



Outcome Harvesting as a participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning approach for Citizen Science

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28 September 2026

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MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION

How to understand change and make sense of impact?



IMPACT STRATEGY

How to bridge lived reality with planning and decision making?



IMPACT DRIVEN COLLABORATION

How to build collaboration grounded in learning?

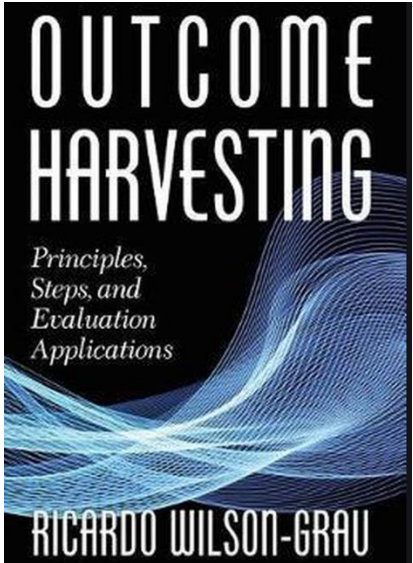


PARTICIPATORY ACTION-RESEARCH

How to surface what matters and identify potential for action?

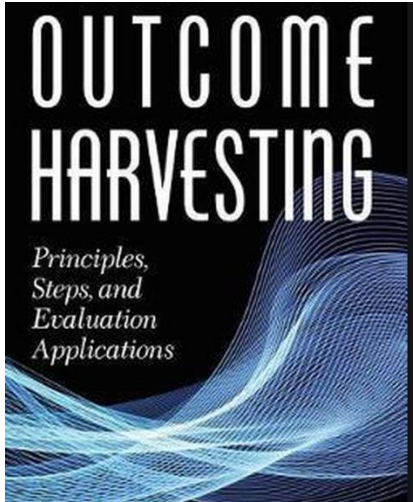
Outcome Harvesting

“OH starts with identifying what has changed, and then determines if and how an programme/project has contributed to that change.”



- Actor-centred method
- Understanding **changes in behaviour** of individual, groups, organisations
- Can be applied at any moment, for any type of project / action research
- No need to have pre-defined outputs-outcomes or indicators
- Understand and map out changes during and at the end of a project or action-research

Outcome Harvesting



Identifying and formulating changes in behaviour/
practice of individual and groups to which the
programme or project has contributed

- Open look at reality – What has changed?
 Not what have we done and what happened?
 Not Tracking indicators and pre-defined outcomes
- Standardised way of formulating outcomes (**Outcome statements**)



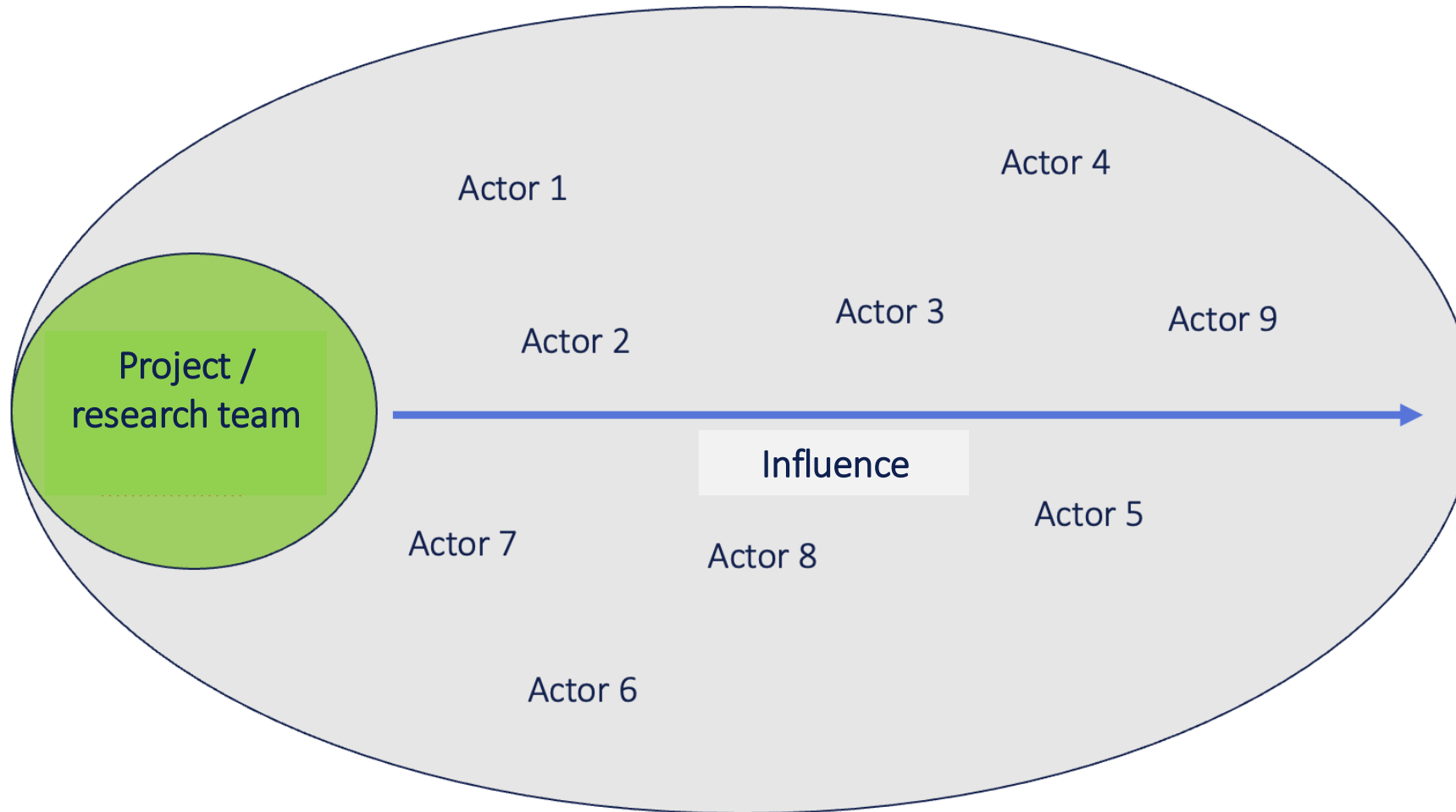
Outcome Harvesting

Flow (in its lightest form)

1. Map out the actors that we potentially influenced or that we anticipate change for
- 2a. Identify and formulate the changes (=outcomes)
- 2b. Discuss and describe how the project contributed to that change
3. Process and analyse outcomes (pattern detection)
4. Collective sensemaking

1. 'Actor Map'

Which actors did we potentially influence or do we anticipate change for?





2. How to formulate an outcome?

An **Outcome Statement** consists of two parts:

1. Description of an important and observable change of a particular actor (**outcome**)
2. Description how the project contributed to that change (**contribution**)

Example: Citizen Science project on air pollution at city level

Outcome 1

Outcome description – What changed and why is it significant?

In **March 2026**, the **City Environment Department** started using air quality data collected by residents in its quarterly monitoring reports for the first time. The department also appointed a staff member to keep in touch with community groups and regularly exchange information with them.

(Significance) Before this, the city mainly relied on its own monitoring systems. Residents had little opportunity to share their concerns or influence what was being monitored.

Description of an important and observable change of a particular actor (**outcome**)

Contribution statement – How did the project contribute?

The citizen science project installed air quality sensors in different neighbourhoods and set up a digital system where residents could report air quality problems. Local ambassadors also collected stories from people in different wards about how air pollution affected their daily lives. During workshops and meetings with city officials, residents shared their measurements and stories. This helped the department see the value of the information collected by the community and contributed to its decision to include this data in its regular monitoring.

Description how the project contributed to that change (**contribution**)

How do we organise the harvest

1. Who are the harvesters?

- External evaluators
- Some dedicated project staff
- We are all harvesters (programme and partner staff)

2. How do we harvest?

- Document analysis (reports, media, ...)
- Via interviews
- Organising a harvesting workshops
- Personal harvest (online app)

3. Whose voices do you want include?

- Project staff
- Partner organisations
- Societal actors / wider stakeholder group
- Citizens



OH Forms



LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
CHANGE HARVEST TEMPLATE

NAME HARVESTER:

☒ **Statement of the observed change**

Change statement (Describe the observable change: who? what? when? where?)

#Hashtag

Name of the actor (organisation/individual):

Type of actor

☐ National Government	☐ International NGO	☐ Academic / Research Institution
☐ Provincial government	☐ Civil Society Organisations	☐ Media
☐ Local government	☐ Private sector	☐ Other

When did the change happen first?

☐ 2023 (Jul-Dec)
☐ 2024 (Jan-Jun)
☐ 2024 (Jul-Dec)
☐ 2025 (Jan-Jun)

The change is related to ...

☐ Workstream 1 - Partnership with National Government
☐ Workstream 2 - Partnership with Sub-national Government
☐ Workstream 3 - Stakeholder engagement
☐ Workstream 4 - Innovation and Technology Fund

Evidence for the change described above
What materials (documents, ...) and/or which people (name, affiliation, email) could be used as evidence for this outcome?

Evidence for the contribution
What materials (documents, ...) and/or which people (name, affiliation, email) could be used as evidence for the claimed contribution

Financial support

Stakeholder engagement / coordination

Monitoring, studies, collecting data

Working through media, campaigning

Setting up and supporting pilot projects

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Outcome Harvesting LCDI

You can enter your change description here

Name Harvester *

Workshop Group *

Selecteer een optie

1. CHANGE STATEMENT *

Describe the observable change: who? what? when? where?

#Hashtag for the change

Name of the actor? *

Type of actor

- ☐ National Government
☐ Provincial government

Database

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Share

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Dataset OH BRE-TA

Ongoing harvest

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Unsaved view »

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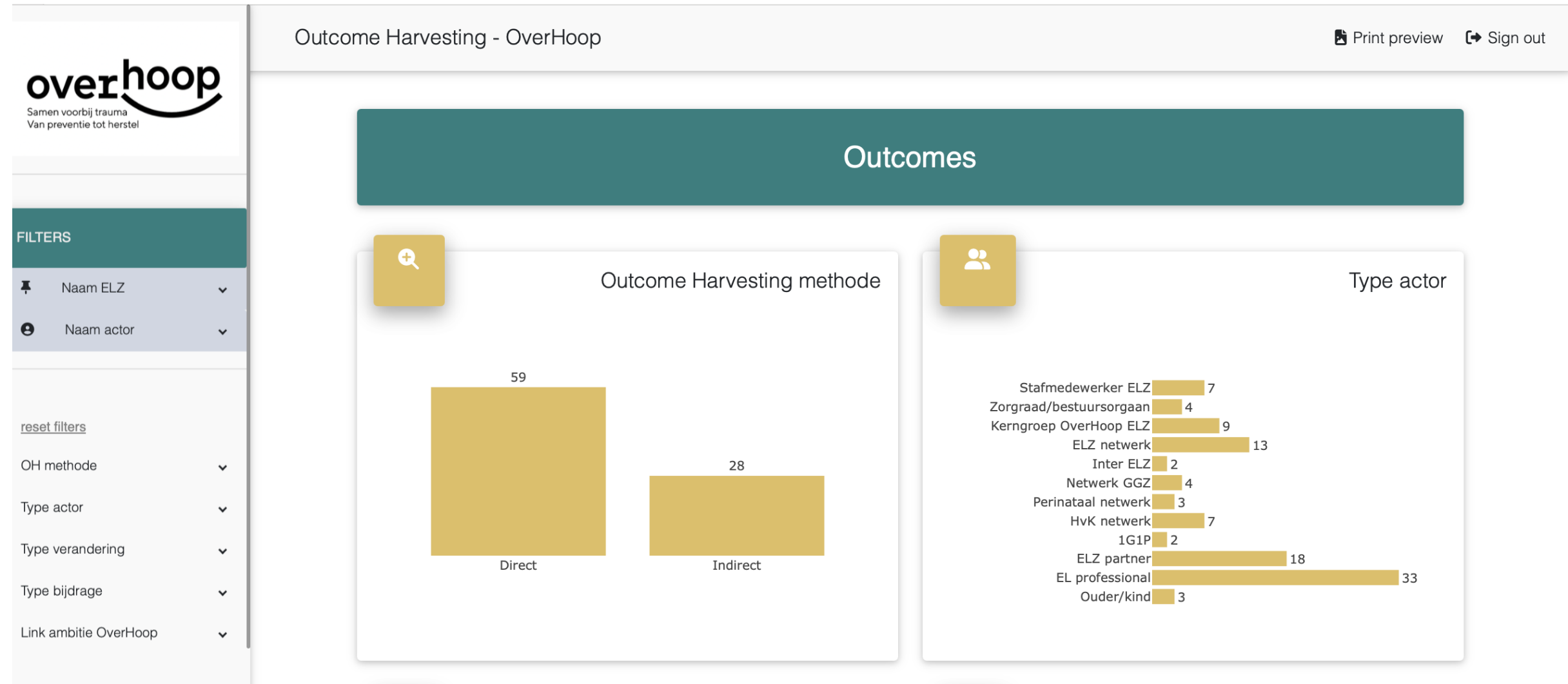
2 filters / 13 of 120

1 Sort

Search

New Dataset OH BRE-Tum

	Outcome n...	O U T C O M E Outcome stateme...	Outcome title or #hashtag	Name of the actor:	Type of actor	When did the change ha
1	PHEM_27	In 2023; BRE-TA supported the...	Establishment of Center for...	Oxford Policy Management;...	Other	2023 (Jul-Dec)
2	PHEM_30	The 'Integrated Plan on Emergenc...	Coordinated National Annua...	EPHI, the MOH, the DRMC,...	National government	2022 (Jul-Dec)
3	PHEM_25	In 2023; BRE in collaboration with...	Accredited Training on...	Oxford Policy Management;...	National government	2023 (Jul-Dec)
4	PHEM_22	EPHI rolled out tailor-made PHEM...	# EPHI requested PHEM...	The Ethiopian Public Health...	National government	2023 (Jul-Dec)
5	PHEM_21	EPHI inculcated the periodic revie...	# Progress_RIP	EPHI	National government	2023 (Jan-Jun)
6	PHEM_17	RCEE training manual,...	Improved Risk...	Oxford Policy Management;...	National government	2023 (Jan-Jun)
7	PHEM_11	In late 2020 the Ethiopian Public...	#Revision of national COVID...	Ethiopian Public Health...	National government	2020 (July-Dec)
8	PHEM_06	In October 2022, the Deputy...	#Guideline signed for...	Ethiopian Public Health...	National government	2022 (Jul-Dec)
9	PHEM_01	In September 2022, the Deputy...	#Integrated Emergency...	Ethiopian Public Health...	National government	2022 (Jul-Dec)
10	PHEM_02	In 2021, the Ethiopian Public Heal...	#Risk Informed Planning...	Ethiopian Public Health...	National government	2021 (Jan-Jun)
11	PHEM_14	In 2022, the Amhara Public Health...	#Post recovery plan prepar...	Amhara Public Health Insitu...	Regional government	2022 (Jul-Dec)
12	PHEM_12	In the first half of 2021 six Region...	#Revision of 6 regional...	Six Regional Health Bureaus...	Regional government	2021 (Jan-Jun)
13	PHEM_08	In the second half of 2022, the...	#RHBS cascade risk informe...	Regional Health Bureaus...	Regional government	2022 (Jul-Dec)



4. Collective sensemaking

1. What have we achieved? What are the most important changes we observed?
2. What are the most important patterns we see in the data
3. Build an outcome map – tell the outcome story
4. Conclusions and way forward

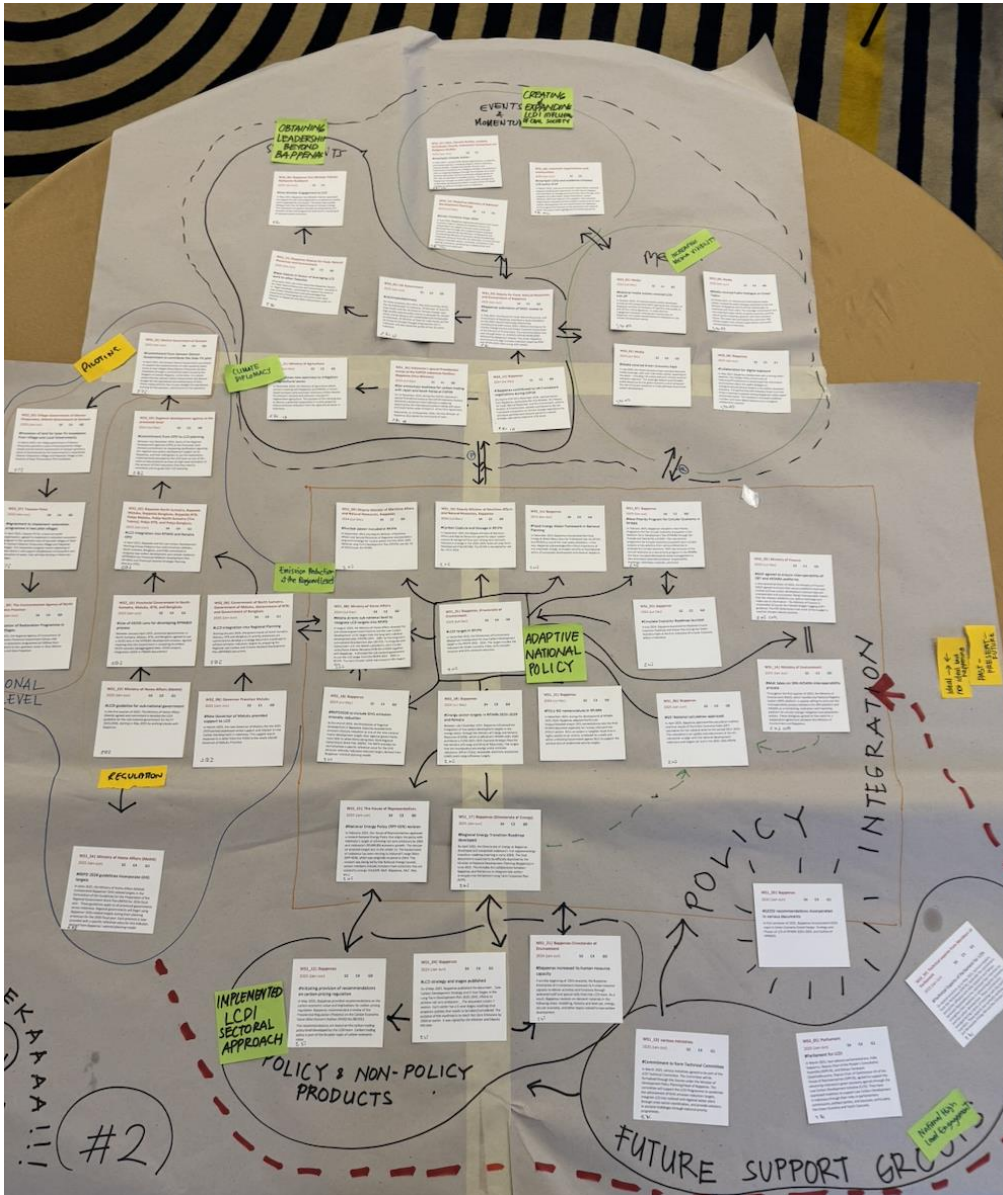


Read outcomes stories
Collective analysis and sensemaking
Create insights and conclusions
Formulation concrete actions



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Making an Outcome Map



Advantages

1. Understanding the programme / **change process** based on existing achievements
2. Better understanding of the **contribution story** and the **mechanisms of change**, beyond individual contribution statements
3. Telling the **change story**

OMLC WINTER SCHOOL 2026

OUTCOME MAPPING AND HARVESTING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

1-4 DECEMBER 2026 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM





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Real-time monitoring



Human Sensor Network

- Capturing **experiences, perceptions and observation** of citizens around a topic of interest
- From a selected **panel of people** committed to contribute on a regular basis
- **Real-time gathering / monitoring** of experiences and information
 - By invitation: Share experiences based on a set of questions
 - Self-initiated: Sharing information via a dedicated link
- Immediate **detection of patterns and trends**
- Rich data directly from people of particular group

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