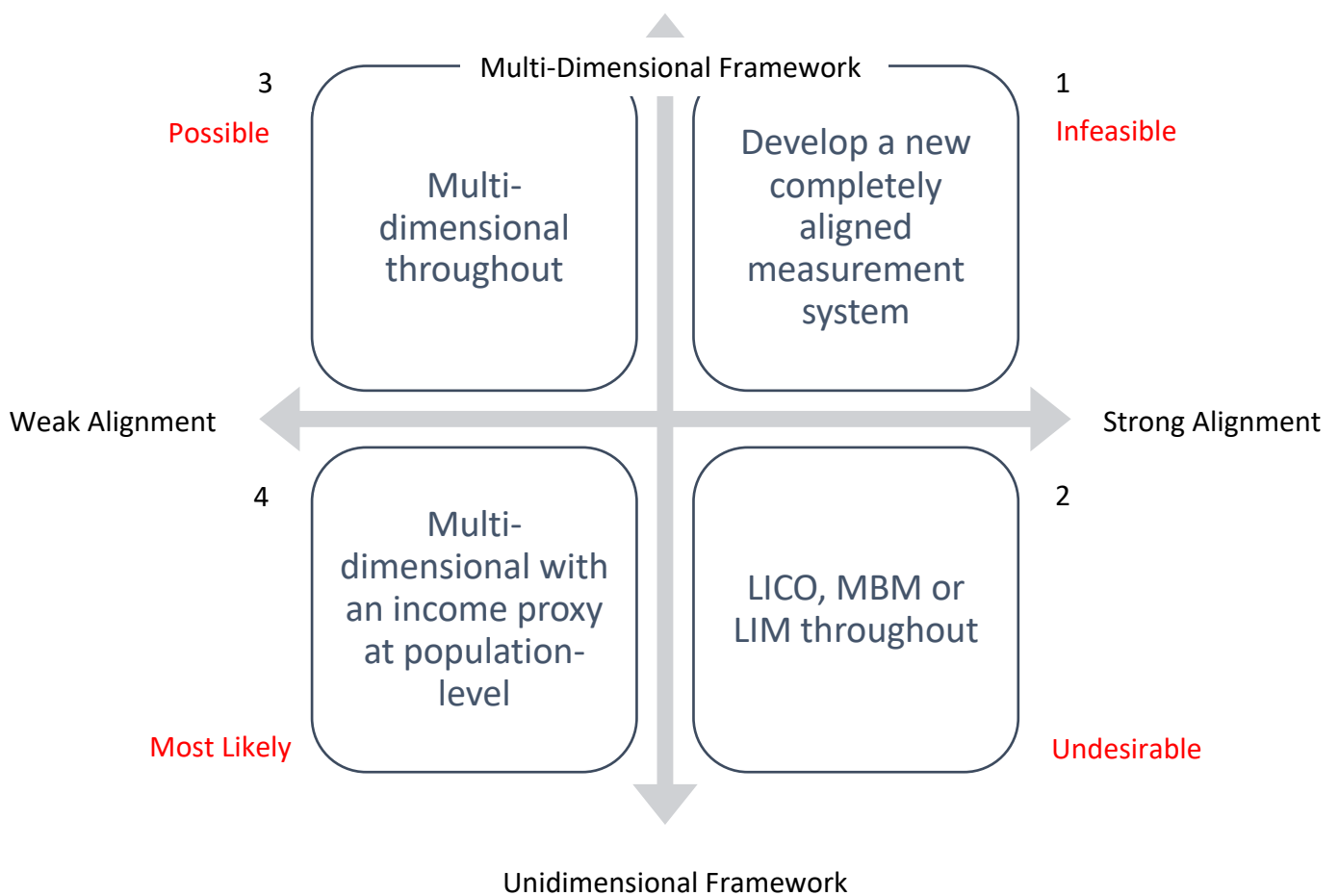


THE ALIGNMENT CHALLENGE

Challenge: It is essentially impossible to align domains, indicators and threshold measures from programmatic to targeted to population-level impact, unless narrowly focused on income definitions and indicators of poverty.

Our solution: Collaboratives choose an impact framework approach that best suits their situation.

Collaboratives need to draw lines between how their outcomes lead to impacts on poverty. The following matrix provides four different approaches that can be adopted to do this. Collaboratives should choose the one that best fits their capacity, priorities and long-term goal(s).



OPTION 1: Develop comprehensive new measurement systems that align across programmatic, targeted and population levels

In this approach, collaboratives build-your-own or adapt-your-own from top to bottom so that you have a strongly aligned multi-dimensional approach throughout each level.

Advantages:

- Allows for a multi-dimensional approach to measuring poverty reduction
- Improves probabilities of alignment across different levels of impact

Disadvantages:

- Effort-intensive to land on common domains and indicators to develop, test and adapt
- May be infeasible to patchwork data sources with different reporting periods and from partners using different indicators, thresholds, measures and sources
- Difficult to benchmark across communities due to the uniqueness of each framework

Impact Level	Approach
Population	Create your own index from diverse data sources Adopt an existing framework (ex. Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Opportunity for All)
Targeted	Align with population-level framework
Programmatic	Align with population-level framework

OPTION 2: Narrow Focus on LICO, MBM or LIM Measures

In this approach, data is the easiest to collect, analyze and communicate, though it is very uni-dimensionally focused on income.

Advantages of this strategy:

- Simplicity of communication
- Easier to collect data at all three scales
- Makes using 'thresholds' easier

Disadvantages of this strategy:

- Too unidimensional for most people
- Narrow focus on income means pressure to pick only interventions that increase income and/or means non-income focused initiatives are not considered as legitimate outcomes

Impact Level	Approach
Population	LICO, LIM, MBM
Targeted	Track income changes and thresholds for groups
Programmatic	Track income changes and thresholds for intervention participants

OPTION 3: Use various multi-dimensional frameworks across programmatic, targeted and population levels

In this approach, patch together whatever multi-dimensional framework you can get each level: don't look for consistency. The result will be multi-dimensional but with weak alignment.

Advantages of this strategy:

- Reinforces that poverty is multi-dimensional at every level of impact
- Allows for the very flexible use of diverse multidimensional frameworks at all levels

Disadvantages of this strategy:

- Difficult to create a coherent picture of impact
- The ability to get reliable, valid and routine population data over time is wildly uneven
- Benchmarking against other communities is very difficult and limited

Impact Level	Approach
Population	Track multi-dimensional changes (ex. SDOH, Deprivation Index)
Targeted	Track multi-dimensional changes
Programmatic	Track multi-dimensional changes

OPTION 4: Focus on a program/targeted multi-dimensional framework; use LICO, MBM or LIM at a population-level as a proxy

In this approach, be multi-dimensional where you can realistically get data, and default to Income at population level. This will provide you with a unidimensional framework with weak alignment.

Advantages of this strategy:

- Income is a key indicator of poverty reduction and a decent proxy for overall changes in poverty
- Data on income changes at the population level is reliable, valid and routinely available
- Allows you to stick to multi-dimensional frameworks for targeted and programmatic interventions

Disadvantages of this strategy:

- Disappointing for people who want a robust 'bottom-line' assessment of overall reductions in multi-dimensional poverty
- May reinforce inaccurate perceptions amongst some people that poverty is only about inadequate income

Impact Level	Approach
Population	LICO, LIM, MBM
Targeted	Track multi-dimensional changes
Programmatic	Track multi-dimensional changes

GROUP EXERCISE

Purpose: Identify your strategy for aligning the indicators and outcomes of your poverty reduction activities from programmatic to targeted to population-level results.

1. Which of the four options makes the most sense to you? Why?

2. What are the implications for your next steps?