## 2.2 Results chain components

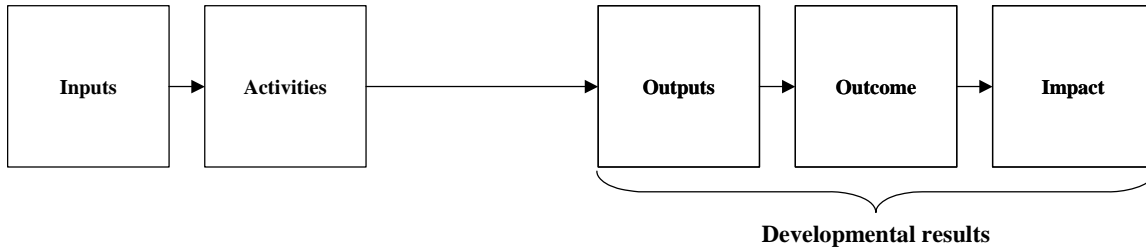
**Decision:** To adopt a modified TBS results chain.

**Figure 1: Proposed results chain**

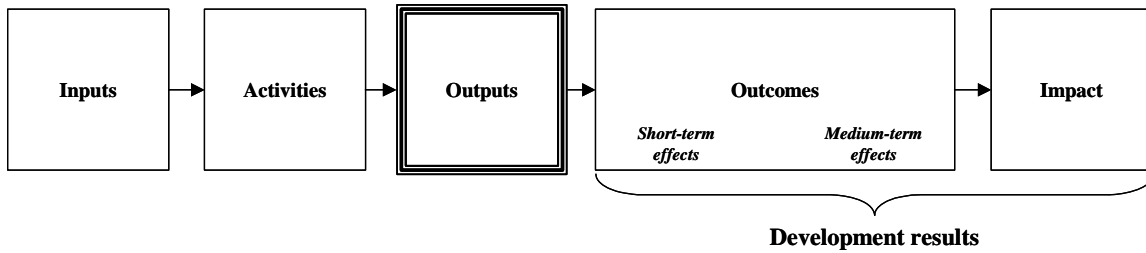


**Other Results Chain considered:**

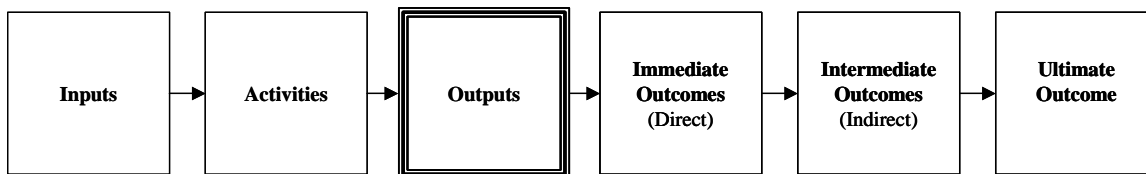
**Figure 2: 1996 CIDA Results Chain**



**Figure 3: The OECD DAC results chain**



**Figure 4: The TBS results chain**



Examples:<sup>1</sup>

Figure 5: Example of a results chain (bilateral)

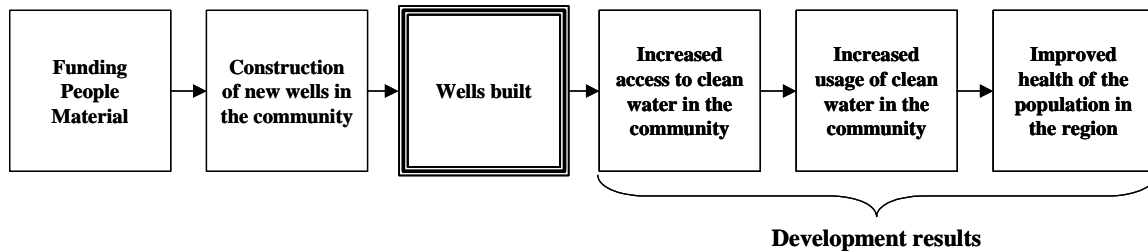
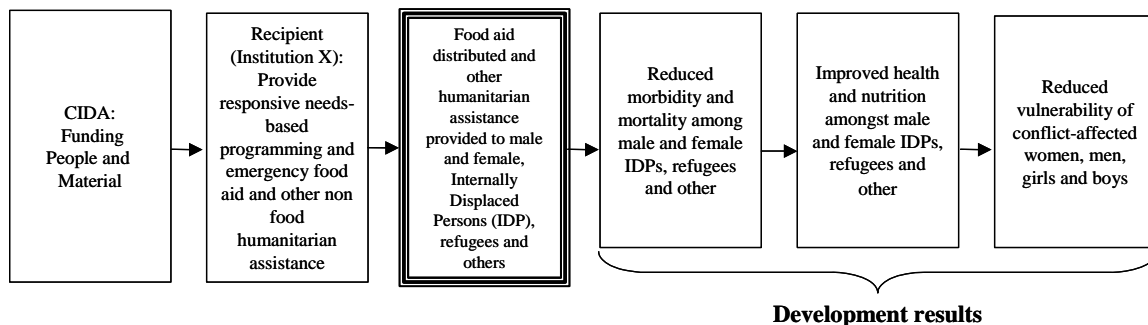


Figure 6: Example of a results chain (multilateral)



**Explanation:**

There are three key advantages to adding the “output” box as “products and services:”

1. Enables CIDA to be aligned with GC -wide results chain (Figure 4)
2. Enables CIDA to be aligned with the OECD DAC (and other multilateral and bilateral donors) definition with regard to outputs being “products and services” and also by adding “temporal equivalence” in brackets at the outcome levels (i.e. short, medium and long term). (Figure 3)
3. Clearly splits development results from products and services (outputs). This distinction should strengthen performance reporting by partners, given that it is now clear they will have to report on both outputs and outcomes.

Furthermore, defining outputs as “products and services” forces one to define what are the real development results. This distinction will reinforce the argument that development results go beyond what is considered the products and

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the examples provided are extraction from fully developed Results Chain

services produced by an organization. Consequently, the focus of the Agency is maintained and remains clearly on development results.

### 2.3 Result

<p><b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified 1996 CIDA definition and add an explanatory text for the term “development results.”</p>		
<p><b>New definition:</b> A describable or measurable change in state that is derived from a cause and effect relationship. <u>Results are the same as outcomes</u> and are further qualified as immediate, intermediate, or ultimate.</p>		
<p><b>Development results:</b> <sup>2</sup> Reflect the actual changes in the state of human development that are attributable, at least in part, to a CIDA activity.</p>		
<p><b>Other definitions considered:</b></p>		
<p>2004 TBS: <u>Results are the same as outcomes</u> and are defined as follows: An external consequence attributed, in part, to an organization, policy, program, or initiative. Outcomes are not within the control of a single organization, policy, program or initiative; instead, they are within the area of the organization's influence. Outcomes are usually further qualified as immediate, intermediate, or ultimate (final), expected, direct, etc.</p>	<p>1996 CIDA: A describable or measurable change in state that is derived from a cause and effect relationship.</p> <p><u>Development results:</u> The output, outcome, and impact of a CIDA investment in a developing country.</p> <p><u>Operational results:</u> The administrative and management product achieved within the Agency.</p>	<p>2002 OECD DAC: The output, outcome, or impact (intended or unintended, positive and/or negative) of a development intervention.</p>
<p><b>Examples:</b> improved access to..., more boys completing..., reduced child mortality, increased immunization coverage of..., enhanced integration of..., strengthened capacity of..., reversed spread of..., greater participation of..., etc.</p>		
<p><b>Explanation:</b> The 1996 CIDA definition recognized two types of results: development results and operational results. Given CIDA’s mandate, it is worth keeping the definition of development results. However, the term “operational results” will be now captured under “Output” as management products and services. Furthermore, using the term Development results will facilitate harmonization with the International community, which promotes managing for development results (MfDR).</p>		

<sup>2</sup> 1999 Results-based Management in CIDA: An Introductory Guide to the Concepts and Principles



## 2.4 Inputs

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified TBS definition.			
<b>New definition:</b> The financial, human, material, and information resources used to produce outputs through activities and to accomplish outcomes.			
<b>Other definitions considered:</b>			
2004 TBS: The financial and non-financial resources used by organizations, programs, and initiatives to produce outputs and accomplish outcomes.	1996 CIDA: The resources required, including money, time, or effort, to produce a result.	2002 OECD DAC: The financial, human, and material resources used for the development intervention.	2003 UNDG: The financial, human, material, technological, and information resources used for the development intervention.
<b>Examples:</b> funds, people, equipment, supplies, reports, etc.			
<b>Explanation:</b> The recommended definition of input combines the definitions used by the TBS, OECD DAC and UNDG to make it more CIDA relevant. The term “non-financial resources” from the TBS definition was removed because “human”, “material”, “information” and other resources better represent CIDA ‘s business instead of non-financial resources.			

## 2.5 Activities

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified OECD DAC definition.		
<b>New definition:</b> Actions taken or work performed, through which inputs are mobilized to produce outputs.		
<b>Other definitions considered:</b>		
2004 TBS: An operation or work process internal to an organization that uses inputs to produce outputs, e.g. training, research, construction, negotiation, investigation, etc.	1996 CIDA: None.	2002 OECD DAC: Actions taken or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance, and other types of resources are mobilized to produce specific outputs.
<b>Examples:</b> deliver training to..., conduct research on..., design programming on..., construct wells, schools..., negotiate partnership with..., monitor/evaluate program results..., provide care services to..., allocate funds to..., distribute food aids to..., etc.		
<b>Explanation:</b> Due to the fact that the term “activity” is not currently defined at CIDA, a definition has been included to give a complete results chain.		

## 2.6 Outputs

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified TBS definition.		
<b>New definition:</b> Direct products or services stemming from the activities of an organization, policy, program, or initiative.		
<b>Other definitions considered:</b>		
2004 TBS: Direct products or services stemming from the activities of an organization, policy, program or initiative, and usually within the control of the organization itself, e.g. pamphlet, research study, water treatment plan, training session, etc.	1996 CIDA: The immediate, visible, concrete, and tangible consequences of program/project inputs.	2002 OECD DAC: The products, capital goods, and services that result from a development intervention; may also include changes resulting from the intervention that are relevant to the achievement of outcomes.
<b>Examples:</b> pamphlet produced, research completed, water treatment plan completed, training sessions provided, food aid delivered, partnership established, funding provided, schools built, bug nets distributed, etc.		
<b>Explanation:</b> The phrase “and usually within the control of the organization itself” was removed because CIDA usually delegates the production of outputs to external executing agencies.		

## 2.7 Immediate outcome (short term)

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified TBS definition.
<b>New definition:</b> A change that is directly attributable to the outputs of an organization, policy, program, or initiative. In terms of time frame and level, these are short-term outcomes, and are usually at the level of an increase in awareness/skills of... or access to... among beneficiaries.

<b>Other definitions considered:</b>		
<p>2004 TBS: An outcome that is directly attributable to the outputs of a policy, a program or an initiative. In terms of time frame and level, these are short-term outcomes that are often at the level of an increase in awareness of a target population.</p>	<p>The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “output” and is defined as follows:</p> <p>1996 CIDA: The immediate, visible, concrete and tangible consequences of program/project inputs.</p> <p>1999 Results-based Management in CIDA: An Introductory Guide to the Concepts and Principles: It is the short-term change produced by (or for the benefit of) project/program delivery partners or intermediate groups. These results are the logical consequences of project/program activities and inputs. As such, the meaning of outputs has gone beyond what is commonly considered the goods and services produced by an organization.</p>	<p>2002 OECD DAC: Outcome – The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “outcome” and is defined as follows: The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention’s outputs.</p>
<p><b>Examples:</b> Increased awareness of women in Sokoto, Nigeria, on availability of basic essential obstetric care; improved access to clean water in the community.</p>		
<p><b>Explanation:</b> The definition that CIDA formerly used for “outputs” is what TBS calls an “immediate outcome” and what OECD DAC calls an outcome (short-term effects). Given the almost universally accepted definition of “outputs” by donors, OECD DAC, and TBS as products or services, it is necessary to readjust CIDA’s former term to “immediate outcome.” The addition of “short term” in brackets will facilitate harmonization with OECD DAC. Finally, “target population” has been replaced with “among beneficiaries” to better reflect CIDA reality.</p>		

## 2.8 Intermediate outcome (medium term)

<b>Decision:</b> To adopt a modified TBS definition.		
<b>New definition:</b> A change that is expected to logically occur once one or more immediate outcomes have been achieved. In terms of time frame and level, these are medium-term outcomes, which are usually achieved by the end of a project/program and usually occur at the change of behaviour/practice level among beneficiaries.		
<b>Definitions considered:</b>		
<p>2004 TBS: An outcome that is expected to logically occur once one or more immediate outcomes have been achieved. In terms of time frame and level, these are medium-term outcomes and often occur at the change of behaviour/practice level among a target population.</p>	<p>1996 CIDA: Result at the LFA purpose level, constituting the short-term effect of the program/project. This is generally the level at which the beneficiaries or end users take ownership of the program/project and CIDA funding comes to an end.</p> <p>1999 Results-based Management in CIDA: An Introductory Guide to the Concepts and Principles: The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “outcome” and is defined as follows: A medium-term change, benefiting an identified target population that is achievable within the time frame of the program/initiative. These results are the logical consequence of achieving a specified combination of outputs.</p>	<p>2002 OECD DAC: Outcome –The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “outcome” and is defined as follows: The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention’s outputs.</p>
<b>Examples:</b> Increased usage of clean water in community X; greater trust and confidence in the justice system.		

**Explanation:** The definition that CIDA formerly used for “outcome” is what TBS calls an “intermediate outcome” and what OECD DAC calls an “outcome (medium-term effects).” The addition of “medium term” in brackets will facilitate harmonization with OECD DAC. Finally, “target population” has been replaced with “among beneficiaries” to better reflect CIDA reality.

## **2.9 Ultimate outcome (long term)**

**Decision:** To adopt a modified terminology and shortened TBS definition.

**New term:** The use of “ultimate outcome” instead of “final outcome” or “impact.”

**New definition:** The highest-level change that can be reasonably attributed to an organization, policy, program, or initiative in a causal manner, and is the consequence of one or more intermediate outcomes. The ultimate outcome usually represents the raison d'être of an organization, policy, program, or initiative, and takes the form of a sustainable change of state among beneficiaries.

**Other definitions considered:**

<p>2004 TBS: Final outcome (ultimate outcome): the highest-level outcome that can be reasonably attributed to a policy, program, or initiative in causal manner, and is the consequence of one or more intermediate outcomes having been achieved. These outcomes usually represent the raison d'être of a policy, program, or initiative. They are long-term outcomes that represent a change of state of a target population. Ultimate outcomes of individual programs, policies, or initiatives contribute to the higher-level departmental strategic outcomes.</p>	<p>1996 CIDA: The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “impact” and is defined as follows: Broader, higher-level, long-term effect or consequence linked to the goal or vision.</p> <p>1999 Results-based Management in CIDA: An Introductory Guide to the Concepts and Principles: A long-term change at the societal levels that are linked to the overall program/initiative goal.</p>	<p>2002 OECD DAC: The definition referring to the present step in the results chain is called “impact” and is defined as follows: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.</p>
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**Examples:** Improved health status of women of Sokoto, Nigeria; reduced vulnerability of conflict-affected women, men, girls, and boys in the country.

**Explanation:** It is proposed to adopt the term “ultimate outcome” instead of “final outcome” or “impact” for the following two reasons:

1. TBS is using both “final outcome” and “ultimate outcome” interchangeably; however, the term “final outcome” is not realistic for development work.
2. In French, “impact” means immediate or short –term, which might be confusing.

The addition of “long-term” in brackets will facilitate harmonization with OECD DAC. Finally, “target population” has been replaced with “among beneficiaries” to better reflect CIDA reality.