THE CONTRIBUTION CHALLENGE

Challenge: Whatever impacts can be tracked and measured have also been influenced by multiple factors, not just poverty reduction collaboratives and their partners' interventions.

Our solution: Collaboratives use the language of 'contribution' to impact and determine how much rigour their stakeholders require to demonstrate their level of contribution.

The following methods in Table 2 provide some options for assessing your contribution, based on the level of rigour collaboratives feel is needed.

Table 2 – Contribution Analysis Approaches

Method	Description	Source
Level 1 – Acknowledging Use the phrase "Our efforts contributed to..." when you communicate about progress.		
Word Processor	Use the "find" function, look up the words outcomes and impacts, and ensure you are consistently using the term "contribute"	N/A
Editor	Ask the editor to carefully comb all communication outcomes and impacts and make sure you are not implying that you or your partners are fully responsible for outcomes and impact.	N/A
Level 2 – Mapping Identify and list the other factors that may have contributed to the outcomes and impact and estimate whether your efforts had low, medium or high contribution.		
Attribution & Contribution Scale	Estimates the extent to which an intervention contributed to the production of outputs and outcomes.	https://www.participatoryactionresearch.net/tools see page 115
Causal Dynamics	Estimates the cause and effect relationship of multiple activities and outcomes.	https://www.participatoryactionresearch.net/tools see page 125
Outcome Harvesting	A narrative-based approach for innovators and evaluators estimate the level of contribution to outcomes.	https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting
Level 3 – Investigating Greater investment to get a strong estimate of your activities' contributions to outcomes and impact.		
General Elimination Method (GEM)	Identify, analyze and eliminate different explanations or factors underlying outcomes or impacts using multiple sources of data.	https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/evaluation-options/list_possible_causes_general_elimination_methodology
Process Tracing	A more sophisticated version of GEM that identifies and works through different 'hunches' of what caused outcomes and impacts with increasing degrees of rigor.	https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/resource/overview/What_is_process_tracing_actually_tracing

Method	Description	Source
Contribution Analysis	Explore whether an intervention's activities, outcomes and impacts have unfolded as planned, and then explore rival explanations for the results.	https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/contribution_analysis see excellent example: https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/303755/er-chukua-hatua-tanzania-effectiveness-review-211013-en.pdf;jsessionid=1736CFA9C3228DC294D06E984842244E?sequence=1
Counterfactual Scenarios in Rapid Impact Evaluation	Small groups of experts create counterfactual scenarios by making quantitative estimates to explore what outcomes would have emerged in absence of a group's activities.	https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/audit-evaluation/centre-excellence-evaluation/guide-rapid-impact-evaluation.html

GROUP EXERCISE

Purpose: Create a plan of action to do contribution analysis with your stakeholders.

1. Using Table 2 on Contribution Analysis Approaches, identify which method you will use to assess your roundtable's contributions to impacts on poverty.