Developing peacebuilding WASH theories of change

A most critical aspect of the strategic planning process is the development of a ToC that articulates a collective vision for reaching a desired impact and makes explicit how one level of change leads to another.[10] UNICEF's Programming Guide to Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding provides a basic structure for a ToC based on RBM results logic: "*If we implement this programme, project or activity, then we will create or support peaceful change, because the programme addresses root causes, identified in the conflict and peace analysis (CPA).*"

The theory of change supports increased conflict sensitivity for programming, as it is closely informed by the CPA or Scan findings. Conversely, without a well-articulated theory of change grounded in a CPA, the likelihood of doing harm, or being inefficient or ineffective, increases substantially. The example in Figure 10[11] illustrates how this basic structure can be used to build a WASH peacebuilding ToC focused on how inclusive community-level WASH programming can help generate social cohesion to address 'mutual distrust and fear between two communities that negatively affects access to a shared water resource and leads to violent conflict'.

Key assumptions to be examined in the WASH for Peace ToC relate to the relationship between WASH and peacebuilding results and contributions, namely: how do WASH results contribute to peace, and how do peacebuilding results contribute to WASH? It is critical that the relationship between the two result chains is clearly articulated, and their contribution to the overall results of the intervention coherently and demonstrably captured - *for more details see Programming Tool 2 – WASH for Peace ToC Tool*, which includes examples of result statements. The next section also includes several examples of illustrative ToCs to support the development and implementation of diverse WASH for Peace Programming.

Figure 10: **Basic peacebuilding Theory of Change approach**

Figure 11: **Example of a simple WASH ToC applying the RBM approach**

> **RESOURCE BOX**
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> The **UN Peacebuilding Fund's Guidance Note on Theory of Change** notes that to complement the oversimplification of *If/Then* statements, underlying assumptions must be thoroughly unpacked - always include a substantive and well thought out '*Because*' statement that links the basic results logic with the CPA, and that unpacks the assumptions about why positive change is expected to occur as a result of an intervention. This 'unpacking' should include the identification of multiple and potentially competing assumptions behind different approaches to addressing conflict and contribute to peace in a particular context.

10 UNICEF, 'Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming', 2018, https://www.unicef.org/media/57621/file; Module 3
11 Adapted from UNICEF conflict sensitivity & peacebuilding training materials – for more information contact UNICEF Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding (CPFP) Team at HQ.