



Establish Collective Outcomes

> What do we mean?

Making a real difference in the lives of people affected by disaster and conflict is what humanitarian action is about. However, the lack of a common definition of success is a major obstacle to achieving the greatest impact. The outcomes sought by humanitarian actors are often not defined in specific, measurable and practical terms. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has made a commitment to focus on the impact we have on the communities we serve by making measurable improvements in their lives around five outcome areas: Health, Economic Wellbeing, Safety, Education and Power.

> Why is this necessary?

The increasingly protracted nature of displacement and sheer number of people affected by conflict requires humanitarian and development institutions to align efforts around clear and jointly shared goals. This is needed to increase the impact of their collective actions, determine sustainable solutions and better respond to the needs of conflict-affected and displaced people no matter where they live.

Greater impact requires being clear about what change we are seeking and measuring our success toward that goal. Delivering innovative, evidence-based programs aimed at achieving collective outcomes will make the most of the collective tools we have to respond and help

deliver meaningful change in humanitarian contexts.

> What is our commitment?

IRC is modeling this approach through its new Outcomes and Evidence Framework (OEF) which drives all of the organization's efforts toward achieving five outcomes for the people we serve: Economic Wellbeing, Safety, Health, Education and Power. The OEF includes theories of change to structure thinking and program planning around the outcomes intended, as well as core indicators to measure the change in outcomes over time. IRC commits to making the OEF a public resource for use by other organizations and to inform similar efforts among major donors and institutions.

> What are we asking?

We are asking the humanitarian aid community to agree on a common set of collective outcomes, which major bilateral donors can opt into, to measure the improvement in the lives and livelihoods of people living in conflict-affected and fragile contexts. Baselines should be determined and minimum improvement percentages ("floor targets") for affected populations should be established as a target for global donors and implementers to aim for as measurable improvements in the lives of the people they seek to assist.

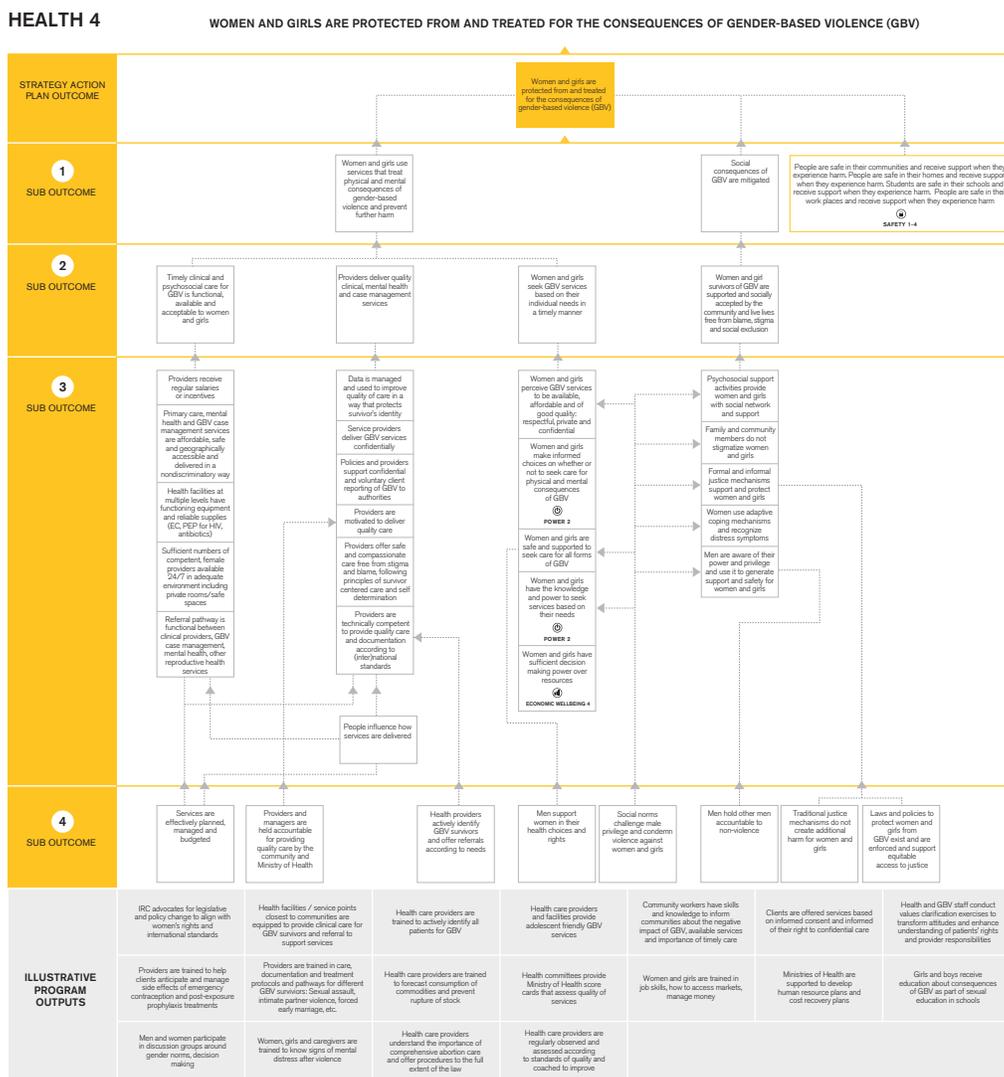
> What's worked?

The IRC is in the final stages of developing an electronic platform for the Outcomes and Evidence Framework (OEF). This platform—which was funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development—will organize all the tools in the framework in a logical and accessible format for IRC staff and other humanitarian practitioners to explore, understand, and apply to program design and related work. The Outcomes and Evidence Framework provides access to:

- Outcome areas and outcomes that help focus us on the end goals of programs
- Theories of change that help us understand the pathways to achieve these outcomes
- Research evidence that helps clarify what we know about the effectiveness of different interventions in different contexts
- Indicator guidance that helps us measure our progress against the outcomes selected

When combined with practitioner experience, an understanding of clients' needs, aspirations, and desires, the context of program operations, and knowledge of applicable donor frameworks, the OEF can help ensure programs are designed to be as effective as possible.

The IRC will release a "beta" version of the electronic platform in time for the World Humanitarian Summit happening on May 23-24, 2016. This version will be used to trial it, gather feedback, and work out kinks in order to release a full version in September.



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and 26 U.S. cities helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future and strengthen their communities.