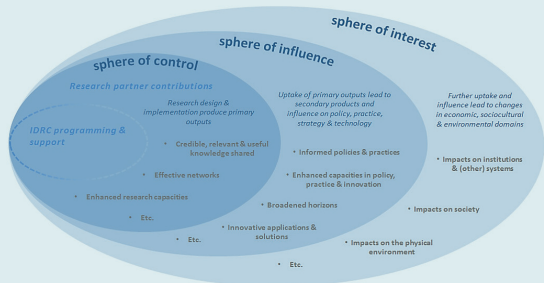# Outcome Mapping in Research Excellence

A practical application of OM principles to the evaluation of research for development

Spheres in Research Excellence

sphere of interest
sphere of influence
sphere of control

Research partner contributions

IDRC programming & support

Research design & implementation produce primary outputs
- Credible, relevant & useful knowledge shared
- Effective networks
- Enhanced research capacities
- Etc.

Uptake of primary outputs lead to secondary products and influence on policy, practice, strategy & technology
- Informed policies & practices
- Enhanced capacities in policy, practice & innovation
- Broadened horizons
- Innovative applications & solutions
- Etc.

Further uptake and influence lead to changes in economic, sociocultural & environmental domains
- Impacts on institutions & (other) systems
- Impacts on society
- Impacts on the physical environment
- Etc.

As a research funder, technical quality is within our sphere of control.

Uptake, use, influence and impact of research are not within our sphere of control.

This instrument helps assess the technical quality of research in light of the way it is designed and positioned for uptake and use.

Hence, the label, "RQ+"

To achieve excellence, the research process must be managed and research products prepared in such a way that the probability of use and influence is enhanced.

This requires attention to:
- user contexts
- accessibility of products
- 'fit for purpose' dissemination strategies
- integration of users into the research process itself

How will research be used?

Conceptual Use	Instrumental Use
Knowledge gap-filling	Informing debate
Myth-busting	Expanding policy capacities
Confirming/validating findings	Broadening policy horizons
Appropriating knowledge into different contexts	Affecting policy regimes

By whom?

Scientific Community
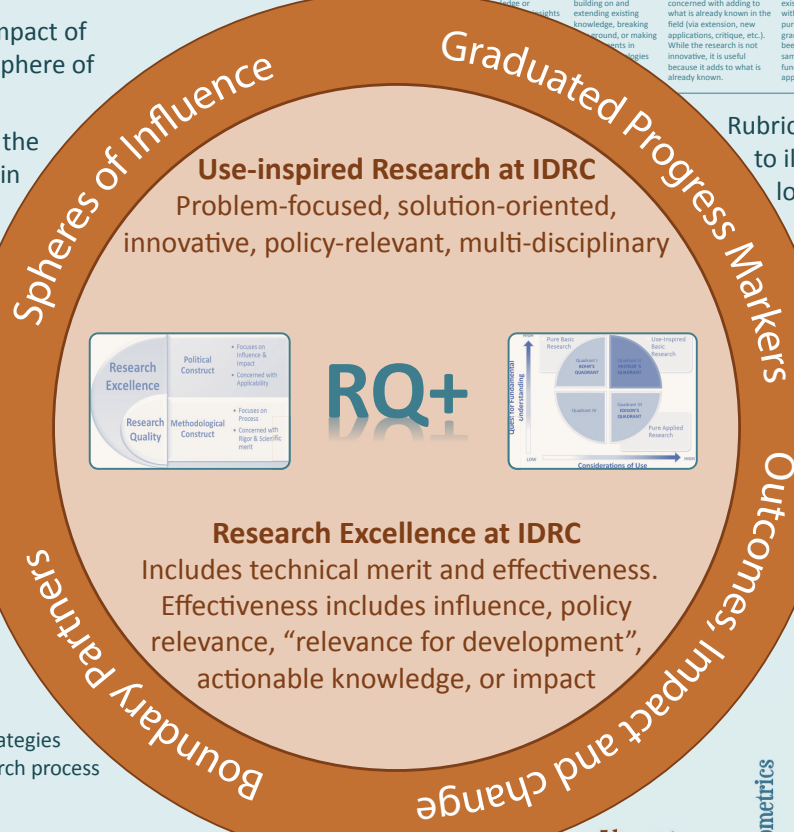Knowledge Brokers
Policy Actors
Innovators

Positioning Research For Use

Evaluative Rubrics

KEY INFLUENCES

QUALITY DIMENSIONS AND SUBDIMENSIONS	Level 1: Unacceptable	Level 2: Less than acceptable	Level 3: Acceptable /Good	Level 4: Very Good
1.0 Research Integrity				
1.1 Research Integrity				
2.0 Research Legitimacy				
2.1 Addressing potentially negative consequences				
2.2 Gender-responsiveness				
2.3 Inclusiveness				
2.4 Engagement with local knowledge				
3.0 Research Importance				
3.1 Originality				
3.2 Relevance				
4.0 Positioning for Use				
4.1 Knowledge accessibility & sharing				
4.2 Timeliness & Actionability				

Key Influences:
- Maturity of the research field
- Research capacity strengthening
- Risk in the data environment
- Risk in the research environment
- Risk in the political environment

SUBDIMENSION 3.1: ORIGINALITY

Not Applicable	Level 1- Unacceptable	Level 2 – Less than acceptable	Level 3 – Acceptable/Good	Level 4 – Very Good
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The nature of the research is such that it is not intended to advance existing knowledge or insights	There is little or no evidence that the research reflects originality in terms of building on and extending existing knowledge, breaking ground, or making developments in approaches or technologies	The project is pertinent and significant but not particularly novel, original or ambitious. It is primarily concerned with adding to what is already known in the field (via extension, new applications, critique, etc.). While the research is not innovative, it is useful because it adds to what is already known.	The entire project is reasonably ambitious. It presents a fresh, groundbreaking idea, brings an innovative approach to solving existing challenges, and/or deals with a new, emerging issue worth pursuing. It challenges taken-for-granted assumptions. There has been no previous funding for the same focus (unless follow-up funding explicitly sought from appropriate schemes).	There is strong evidence of (a) novelty of substantive ideas, information, problems, and interpretation; (b) originality in relation to existing related research (approach/paradigm), techniques, theoretical or conceptual framework, use of evidence; (c) promise (ideas that are likely to stimulate further research and development); as well as (d) potential for a substantial contribution to theory and/or practice.

Rubrics: provide 'evidence guides' to illustrate the trajectory and logic of the change process; provide normative indicators that can be applied in the planning stages; demand systemic use of evaluative inference to make ratings

Use-inspired Research at IDRC
Problem-focused, solution-oriented, innovative, policy-relevant, multi-disciplinary

Research Excellence / Research Quality
Political Construct / Methodological Construct
- Focuses on Influence & Impact
- Concerned with Applicability
- Focuses on Process
- Concerned with Rigor & Scientific merit

Pure Basic Research / Use-inspired Basic Research / Pure Applied Research

RQ+

Research Excellence at IDRC
Includes technical merit and effectiveness. Effectiveness includes influence, policy relevance, "relevance for development", actionable knowledge, or impact

Spheres of Influence
Graduated Progress Markers
Outcomes, Impact and change
Boundary Partners

Add your tool ideas below!

Altmetrics
Economic Analysis
Bibliometrics
Peer Review
SenseMaker
Policy Community Survey
Logic Models
Stories of Influence
Outcome Harvesting
Document Review
Impact Graphics
Case Studies

Tools for Measuring Impact & Change

Outcome Mapping
LEARNING COMMUNITY
www.outcomemapping.ca

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