

# Customising definitions of outputs, outcomes and impact

## Description

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(from the OM email list)

I am continually challenged with the organisations with whom I work to define the terms we will use. They are by and large Northern donors and their grantees – development NGOs and social change networks. I find that the meaning of outcome and impact (and output) varies considerably and sometimes the terms are used interchangeably. Thus, one of the biggest mistakes I can make is not to define the terms right from the start.

In a recent discussion titled Outcomes vs. Impact on the American Evaluation Association listserv EVALTALK, I shared a simple instrument that I use for developing common agreement about the definitions of outputs, outcomes and impact. It can be found at: <http://www.outcomemapping.ca/resource/resource.php?id=189>

Hope it is helpful to some of you planners, monitors, evaluators and those who employ them.

If you are interested in the AEA EVALTALK listserv, subscribe at [www.eval.org](http://www.eval.org). To use the archives, go to this web site: <http://bama.ua.edu/archives/evaltalk.html>. Please note that the discussion I refer to will only be archived in September.

Best wishes,  
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## Tags

1. Logical Framework

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