A THEORY OF CHANGE

ShelterBox

INPUTS

Material · Human · Financial · Information

ACTIVITIES

Rapid needs assessment

Preconditions
– Beneficiary willing to participate
– Local leadership structure in place
– Stakeholders support intervention

- Monitoring & reflection
- Coordination & reporting
- Community engagement
- Logistics
- Safety & security
- In-depth needs assessment

OUTPUT

Effective & timely shelter provision

Assumptions
– Aid selection appropriate to context
– 'Do no harm' principles followed
– Sensitisation of non-beneficiary groups
– Shelter items used for intended purpose
– Needs assessment relevant & needs of vulnerable groups accounted for
– Functional logistics, coordination & communication

SHORT/MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

– ShelterBox response is accountable

Physical protection
– Protection from weather & environmental extremes
– Increased personal safety & security of possessions
– Increased protection from water & vector borne diseases
– Reduced household displacement
– Households are intact

Psychological well being
– Knowledge & skills to utilise the provided materials
– Reduced stress & anxiety
– Improved privacy & retained dignity

LONGTERM OUTCOME

Improved resilience &/or capacity for self-recovery (households/ communities)

Contribution to IMPACT LEVEL CHANGES
– Improved psychological health & wellbeing
– Improved access to & retention in education
– Reduced morbidity & mortality
– Security of tenure
– Improved access to basic services
– Strengthened social structures
– Livelihoods sustained
– Community more resilient to future disasters

ShelterBox
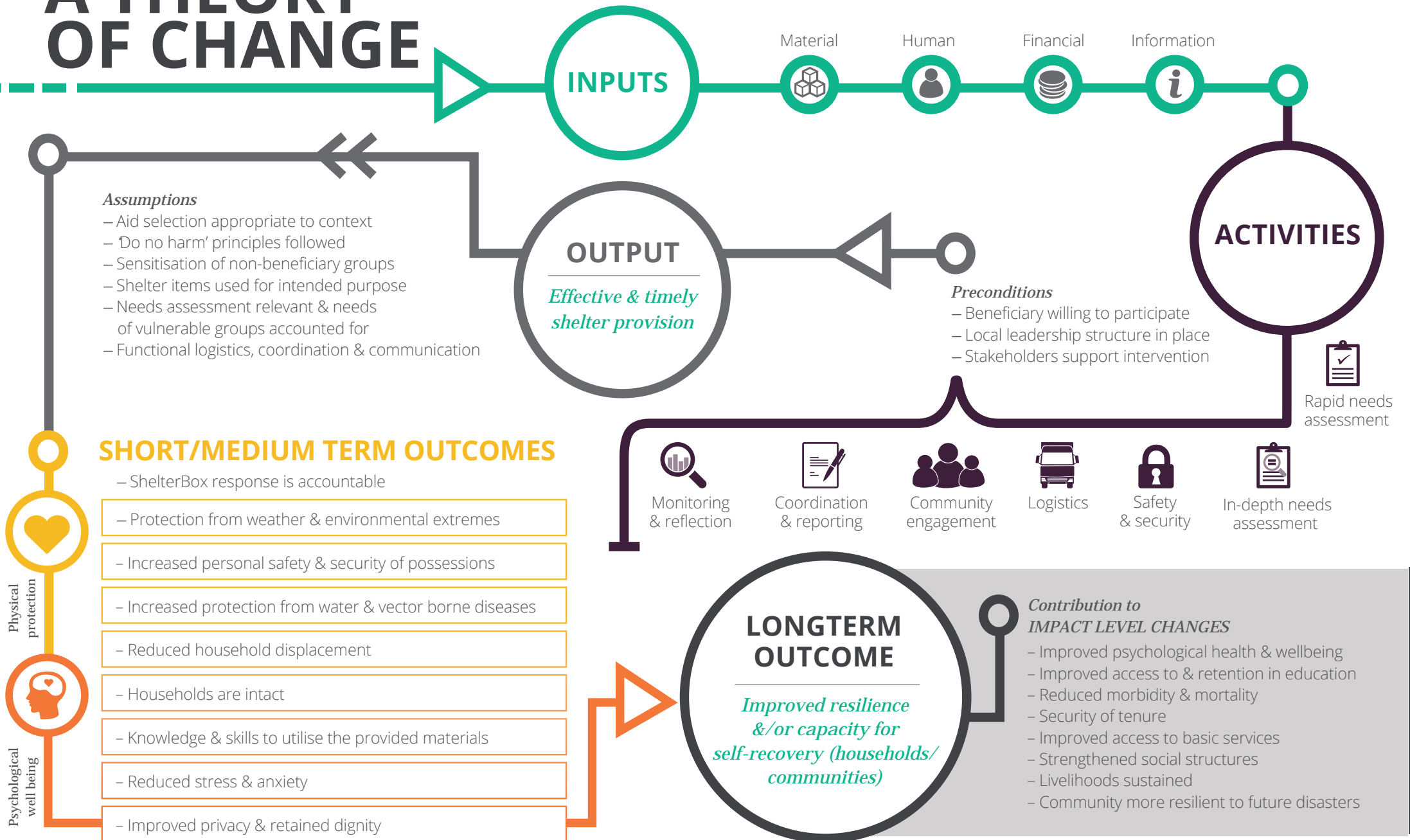
A THEORY OF CHANGE

Why a Theory of Change?

A Theory of Change can provide a powerful learning lens that helps organisations ask themselves and others simple but important questions about what they are doing and why. ShelterBox's operational Theory of Change informs our intervention planning and implementation as well as our monitoring, evaluation and learning framework. The Theory of Change contributes to a common understanding, clarity and effectiveness in our approach and strengthens our partnerships, organisational development and communication. It builds on 15 years of experience, implementing shelter responses in a range of disaster and humanitarian contexts around the world.

At ShelterBox, we recognise that sheltering after disaster is a process that is owned and undertaken by the affected community.

However, we know that the path to safe and durable shelter can be impeded by the many physical and psychological hardships generated by disaster or conflict events.

ShelterBox responds to humanitarian crises around the world, supporting households through the effective and timely provision of shelter aid. In achieving the short to medium term outcomes of increased physical protection, improved psychological wellbeing and organisational accountability, we intend that our interventions help build resilience and promote self-recovery.

By meeting the immediate shelter needs of families in the days, weeks and months following a disaster, keeping households together, reducing displacement and providing the skills and knowledge to build adequate shelter, we anticipate that our actions will contribute to recovery at the household, community and national level.

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ShelterBox responds according to a needs-based approach. Our shelter and shelter related non-food items are selected according to context and delivered in a manner that is accountable to beneficiaries.

This organisational commitment to accountability extends to our staff and volunteers in the form of support and training, and to our donors by demonstrating the effective, efficient and ethical use of resources. We work hard to ensure that our interventions compliment the efforts of other humanitarian stakeholders in a coordinated fashion.

Our aim is to be timely and effective in the delivery of aid; recognising the time-critical nature of our operations, whilst being clear that this should not be detrimental to reaching our intended outcomes. We believe that the way in which we work with affected communities through consultation, participation, training and communication, and following do no harm principles, is as important as the physical assets we provide.

Assets and transforming structures considered important for building resilience and promoting self-led recovery

– Livelihoods
– Markets
– Cash
– Construction items
– Environmental resources
– Satisfying other basic needs
   (i.e. food, medicine)
– Incentive/motivation to rebuild
– Knowledge or skills
– Security of tenure

At ShelterBox we make explicit our assumptions regarding how the outcomes of increased physical and psychological wellbeing can lead to improved resilience and the capacity to self-recover. These assumptions are related to whether and how beneficiaries access important assets and transforming structures[1].

There are occasions when the impact of a humanitarian crisis is so significant that these assumptions do not hold true. In cases such as this we endeavour to provide further assistance, either through the provision of further aid or training or by linking communities with other stakeholders better placed to fill the gap.

[1] The concept of assets and transforming structures is associated with the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework and the relationship between livelihood assets and recovery from shocks and stresses.