

## ToC developed upon evaluating a completed project, or a phase of work

## Strengths:

- Produced by the evaluators in consultation with the research team
- There are annotations about how change happened [small black font]
- Includes a visual and a narrative summary

## Weaknesses:

Assumptions were not included in a conventional causal chain

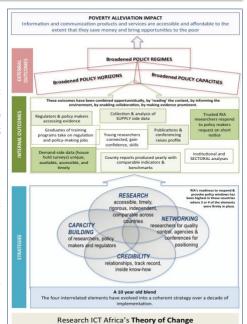
Versions of the ToC appeared in: RIA (2015). <u>RIA @ Work</u> (p.9) and in <u>RIA (2014). How ordinary people got connected</u>. (p39)

## RESEARCH ICT AFRICA'S THEORY OF CHANGE

The integration of the FOUR ELEMENTS of the strategy defines RIA's approach or brand; a unique approach in the ICT world.

Quality RESEARCH IS the essential element that provides the basis for capacity building, networking and credibility. The research is made accessible through a collection of publications and a website made available at no cost. Among the data sets, the release of country reports with household survey data happens in a timely manner, and is comparable across countries. which is unique. The methodologies, sampling frameworks and statistical analyses are rigorous and vetted in peer reviewed journal articles and conferences. The research is independent, which is rare in an environment dominated by industry interests.

CAPACITY BUILDING of researchers takes place through graduate level courses and university programs, and through the CPR conference. The courses for policy makers and regulators complement this approach and enhance the demand for evidence; hence the overlap with the research element. Capacity building of network members happens primarily through collaboration on donor-funded projects, research design and methodology, dissemination and evaluation workshops.



NETWORKING with researchers is a means for quality control over all stages of research and is a vehicle to enhance researchers' prominence in their institution, country or even regionally and internationally. Networking with global agencies and participation at international conferences provides a positioning for RIA, while at the same time cementing its comenting its redibility both in Africa and internationally. The combination of a rich set of relationships, a track record of ten years of work, plus the senior team's insider know-how provide the <a href="CREDIBILITY">CREDIBILITY</a> that is a hallmark of RIA. Nurturing these attributes requires ongoing effort in all the other elements.

The internal outcomes are those that RIA can control. They are visualized as a combination of outcomes from the four strategic elements. The findings show that they are combined opportunistically according to windows of opportunity that are at times detected, and in other cases provoked. This dimension emphasizes ODI's RAPID framework as the 'operating system' that guides the performance housed evaluation and the case provoked.

The external outcomes are flagged according to Lindquist's categories of policy influence. This signals the importance of broadening policy horizons and capacities as a pre-requisite to broadening policy regimes. The Theory of Change signals that the poverty alleviation impact is the overriding justification for RIA and indeed the I&N program.

Except from RESEARCH ICT AFRICA EVALUATION REPORT, DECI-2 team April. 2014





