

MODULE 5:

FRAMEWORKS

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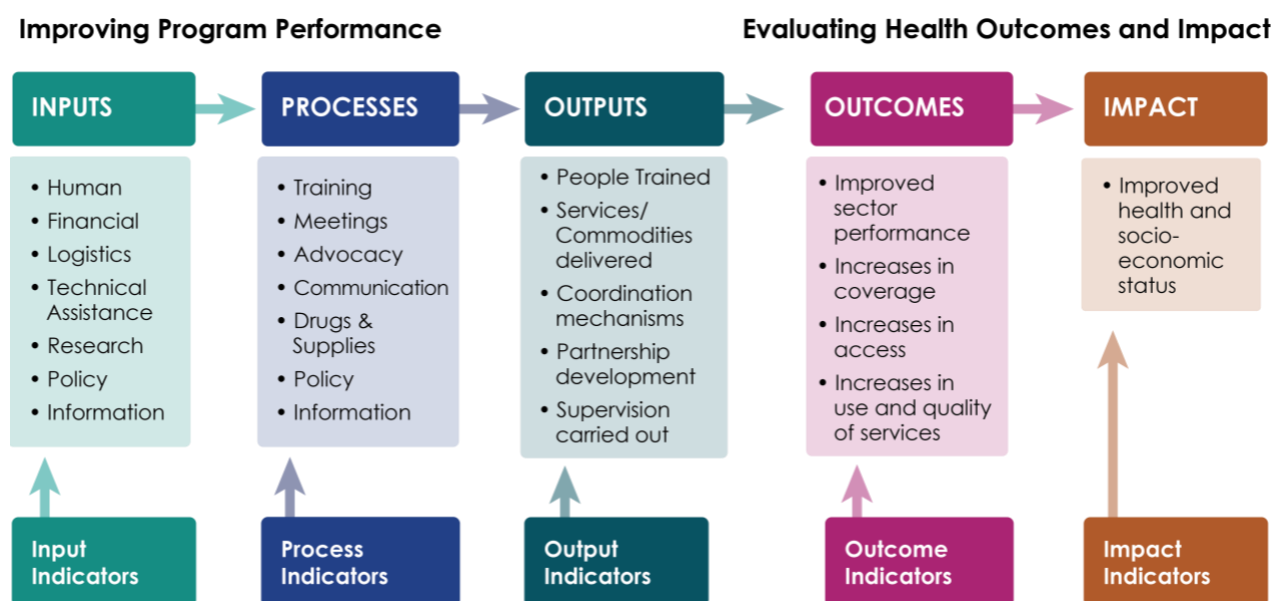
This module provides an overview of four popular frameworks used in malaria surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation (SME). It explains the design and purpose of each framework and how it is used for malaria SME planning.

Module Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify the different types of frameworks (conceptual, results, logical) and logic models.
- Design frameworks for specific intervention programs
- Understand how frameworks are used for malaria SME planning.

Figure 11. Basic M&E framework



Source: Roll Back Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group

What Is an SME Framework?

Frameworks provide a detailed depiction of the components of a program and the sequence of the steps and processes needed to achieve the desired outcomes of a program. Designing a framework assists in developing clear program goals and measurable objectives. It also helps define the relationships between each of the components or factors of a program, as well as other internal and external factors that could potentially influence the program's desired outcomes.

In summary, frameworks allow you to understand how a program is supposed to work. Another important function of frameworks is to help guide program implementation and SME plans.

There are four common types of frameworks that vary by function or type of program. There is not one perfect framework that will fit the needs of every program. Each of the different frameworks will allow you to think about how to monitor and evaluate your program in a different way. It is good to have an understanding of all four frameworks, because different partner organizations use and require different types of frameworks.

The four main types of frameworks are as follows:

- Conceptual framework
- Results framework
- Logical framework
- Logic model

Conceptual Framework

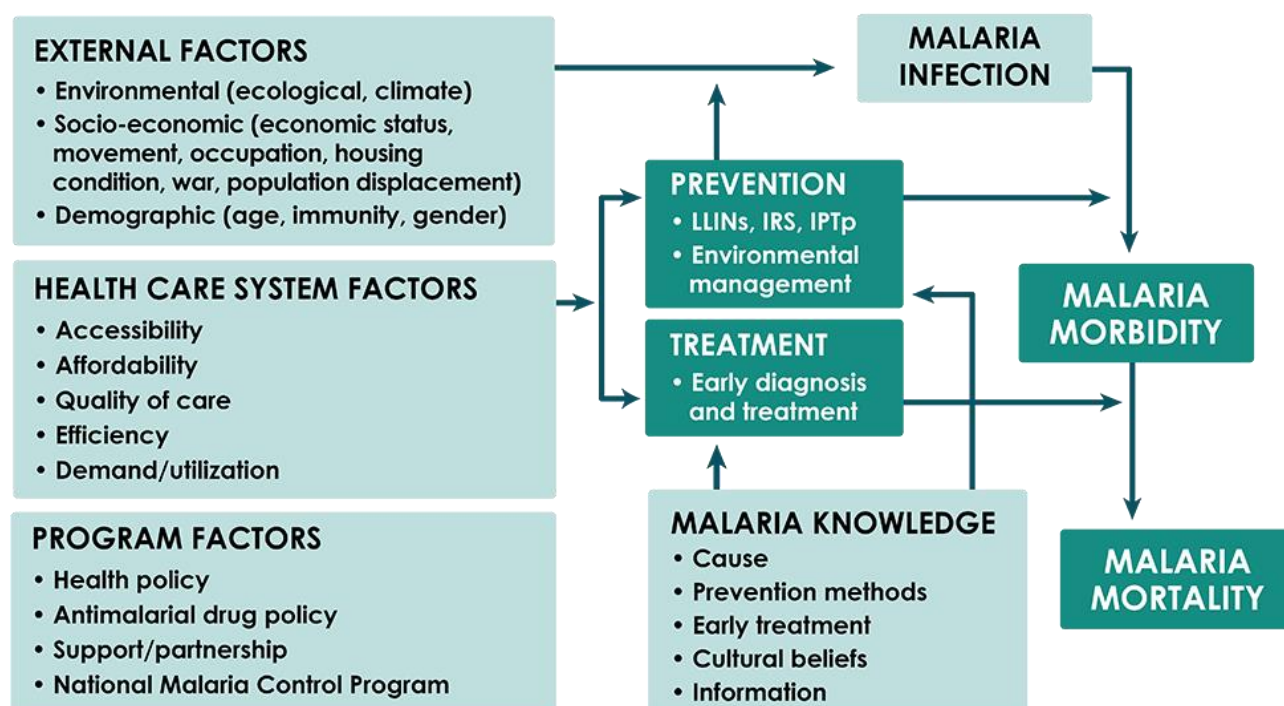
A **conceptual framework** is a diagram that identifies and illustrates the relationships between all relevant systemic, organizational, individual, or other relevant factors that may influence program operation and the successful achievement of the program's goals. A conceptual framework serves the following purposes:

- To show where the program fits within the wider context and environment
- To clarify the assumptions about causal relationships upon which the program is based
- To show how the different program components will operate to influence outcomes
- To guide the identification of indicators that the program will use to monitor and evaluate its progress, outcomes, and impact
- To guide impact evaluation based on the defined relationships among the different program factors and components

Conceptual Framework: Malaria Burden

This is an example of a conceptual framework to reduce malaria burden. Observe the external factors that contribute to malaria infection. Observe also how program factors influence the health care system, which affects malaria prevention and treatment interventions. Knowledge of malaria also contributes to treatment intervention. Ultimately, these factors influence malaria infection, which impact malaria morbidity and mortality within the targeted population.

Figure 12. Conceptual framework: malaria burden



Results Framework

A **results framework** is a diagram that maps the direct causal relationships between incremental steps or results of key activities all the way up to the overall **objective** and **goal** of the program or intervention. It includes an overall goal, **strategic objectives**, and **intermediate results**. A strategic objective is an outcome that is the most ambitious result that can be achieved and for which the organization is willing to be held responsible. An intermediate result is a discrete result or outcome that is necessary to achieve a strategic objective. The goal and strategic objectives are at the top of the framework, signifying that to achieve the broader strategic objectives, the intermediate results must be reached first.

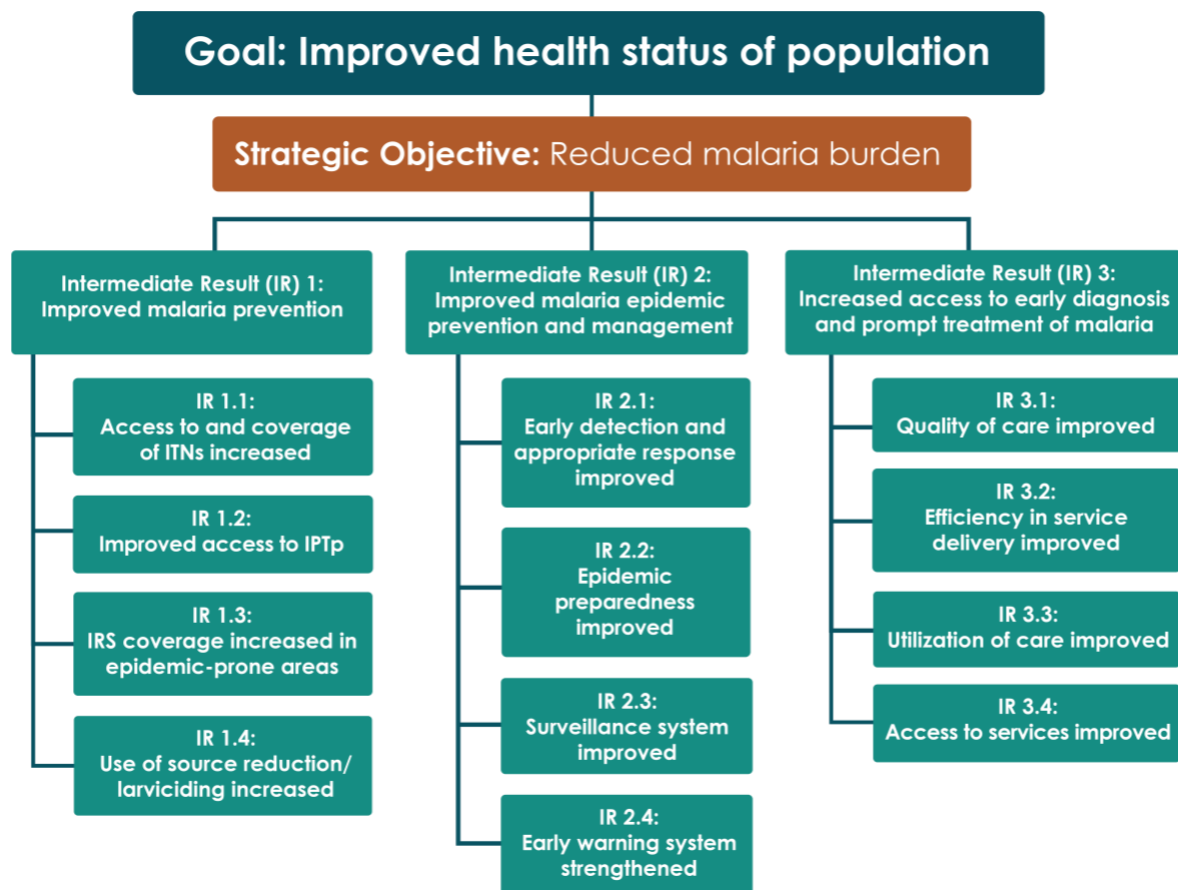
A results framework serves the following purposes:

- To show the causal relationships that connect the incremental achievement of intermediate results to the comprehensive program impact
- To clarify the relationships between different program factors and to provide a basis for objectively measuring the desired outcomes of the program or intervention

Results Framework: Malaria Burden

As illustrated in Figure 13, all of the intermediate results must be achieved first to achieve the strategic objective of reducing the malaria burden and the overall goal of improving the population's health status.

Figure 13. Example of a results framework for a malaria prevention and control program



Logical Framework

A **logical framework** is a table that presents a standardized summary of the program and its logic.

A logical framework serves the following purposes:

- To summarize what the project intends to do and how
- To clarify the key assumptions that went into the design of the program and how the program is intended to work
- To describe the key outputs and outcomes that will be monitored and evaluated

Logical Framework: Malaria Control

In the malaria program example shown in Figure 14, the logical framework states the goal, purpose, and objectives of the program, along with performance indicators, data sources, and assumptions for each.

Figure 14. Example of a logical framework

Logical Framework: National Malaria Control Program			
	Performance indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal: Reduced malaria morbidity and mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaria incidence and prevalence rates • Malaria-specific death rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports • Surveys • Health & Demographic Surveillance System • Demographic & Health Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political stability • Environmental stability (no natural disasters)
Purpose: To reduce malaria morbidity and mortality by 50% by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of control interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports • Surveys • Record reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem of drug resistance will be reduced through effective and affordable drugs
Objectives: 1. To increase the proportion of children under 5 and pregnant women who are sleeping under a treated net by 10% every two years.	1.1 % of children under-5 who slept under LLIN the previous night 1.2 % of pregnant women who slept under LLIN the previous night Outcome: Increase in proper LLIN use by pregnant women and children under 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of LLINs • Subsidies for LLINs • High community awareness and acceptance of LLIN

Logic Model

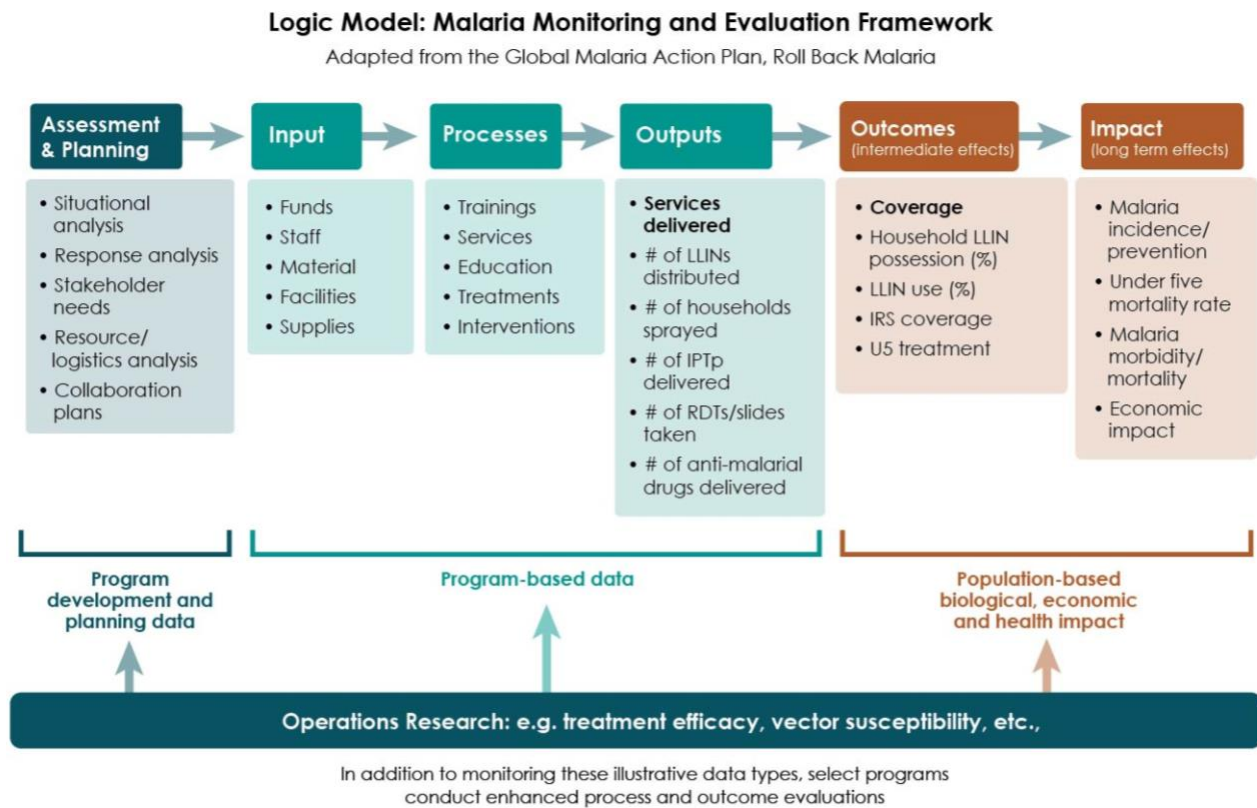
A **logic model** is a diagram that identifies and illustrates the linear relationships from program inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes to the impact. The diagram shows how the inputs affect processes, which work to produce immediate results or outputs that ultimately lead to longer-term or broader impact. In the example on the next page, we can see that the inputs and processes are linked to achieving the broader outcome of increasing coverage of malaria prevention interventions, which is linked to reducing malaria incidence and malaria morbidity and mortality.

A logic model serves the following purposes:

- To provide a streamlined interpretation of planned use of resources and desired ends
- To clarify the program’s assumptions about linear relationships between key factors relevant to desired outcomes

Logic Model: Malaria SME

Figure 15. Example of a logic model



Summary of Different SME Frameworks

Test your knowledge of frameworks by answering the questions in the quiz below. Your responses will not be graded.

Framework Summary

Correct answers are provided on the next page.

1. Match each framework to its description.

Conceptual framework	Logically links program objectives to outputs and activities
Results framework	Logically links a program's inputs, processes, and outputs to the outcomes and impact
Logical framework	Logically links the program objectives
Logic model	Describes the interaction of various factors on the outcome

2. Match the type of framework to each program management description.

Conceptual framework	Shows the casual relationship between inputs and objectives
Results framework	Determines which factors the program will influence
Logical framework	Shows the casual relationship between program objectives
Logic model	Shows the casual relationship between activities and objectives

3. Match the type of framework to its SME function.

Conceptual framework	Basis for SME at the objective level
Results framework	Basis for SME at the output and objective levels
Logical framework	Basis for SME at all stages of the program
Logic model	Not a basis for SME; however, it can help explain results

Framework Summary Answers

1. Match each framework to its description.

Conceptual framework	Describes the interaction of various factors on the outcome
Results framework	Logically links the program objectives
Logical framework	Logically links program objectives to outputs and activities
Logic model	Logically links a program's inputs, processes, and outputs to the outcomes and impact

2. Match the type of framework to each program management description.

Conceptual framework	Determines which factors the program will influence
Results framework	Shows the casual relationship between program objectives
Logical framework	Shows the casual relationship between activities and objectives
Logic model	Shows the casual relationship between inputs and objectives

3. Match the type of framework to its SME function

Conceptual framework	Not a basis for SME; however, it can help explain results
Results framework	Basis for SME at the objective level
Logical framework	Basis for SME at the output and objective levels
Logic model	Basis for SME at all stages of the program

Using Frameworks for SME Planning

Frameworks guide the SME planning process, clarify the program’s assumptions, goals and relationships between factors. They also help define a program’s objectives. A framework can be used to select and plan activities, as well as to define the different levels of performance and desired results of the planned activities.

SME plans are based off of a program’s framework. The plans incorporate the program’s assumptions, objectives and a description of how the program is intended to work. Furthermore, a framework assists in identifying and selecting appropriate indicators to measure progress and impact of a program.



Monitoring and evaluation plans from different countries

Framework Summary

The table that follows provides a good summary of the four main SME frameworks, illustrating their main purposes and how they each differ slightly in their focus and function.

Table 4. The four SME frameworks

Type of Framework	Brief Description	Program Management	Basis for Monitoring and Evaluation
Conceptual	Interaction of various factors on the outcome	Determines which factors the program will influence	No—however, it can help explain results
Results	Logically linked program objectives	Shows the casual relationship between program objectives	Yes—at the objective level
Logical	Logically linked program objectives, outputs, and activities	Shows the casual relationship between activities and objectives	Yes—at the output and objective levels
Logic model	Logically linked inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes, and impact	Shows the casual relationship between inputs and objectives	Yes—at all stages of the program, from inputs to process to outputs to outcomes and objectives

Module 5 Assessment

Questions

Correct answers are provided on the next page.

1. *True or False:* A framework serves to provide a detailed depiction of the components of a program and the sequence of steps and processes that go into achieving the desired outcomes of a program.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. The following is a description of which type of framework:
“A diagram that illustrates the causal relationships linking all levels of a program’s objectives, from the intermediate results to the broader strategic objectives”
 - a. Conceptual framework
 - b. Results framework
 - c. Logical framework
 - d. Logic model

3. *True or False:* A logical framework guides the monitoring and evaluation process by helping clarify the program’s assumptions, objectives, and desired levels of performance or desired outcomes.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Correct Answers

Correct answers are noted in bold.

1. *True or False:* A framework serves to provide a detailed depiction of the components of a program and the sequence of steps and processes that go into achieving the desired outcomes of a program.

a. True

Frameworks provide a detailed depiction of the components of a program and the sequence of steps and processes that go into achieving the desired outcomes of a program.

2. The following is a description of which type of framework:

“A diagram that illustrates the causal relationships linking all levels of a program’s objectives, from the intermediate results to the broader strategic objectives”

b. A results framework

A results framework is a diagram that illustrates the causal relationships linking all levels of a program’s objectives, from the intermediate results to the broader strategic objectives.

3. *True or False:* A logical framework guides the monitoring and evaluation process by helping clarify the program’s assumptions, objectives, and desired levels of performance or desired outcomes.

a. True

A logical framework helps guide the monitoring and evaluation process by helping clarify the program’s logic (and assumptions), objectives, and desired levels of performance or desired outcomes.