

## Handout 4.2a CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS

---

Sample selection criteria for interventions

- **First criteria: Clear link to at least one outcome in theory of change.**
- **Other criteria:**
  - Community support
  - Social acceptability
  - Political sensitivity
  - Builds on existing capacities and opportunities
  - Level of risk
  - Required management support
  - Technical feasibility, institutional capacity and potential for partnering
  - Cost effectiveness
  - Sustainability

Sample critical questions when selecting interventions in a theory of change include:

- **Is there a clear, logical linkage between the intervention and at least one outcome in the theory of change?**
- Do interventions fit in with the government's current overall development strategy? How do they fit in with donors' strategies? If the proposed initiatives do not fit government or major donor strategies, what approaches will be developed to bring these entities on board?
- How do proposed interventions fit in with existing programs? Will adjustments have to be made in ongoing programs (e.g. targeting, cross-project coordination etc.), or will new initiatives need to be pursued?
- Do proposed responses build on the strengths and opportunities that exist in communities and households? Do they fill gaps?
- Could recommended interventions create new inequalities, disincentive effects, or other unintended consequences?
- If new initiatives are recommended, does your organization presently have the skilled staff to take on such initiatives? If not, where will the staff and resources come from?
- Are partners needed to implement the project activities? How will these partners be selected? What (if any) additional institutional capacity development is necessary to improve partner performance? What are the constraints to successful partnerships?
- Is there a niche that is not presently filled for which your organization could obtain donor funding? Does this activity fit in with your organization's strategic plan or mission?
- Can diverse sectors within your organization work together to address domains of change?