

**GLOSSARY OF RESULTS DEFINITIONS**  
**RELEVANT FOR HARMONIZED RESULTS BASED APPROACH IN UN ENVIRONMENT**  
(3rd Draft) July 2019

**Note: Rows colored in green depict terms most commonly considered in project design.**

	<b>Term</b>	<b>UN Environment definition</b>
1	Activities	Actions taken, or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources, are utilized to realize specific results.
2	Assumption	Assumptions are significant external factors or conditions that need to be present for the realization of the intended results but are largely beyond the influence of the project and its partners. Assumptions are often positively formulated risks.
3	Attribution	Comprehensive evidence proving the cause and effect relationship between the project and the observed results.
4	Contribution	Compelling evidence supporting a cause and effect relationship through which the intended results are achieved by the combined efforts of more than one project.
5	Credible association	Compelling evidence supporting a cause and effect relationship between the project and the observed results.
6	Driver	Drivers are the significant external factors that, if present, are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended results. Drivers can be influenced by the project and its partners.
7	Direct Outcome(s)	Outcomes that are intended to be achieved from the uptake of outputs and occurring prior to the achievement of Project Outcome(s).
8	Deliverable	A specified product or service derived from completed activity(ies)
9	Effects	Changes which are a consequence of an action or other cause. These changes can be intended, unintended, positive or negative.
10	Evaluand	The entity being evaluated.
11	Evaluand parameters	The features of an evaluand that define its scope (e.g. timeframe, funding envelope, results framework, geographic dimensions)
12	Evaluation	The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme, strategy or policy, its design, implementation, results and likelihood of impact.
13	Expected Accomplishment	Outcomes of a UN Environment Programme of Work (equivalent to the 'goal(s)' of a Sub-Programme)
145	Goals	The higher-order result(s) to which a development intervention is intended to contribute.

15	Impact	Long-lasting results arising, directly or indirectly from a project. Impacts are intended and positive changes and must relate to UNEP's mandate.
16	Impact Pathway / Causal Pathway / Results Chain	These all describe cause and effect relationships between outputs, outcomes and impacts and are the basis of a programme/project's "Theory of Change".
17	Indicator	Quantitative or qualitative measure that provides a simple and reliable means to assess results. (An attribute of a good indicator is that it conforms to the 'SMART <sup>1</sup> ' or CREAM <sup>2</sup> principles)
18	Inputs	The financial, human, and material resources required for project implementation.
19	Intermediate states	Intermediate states are changes (outcomes) beyond the Project Outcome(s) that are required to achieve the intended impact of a project.
20	Lessons learned	The new knowledge or understanding gained by the experience of implementing a project that is applicable to, and useful in, other similar contexts.
21	Logframe	A Logframe is a tool for summarizing the project's intended results. It specifies project results, indicators and their baseline and target values. It also includes a milestone schedule to deliver the expected output(s) and/or achieve intended result(s). Other organizations may have a different Logframe format / content.
22	Mid-term evaluation	Formative evaluation performed towards the middle of the period of implementation of an project.
23	Milestone	A milestone is a verifiable scheduled event or achievement that represents a major stage in the progress of the project towards expected output(s) and/or intended result(s).
24	Monitoring	A continuing function that uses the systematic collection of data on project / programme parameters (e.g. expenditure, risk, milestone delivery, inclusive participation etc.) to provide management with indications of the extent of progress against plans and targets.
25	Objective(s)	An objective describes the overall intention, which should be achieved at the end of a defined period. <i>(In UN Environment the Project Objective is not considered a higher-order result and does not appear in the Logical Framework or Theory of Change).</i>
26	Objectives Tree	The Objectives Tree is a participatory tool to aid analysis. The Problem Tree can be converted into an Objectives Tree by converting each of the problems into positive desirable statements depicting cause and effect relationships.
27	Outcomes	Outcomes are the use (i.e., uptake, adoption, application) of an output by intended beneficiaries, observed as changes in institutions or behavior, attitude or condition.

<sup>1</sup> SMART refers to indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Bound.

<sup>2</sup> CREAM refers to indicators that are Clear; Relevant, Economic, Adequate, Monitorable

28	Outcome maps	The UNEP Medium-Term Strategy uses outcome maps to outline the logical chain of results to move from the situation at a given time to outcomes and impacts in a specified time in the future.
29	Outputs	Outputs are the availability (for intended beneficiaries/users) of new products and services and/or gains in knowledge, abilities and awareness of individuals or within institutions.
30	Performance	The degree to which a project or partner operates according to specific criteria/standards/guidelines or achieves intended results.
31	Portfolio	A group of projects and/or programmes that share a common characteristic relevant to the organization's strategic objectives.
32	Problem analysis/ Problem tree	An analysis using a Problem Tree is a participatory approach to explore the magnitude and complexity of identified problems, establish relationships between contributing factors and depict cause and effect relationships.
33	Programme	A group of synergistic projects contributing to a common outcome(s) and managed in a coordinated way to obtain benefits not available from managing the projects individually.
34	Project	A timebound intervention with a specific funding envelope that addresses a defined set of results within an identified implementation context or geographic area. The main components of the intervention must be interlinked/interdependent to achieve the project outcome(s).
35	Project Component(s)	A descriptive label related to the way in which work is planned and managed and not a results statement. A Project Component can define a stream of work.
36	Project Outcome(s)	Outcome(s) that are intended to be achieved by the end of project timeframe / resource envelope.
37	Qualitative indicators	Verifiable indicators that use categories that can be ranked or compared to assess changes such as judgments, opinion, perceptions or attitude. This can include statements that are answered with yes or no.
38	Quantitative indicators	Verifiable indicators that can be measured numerically e.g. numbers, percentage, rate and ratio
39	RBM	Results-Based Management (RBM) is a management strategy by which all actors, contributing directly or indirectly to achieving a set of results, ensure that their processes, products and services contribute to the desired results (outputs, outcomes and higher-level goals or impact) and use information and evidence on actual results to inform decision making on the design, resourcing and delivery of programmes and projects as well as for accountability and reporting.
40	Results	Results are intended changes in a state or condition that derive from a cause-and-effect relationship. Such changes must be describable and measurable/discernible. A results statement and its indicators should be collectively SMART <sup>3</sup> or CREAM. Outputs, outcomes and impact are considered 'results' (as opposed to inputs and activities).

<sup>3</sup> SMART refers to indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Bound.

<sup>3</sup> CREAM refers to indicators that are clear and precise; Relevant, Economic, Adequate, Monitorable

41	Risks	Significant factors or conditions that may negatively affect a project.
42	Risk management	The measures taken to reduce the likelihood or effects of identified risks
43	Safeguard	A management approach to avoid negative unintended effects of a project.
44	Sustainability	Sustainability is the continuation of project outcomes and benefits after the completion of a project.
45	Terminal Evaluation	Summative evaluation performed at operational completion of an intervention.
46	Theory of Change	Method for planning, participation and evaluation. It defines long term intended impact and then maps backward to identify necessary preconditions. It is a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a context. A Theory of Change also allows for unintended positive and/or negative effects to be depicted.

NOTES:

The above set of definitions has been put together taking into consideration different sources of RRBM glossary (UNDG, UNDP, OECD), including UN Environment's own practice (RBM training material, Programme Manual and Evaluation Unit glossary).

This work has been produced collaboratively by Programme Coherence and Assurance Unit, Programme Support Unit in Ecosystems Division and the Evaluation Office and inputs from colleagues of Policy & Programme Division.