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Measuring Systems Change

USAID's Current Thinking

August 27, 2015

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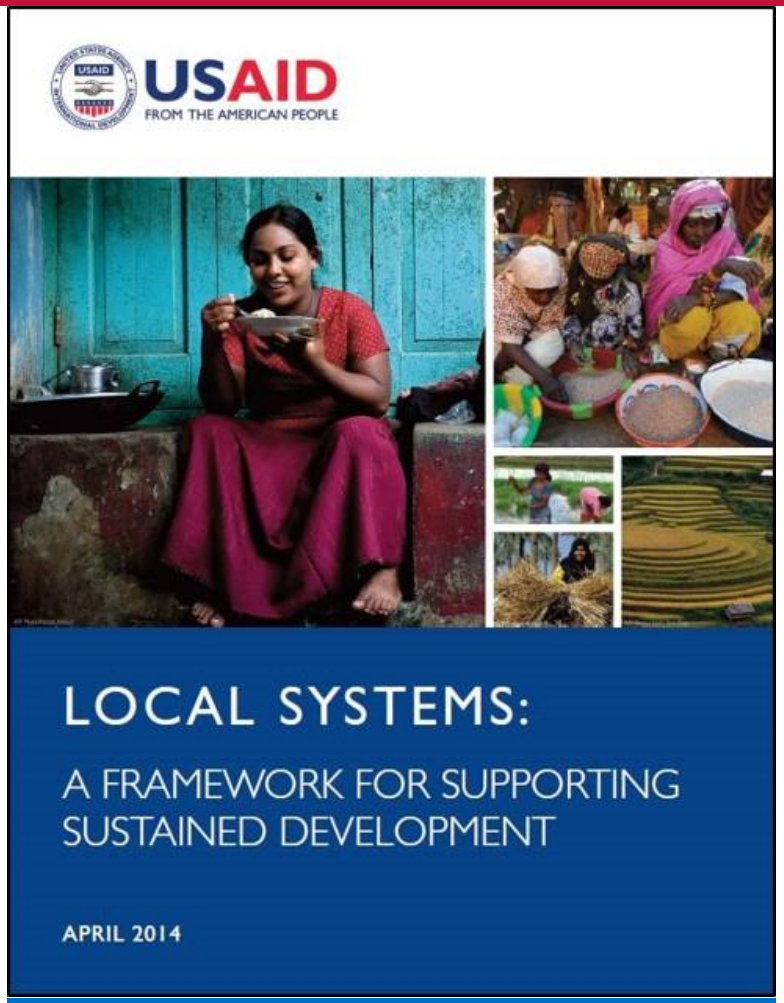
Measuring Systems Change:

1. **Why** its important
2. **What** it is
3. **How** to do it (at least some preliminary ideas)

Starting point



Available at:
http://www.usaid.gov/policy/local-systems-framework

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Big idea

Achieving and sustaining any development outcome depends on the contributions of multiple and interconnected actors.

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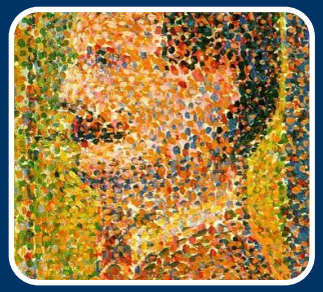
The Local Systems Framework



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

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A system

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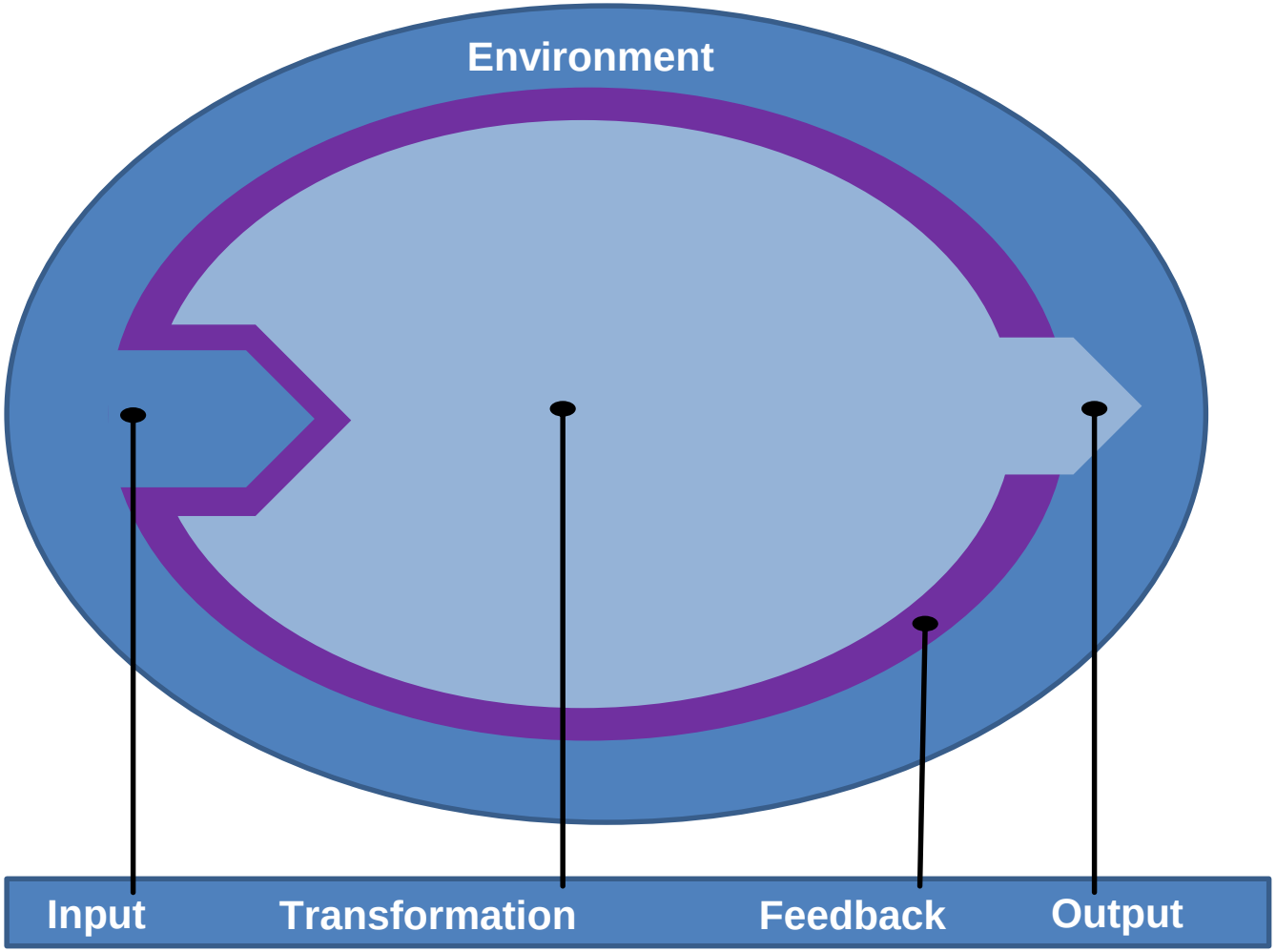
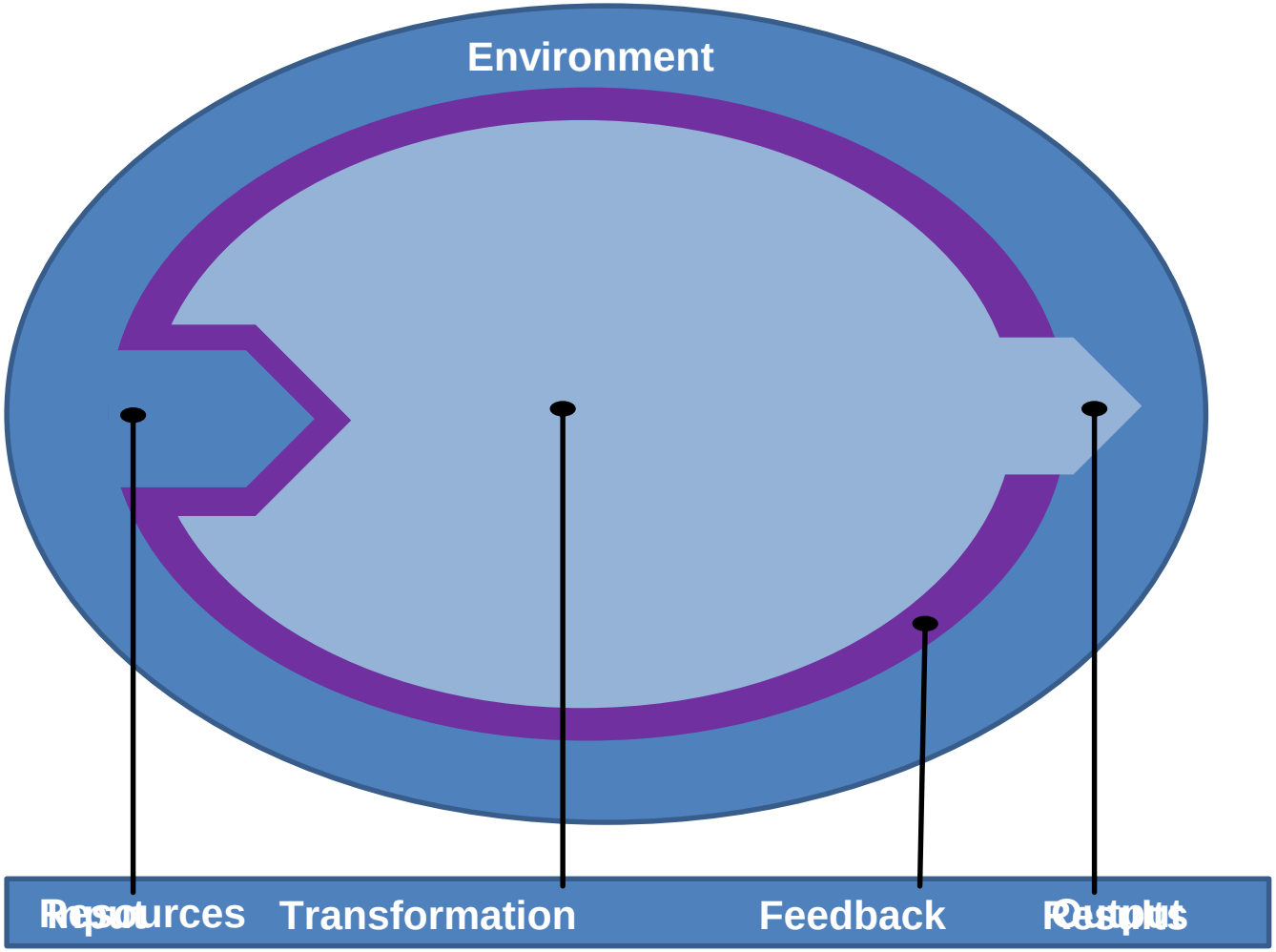
Basic system



Basic system



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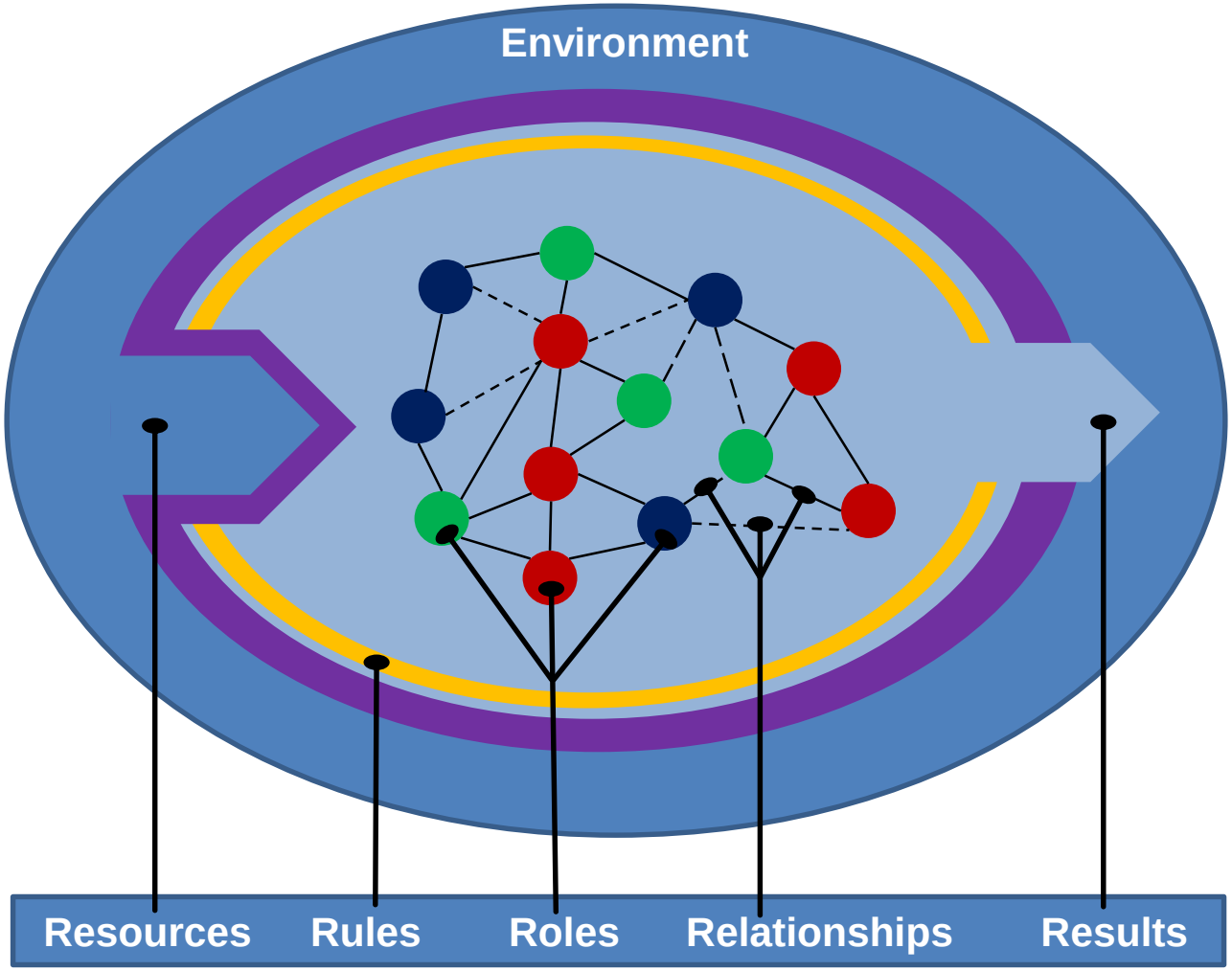
Local system



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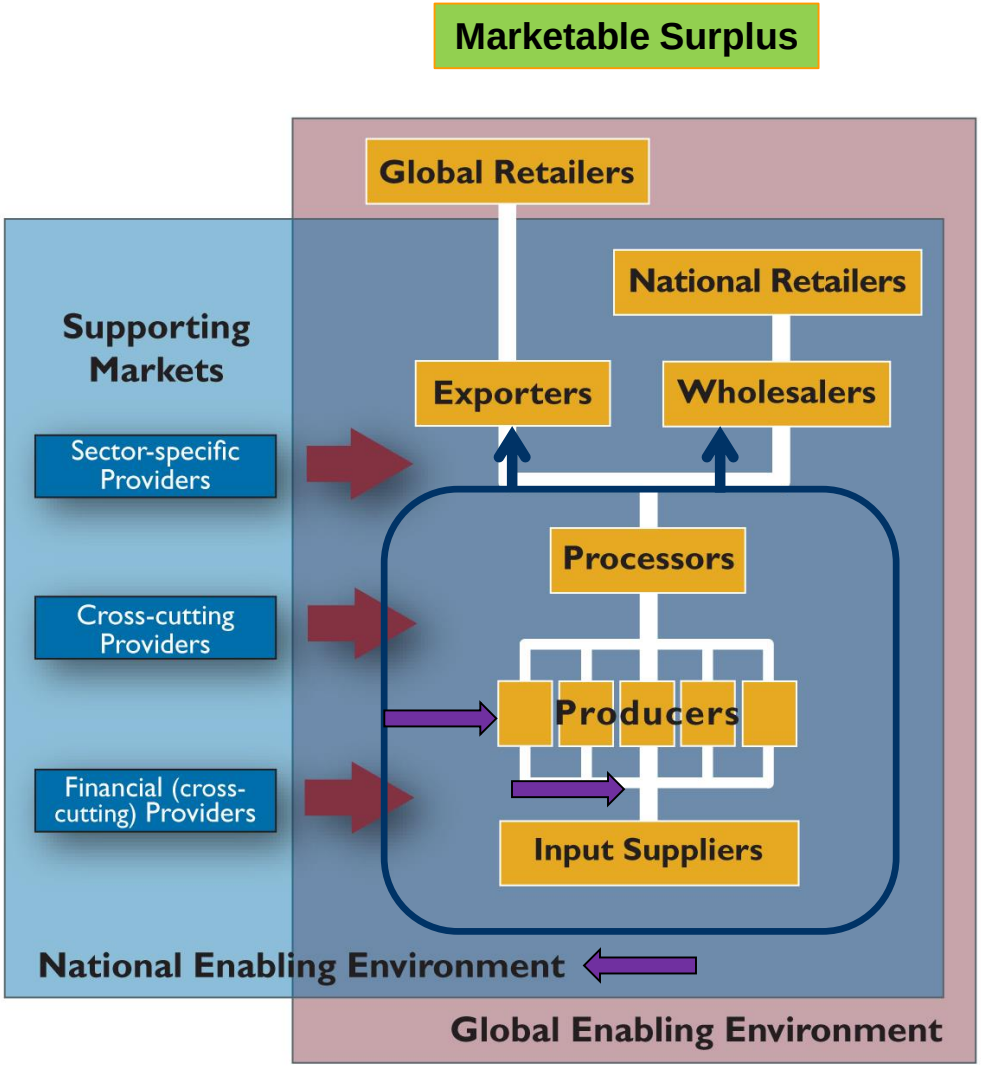
The 5-Rs

[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



5Rs Framework

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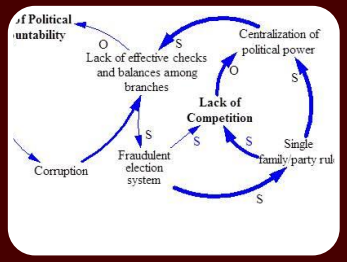
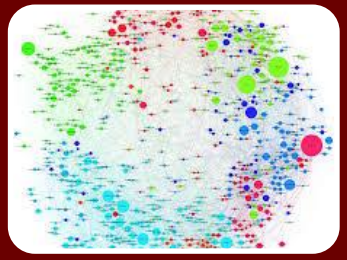
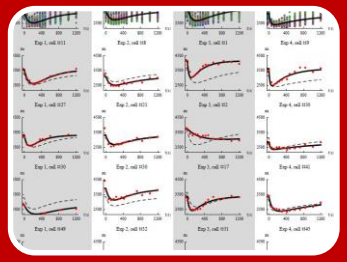
Visualization methods



Causal Loop Diagrams



Social Network Analysis



Simulation

Measuring

5Rs Framework

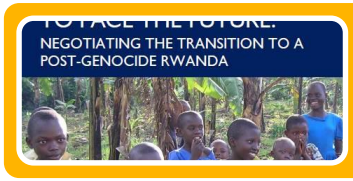
1. Iterated use of visualization techniques	2. Narrative-based approaches	

Narrative approaches

Stakeholder Feedback

Most Significant Change

Outcome Harvesting



Contextual Assessment

Sensemaker

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Measuring

5Rs Framework

1. Iterated use of visualization techniques	2. Narrative-based approaches	3. Indicator-based approaches

Indicator approaches

Sentinel Indicators

Dynamic Indicators

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Organizational Performance Index

. . . and many others

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Current thinking

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**

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Thank you.