Measuring Systems Change

USAID’s Current Thinking

August 27, 2015
Measuring Systems Change:

1. **Why** its important
2. **What** it is
3. **How** to do it (at least some preliminary ideas)
LOCAL SYSTEMS:
A FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 2014

Available at:
Achieving and sustaining any development outcome depends on the contributions of multiple and interconnected actors.
The Local Systems Framework

Think systemically

Work systemically

Align incentives
Way forward

1. Spread systems thinking
2. Integrate systems thinking and local systems into the program cycle
3. Add to the ways we can support local systems
4. Develop ways to measure system change
5. Refine risk assessment methods and tools
6. Initiate a series of ex-post evaluations
7. Reinforce staff skills
A system
Basic system

Environment

Resources  Transformation  Feedback  Outputs
Local system

Environment

Resources  Rules  Roles  Relationships  Results
The 5-Rs

- **[Target] Results**: The specific outcome sought
- **Roles**: The functions that actors take on
- **Relationships**: The interconnections between actors in the system
- **Rules**: Regulations, policies, norms that structure the system
- **Resources**: Inputs into the system—financial, human
Monitoring at 2 levels

[Diagram showing market dynamics with categories such as Marketable Surplus, Global Retailers, National Retailers, Exporters, Wholesalers, Processors, Producers, Input Suppliers, Supporting Markets, Sector-specific Providers, Cross-cutting Providers, Financial (cross-cutting) Providers, National Enabling Environment, and Global Enabling Environment.]
1. Iterated use of visualization techniques
Visualization methods

Causal Loop Diagrams

Social Network Analysis

Simulation
5Rs Framework

1. Iterated use of visualization techniques
2. Narrative-based approaches
## 5Rs Framework

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<td>Iterated use of visualization techniques</td>
<td>Narrative-based approaches</td>
<td>Indicator-based approaches</td>
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Indicator approaches

- Sentinel Indicators
- Dynamic Indicators
- Organizational Performance Index
- . . . and many others
1. **A framework is key**
   - Need a way to identify which facets of systems are most important

2. **No one right way**
   - Approaches vary in terms of what aspects of systems they are best suited to measure
   - Requires a portfolio approach

3. **We have a steep learning/education curve**
   - Methods are unfamiliar
   - Utility is unproven

4. **We need an aggressive piloting/learning process**
Thank you.