2026 Joint Programme

NDE Forum and Capacity Building for System Transformation in LAC

19-22 May 2026,
San Ignacio, Belize

Technical Assistance Ideation

2026 Joint Programme: Latin America and the Caribbean
NDE Forum and Capacity Building, 19-22 May 2026

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CENTRE for SOCIAL IMPACT | Flinders University

Dr. Laura Lesar, PhD

Expert in sustainability, climate action, and social impact solutions with business and industry - 17 years experience

- **Specializes in sustainability practice and climate action for business and industry** – support industry in developing and decision-making support on practical tools for climate action, sustainability, and social impact (e.g., certification programs; climate action tools; capacity building tools; decision-making support tools; indicators for climate action, sustainability and social impact; ESG reporting; benchmarking tools; SDG alignment)
- **International Experience on Sustainability Projects with public, private, and non-profit sectors internationally in USA, Asia-Pacific Region, Australia, and South America,** (e.g., Municipal Government of Hawaii, Australian Federal Government, Chile's National Environmental Commission, Royal Caribbean Int., Global Sustainable Tourism Council, Expedia, Experience Gold Coast, and Gemtree Wines).
- **Holding academic and industry credentials, her research engages scientifically rigorous methods to drive impactful, practical sustainability and climate action solutions for business and industry** (e.g., sustainability toolkit for tourism delivered 50% reduction in transport/emissions)
- **Invited Industry Presentations on Sustainability and Climate Action Globally:** UNCTCN NDE Forum/Capacity Building (2024-2026) (Asia, Pacific, Small Island Developing States, Latin America/Caribbean); U.S. Department of State East-West Fellows Program's Invited Expert Speaker (Pacific)
- **Invited Policy Consultation to shape Policy on Climate Action and Tourism** She has shaped national and state policies on climate action and tourism in Australia.

Technical Assistance Ideation

Session Purpose

- To support Technical Assistance (TA) Project Development through Design Thinking Techniques
- This session has a “solutions” emphasis to support you in identifying climate technology solutions best suited for your country’s needs.

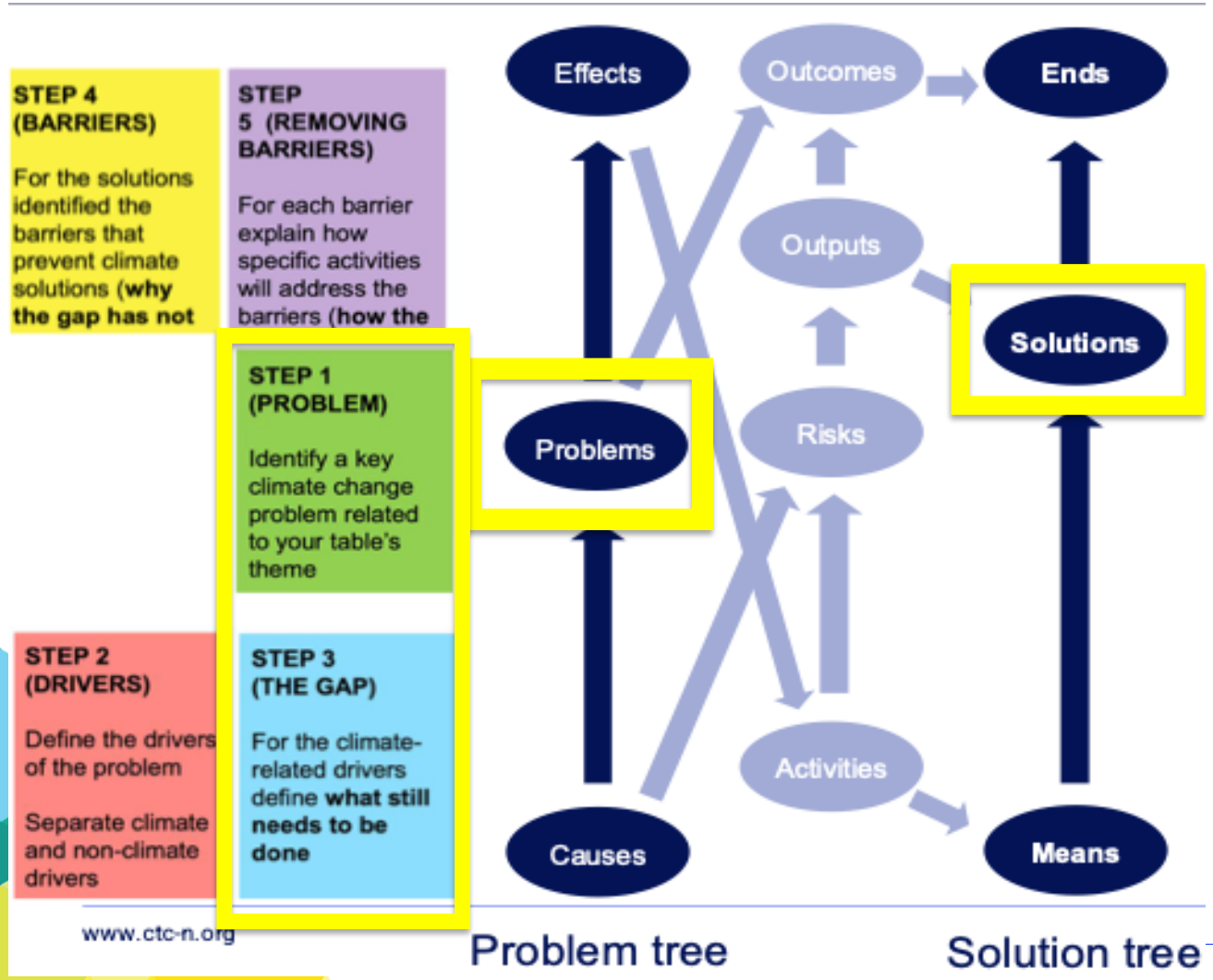
Session Guided by UN CTCN Pillars

- Theory of Change*
- Social Return on Investment Indicators (SROI)
- Stakeholder Segmentation and Engagement

Session Outcome

- 1-3 climate technology solutions that are most suitable to address climate action priorities, feasible, and readily adoptable for your country

I. THEORY OF CHANGE



Theory of Change – How it Supports TA Ideation in this Session

- Focus on "solutions" to address important climate action "problem" for your country
- Activities will support technology prioritization and selection

I. THEORY OF CHANGE – ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Activity Description

- In groups, you will complete 4 activities that provide **decision-making support** to **prioritize, select, and implement** the most suitable climate action technologies for your country.

Value

- These activities can be **replicated** to **support future decision-making** to prioritize, select and implement the most **feasible** and **readily adoptable** climate action technologies for your countries.
- Strategies for solution selection are **scientifically sound + practically relevant**: Strategies are based on protocols from peer-reviewed research in internationally leading research journals (Lesar & Weaver, 2026)

Activity 1. Technology Selection by Feasibility

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Familiarization (2 Minutes):** Review the technology solutions for your climate action priority area.

2. **Group Discussion (10 minutes):**

- *Which technologies are the most easy to use or the most complex to use? (Tip: Also consider ongoing use post TA)*
- *Which technologies are manageable to use (i.e., not too easy, but not too complex)?*
- *Which technologies are cost-effective or cost-ineffective (e.g., Is the technology value for money? Is technology use time-effective?)*

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 1. Technology Selection by Feasibility
(Ease of Use + Cost)

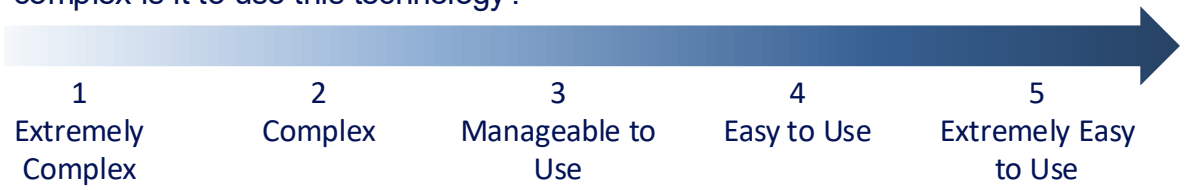
INSTRUCTIONS

3. Vote (5 minutes): Use the QR Code to rate each technology by ease of use and cost. (Each Technology is labeled A-D in your workbook of technology solutions).

Rate Using QR Code

4. Record: Moderator will show each group's results. Then, Record the top 3 "High Priority" technologies in the Technology Selection Matrix (next page).

Complexity: On a scale of 1 (Extremely Complex) to 5 (Extremely Easy to Use), how complex is it to use this technology?

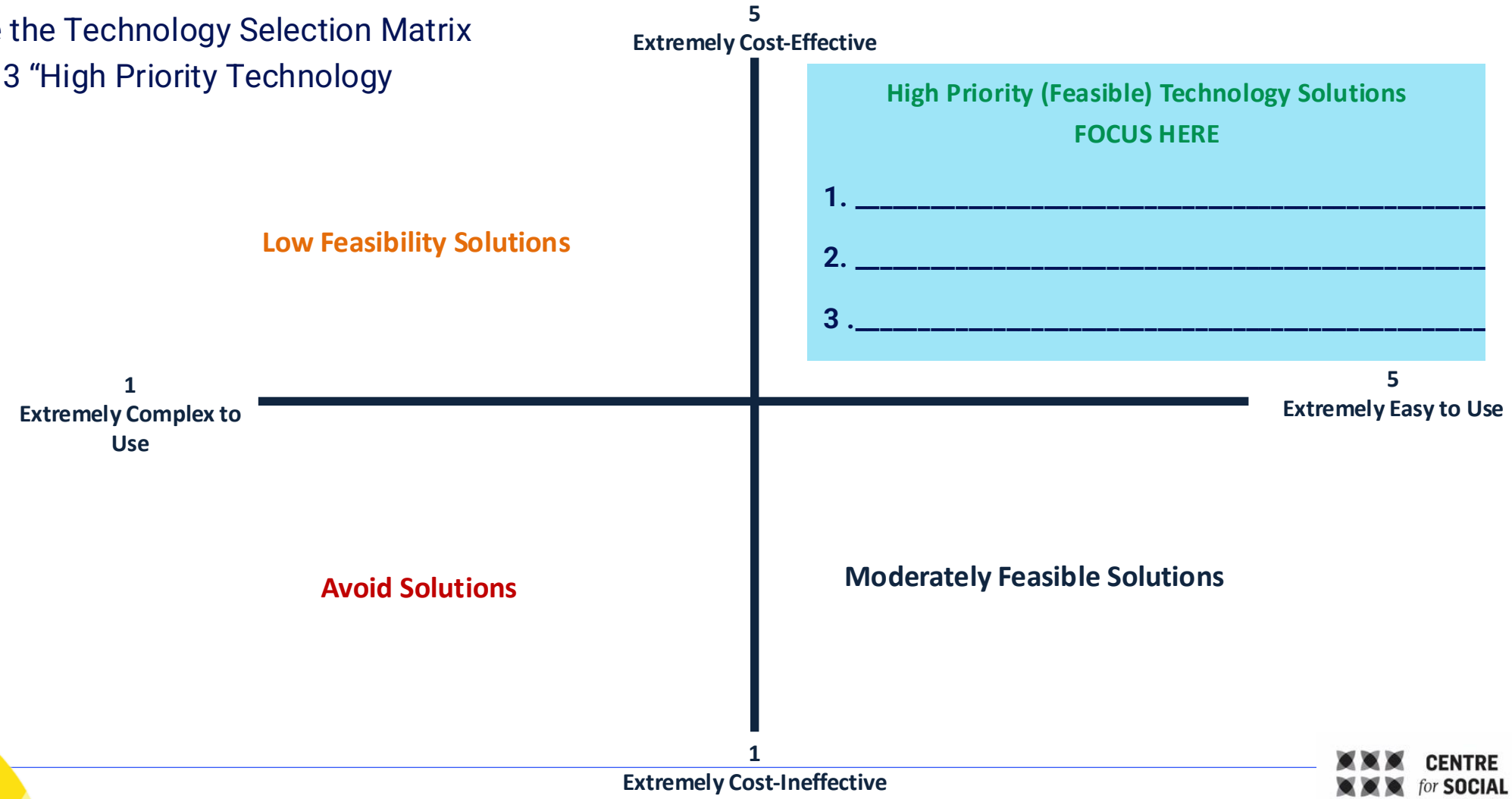


Cost: On a scale of 1 (Extremely Cost-Ineffective) to 5 (Extremely Cost-Effective), how costly is it to use this technology?

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 1. Technology Selection Matrix: Technology Prioritization by Feasibility

Instructions: Use the Technology Selection Matrix to record the top 3 “High Priority Technology Solutions”



Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 2. Technology Selection: Adoptability

INSTRUCTIONS

Review (5 Minutes)

- Silently review the technology characteristics and consider: Which characteristics are the most **important** to you? Which characteristics make you want to **adopt** the technology? Circle the **top 3** most important characteristics that the technology must have for you to adopt/use it.

Group Discussion (10 minutes)

- *Which technology characteristics are most important to you?*
- *Which characteristics make you want to adopt the technology? Why?*
- *Which characteristics make you want to avoid the technology? Why?*

Technology Characteristic	Description
Scalability	Technology can be *scaled out* in your country
Compatibility	Technology is *compatible* with your country's institutional structures, cultural values, or societal values
Adaptability	Technology is *adaptable* for use in your country
Observable Outcomes	Technology produces *demonstrable outcomes or observable results* for climate action
Industry Applicability	Technology has *specific applicability* for use in a priority industry sector within your country
Regional Applicability	Technology is specifically designed for your geographic region
Measurement and Monitoring Function	Technology can support your country to *measure and monitor* climate action outcomes
Capacity Building Function	Technology can support your country in *building capacity* for climate action outcomes

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

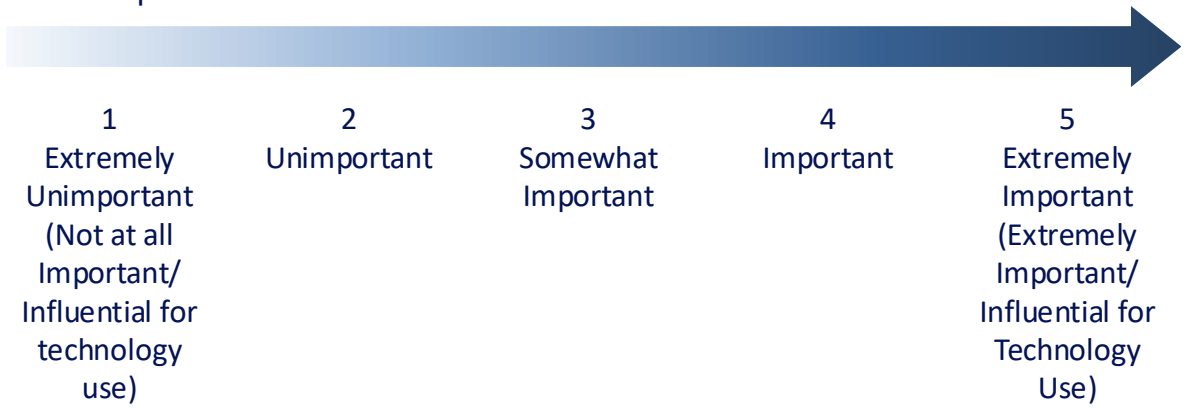
Activity 2. Technology Selection: Adoptability

INSTRUCTIONS

3. Vote (5 minutes): Select "Next" On your Mentimeter Survey to rate the most important characteristics for technology adoption. (Use the QR Code to re-enter the survey if needed).

Rate Using QR Code

Adoptability: On a scale of 1 (Extremely Unimportant) to 5 (Extremely Important), how important is each characteristic?



4. Record: Record the top 3 priority characteristics that are most important for technology adoption. *Once completed voting in mentimeter, select "view results" to and record the 3 characteristics with the highest scores Here ---------→*

Priority Characteristics For Adoption

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al. 2024

Activity 3. Technology Selection: Feasibility & Adoptability

Instructions (10 Minutes)

[1]Record the top 3 "High Priority Technology Solutions" (Activity 1)

[2]Record the top 3 most important characteristics for technology adoption (Activity 2)

[3]Rate each technology – does it meet each adoptability characteristic?

- Yes (5)
- Somewhat (3)
- No (1)

[4]Calculate Adoptability Scores. Select the top 2 technologies with the highest adoptability scores and record on next page.

[1] HIGH PRIORITY (FEASIBLE) TECHNOLOGIES	1._____	2._____	3._____
[2] PRIORITY (ADOPTABILITY) CHARACTERISTICS	[3] RATING		
1._____	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
2._____	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? Yes (5) Somewhat (3) No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
3._____	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
[4] Adoptability Score			

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 3. Technology Selection: Feasibility & Adoptability EXAMPLE

Instructions (10 Minutes)

[1]Record the top 3 "High Priority Technology Solutions" (Activity 1)

[2]Record the top 3 most important characteristics for technology adoption (Activity 2)

[3]Rate each technology – does it meet each adoptability characteristic?
- Yes (5)
- Somewhat (3)
- No (1)

[4]Calculate Adoptability Scores. Select the top 2 technologies with the highest adoptability scores and record on next page.

[1] HIGH PRIORITY (FEASIBLE) TECHNOLOGIES	1. Water Efficient Appliances	2. AI for Food Waste Reduction	3. E-Toolkit for Climate Action
[2] PRIORITY (ADOPTABILITY) CHARACTERISTICS	[3] RATING		
1. Scalability	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
2. Capacity Building Function	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? Yes (5) Somewhat (3) No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
3. Industry Applicability	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)	Characteristic Met? • Yes (5) • Somewhat (3) • No (1)
[4] Adoptability Score	11		

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 2. Technology Selection: Adoptability

GUIDANCE FOR ADOPTABILITY RATING

- Identify the most important characteristics for your group. (Right)
- Rate each technology on each of the top 3 most important characteristics

Technology Characteristic	Description
Scalability	Can this technology can be *scaled out* in your country?
Compatibility	Is this technology *compatible* with your country's institutional structures, cultural values, or societal values?
Adaptability	Is this technology *adaptable* for use in your country?
Observable Outcomes	Does this technology produce *demonstrable outcomes or observable results* for climate action?
Industry Applicability	Can this technology be used in a priority industry sector within your country?
Regional Applicability	Is this technology applicable to your geographic region?
Measurement and Monitoring Function	Can this technology help you to *measure and monitor* climate action outcomes?
Capacity Building Function	Can this technology help you to *build capacity* for climate action outcomes?

Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 3. Technology Selection: Feasibility & Adoptability

Instructions

1. **Record:** Record the high priority (feasible) technologies with the highest adoptability scores (2 technologies)

2. Discussion (10 minutes)

- *Which of the top 2 technologies are best suited for your country? Why?*

3. **Select**: Select the #1 technology solution for <u>your</u> country

High Priority Technologies with Highest Adoptability Score

1. _____
2. _____

#1 Priority Technology for Your Country

1. _____

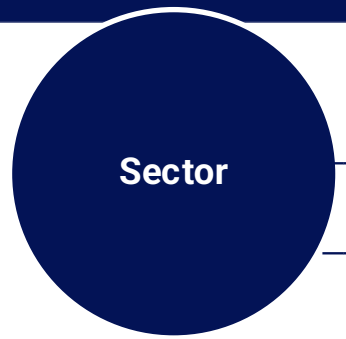
Lesar & Weaver (2026); Lesar et al 2024

Activity 4. Solution Implementation

Instructions

Ideation (Mind-Mapping) (10 minutes)

- Focus on the #1 technology for your country (from Activity 3). Use the mind map to brainstorm how the technology can be best **implemented** in your country.



In which sector(s) will you implement the technology?

Does the technology require adaptation for implementation in your country?
Does the technology require adaptation to better meet a characteristic for technology adoption?
If so, how?

Where will you implement the technology?

Which stakeholders need to be involved in technology/TA implementation?

Activity 4. Solution Implementation Ideation

Instructions

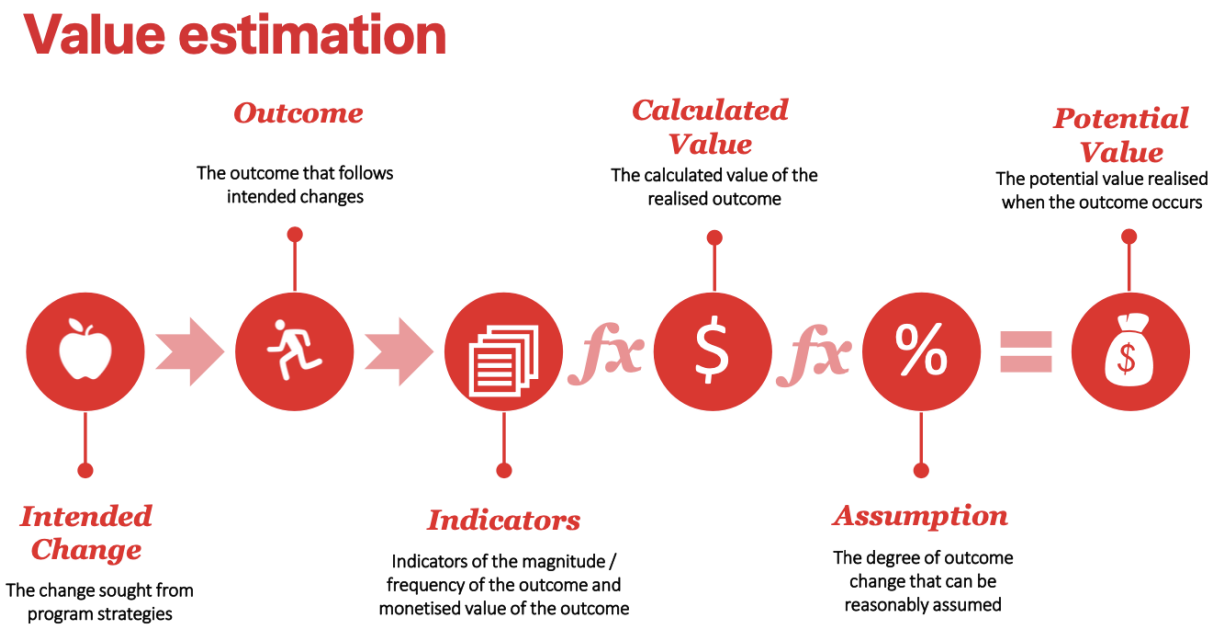
Discussion – Sharing Technology Implementation Ideas (10 minutes): Share your technology implementation ideas with your colleagues. If you are uncertain about any aspect of technology implementation, ask you colleagues for their perspectives. Additionally, if you have a constructive comment that may support your colleagues, please share them. For example, if you have experience with implementing the technology, consider sharing "lessons learned". You can use the space below to take notes on constructive feedback from your colleagues.

Notes:

NEXT STEPS

The following provides further guidance on TA development. You can use these activities to further refine your TA in the future.

II. SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT INDICATORS (SROI)



Social Return on Investment – How it Supports TA Development

- Enables your country to identify metrics to measure, monitor, and report on social return on investment for your TA

Activity Description

- You will develop social return on investment indicators to measure social return on investment from the 1 priority technology (from Activity 3).

II. SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT - CALCULATION EXAMPLE

Value estimation

Intended Change	*Impact Sought*	*Indicators of Cost*	*Calculated Costs*	*Evidence-based Assumption*	*Estimated Value*
Children maintain healthy weight	Less Obesity	Number of obese	Health system costs	Degree of change because of diet **by program actual change**	**Calculated**
Children finish school	More employment	Number of non-school completers	Lost wages and increased welfare benefits	Degree of change because of diet **by program actual change**	**Calculated**

Value estimation

Intended Change	Outcome	Indicators	Calculated Value	Assumption	Calculation	Potential Value
Children maintain healthy weight to adulthood	Less Obesity	[1]The cost of obesity in QLD was estimated (2015) as: **$11,200,000,000** [2]Population of QLD (2015) was: **4,778,854** and 30% of these adults were obese	$11.2 bil divided by number of obese persons **$7,812.19** per obese person, per year	[3] ↑ FRUIT by 1 serve assoc. with ↓ obesity risk by 7% [3] ↑ VEG by 1 serve assoc. with ↓ obesity risk by 2% ↓ Risk = **9%**	[4]Actual change + 0.7 FRUIT + 2.60 VEG Actual ↓ Risk **10.1%**	1,195 students in program (30% obesity risk, $7,812.19 per person, ↓ 10.1%) **$282,868**

Intended Change	Outcome	Indicators	Calculated Value	Assumption	Calculation	Potential Value
Children complete Year 12 schooling	More gain employment	[5]The cost of failing to complete year 12 in AUS (accruing 2016 to 2070), was estimated as: **$72,000,000,000** [6]Number of 2016 Year 12 non-completers was 44886 (16% of Yearr 7/8 starters)	$72 bil divided by number non-completers **$29,705** (when converted to yearly amount)	[7]↑ VEG by 1 serve assoc. with ↑ NAPLAN score **4%** (assume score is associated with completion)	[4]Actual change + 2.60 VEG ↓ risk of non-completion **10.4%**	1,195 students in program (16% non-comp risk, $29,705 per person ↓ 10.4%) **$590,672**

Activity: Develop Social Return on Investment Indicators

INSTRUCTIONS

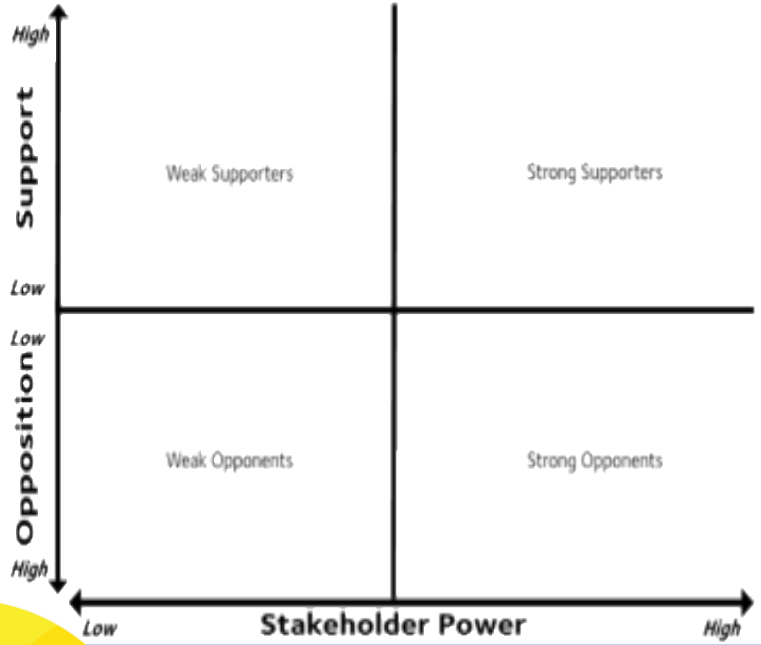
Ideation: *How might we develop SROI indicators to measure the social return on investment for _____ technology solution?* Consider the prompts in “in the table below to develop SROI indicators.

HIGH PRIORITY TECHNOLOGY	1._____				
INTENDED CHANGE What change is sought from technology use?)	**IMPACT SOUGHT** What is the desired Social impact (outcome) sought from technology use?	**INDICATORS OF COST** What is the magnitude or frequency of outcomes? How can the magnitude of outcomes be translated into a monetized value?	**CALCULATED COSTS** Next Steps: What is the calculated value of outcomes (in monetary terms)?	**ASSUMPTION** What is the degree of change that can be reasonably assumed?	**POTENTIAL VALUE** Next Steps: What is the potential value realized when the desired the outcome occurs?

III. STAKEHOLDER SEGMENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

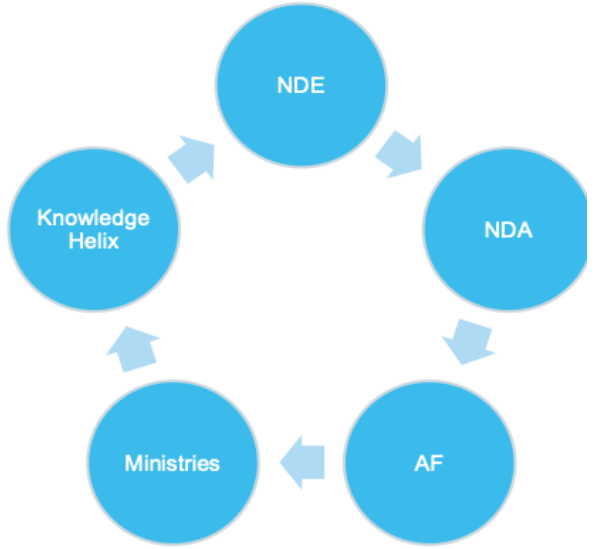
How Stakeholder Segmentation Supports TA Development

- A Stakeholder Matrix will support you identifying the important stakeholders for implementing the priority technology/TA



How Stakeholder Engagement Support TA Development

- Stakeholder engagement will enable you to identify the strategies to engage important stakeholders in technology/TA implementation



UNCTCN: Inclusive Stakeholder Consultation

Activity: Stakeholder Segmentation and Engagement

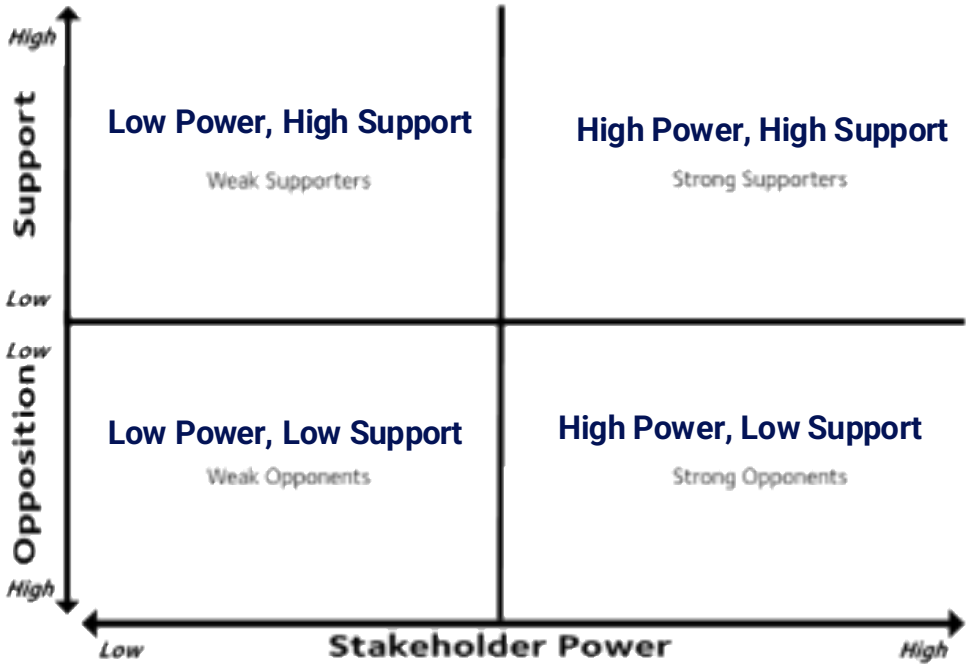
INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Identify internal and external stakeholders relevant to technology and TA implementation**

TECHNOLOGY_____	
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS (Stakeholders within your government)	**EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS** (Stakeholders external to your government, which may include industry, suppliers, communities)

Level of Interest: Level of interest of each stakeholder in the issue

2. Classify stakeholders based on power and interest in the matrix below.

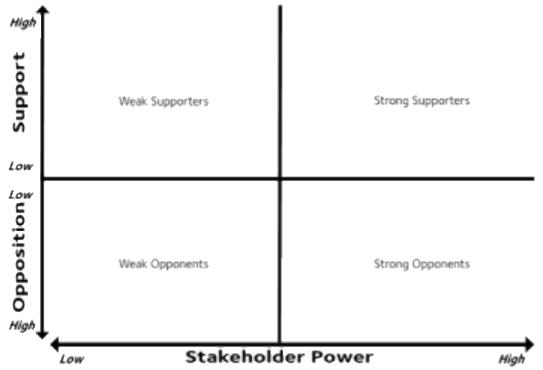


Stakeholder Power: Level of power or influence in technology use/implementation

Activity: Stakeholder Segmentation and Engagement

INSTRUCTIONS

1. ***Based on the stakeholder segmentation matrix outcomes in the prior Activity, identify 1-3 strategies to engage each stakeholder group relative to TA (and technology) implementation.***



	High Power, High Interest Stakeholders are often decision makers and generally have significant impact on project success; closely manage expectations of these stakeholders	**High Power, Low Interest** Stakeholders need to be keep in the loop and satisfied because they have power (even though they are not interested)	**Low Power, High Interest** Keep these stakeholders informed and communicate with them to ensure major issues are not emerging; these people can often be helpful with project details	**Low Power, low Interest** Monitor these stakeholders, but excessive communication is not necessary
Strategies for Engagement				

Thank You!

A/Professor Laura Lesar

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Scan Here to Read More About A/Professor Laura Lesar

Together, We Can Create Positive Change

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Image Credit: DeepAI: https://deepai.org/machine-learning-model/text2img

UN environment programme | CTCN
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