



**‘Political Settlements Research Programme’:
Creating development impact?
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www.politicalsettlements.org

Political Settlements Research Programme



- DFID-funded research programme on political settlements (*'... the new Holy Grail ...'*)
- RQ: *'How to transform political settlements towards open and inclusive settlements'*
- hybrid position in terms of DFID's demands: produce high-level academic research, and strong policy impact at the same time



'Theory of Change'

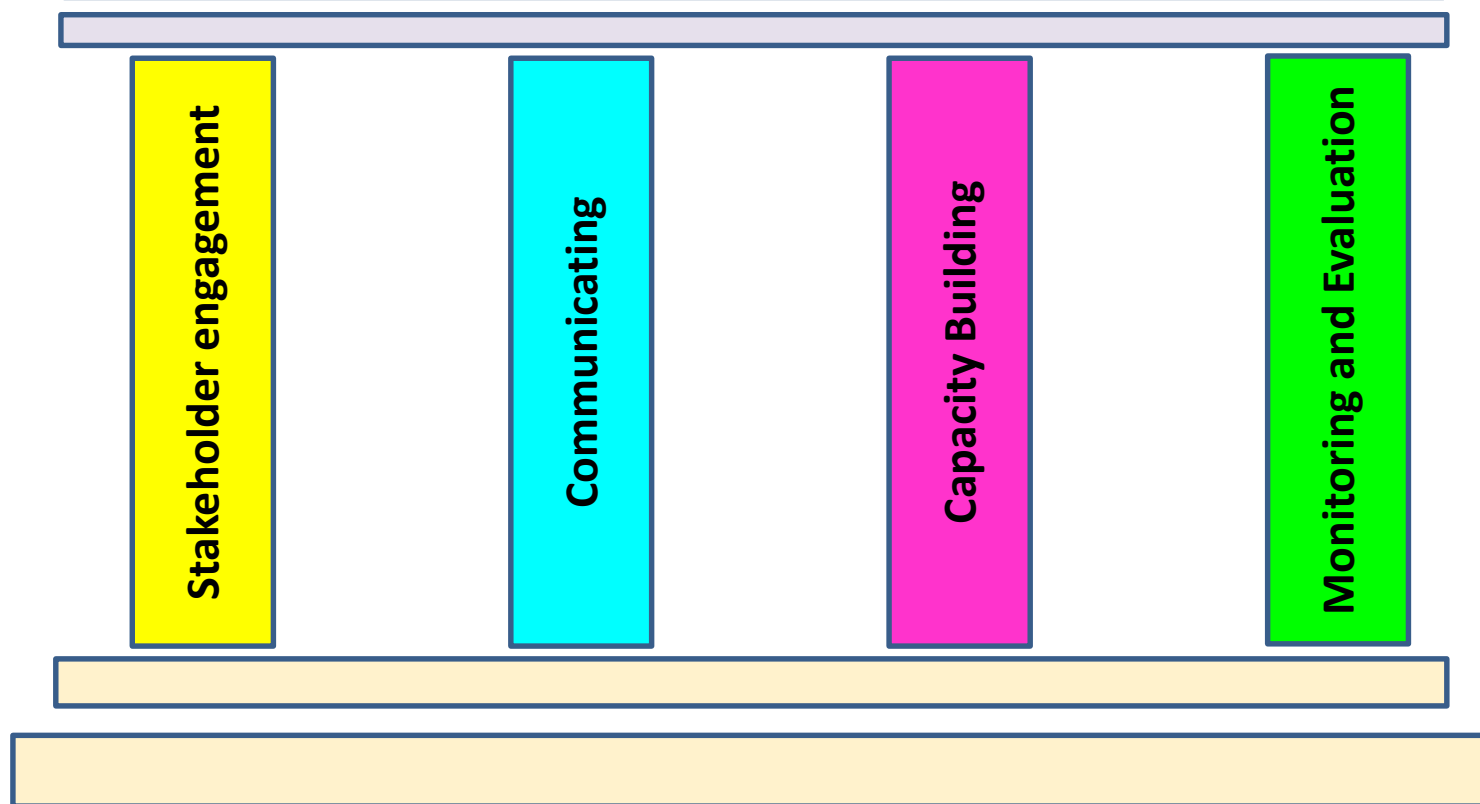


- **non-linear** (despite often linear expectations), rather 'process of change'
- '**discursive tool** for deliberating on and designing research processes focused on achieving change' (tender document)
- linked to DFID's conception of '**research uptake**'





Research Uptake



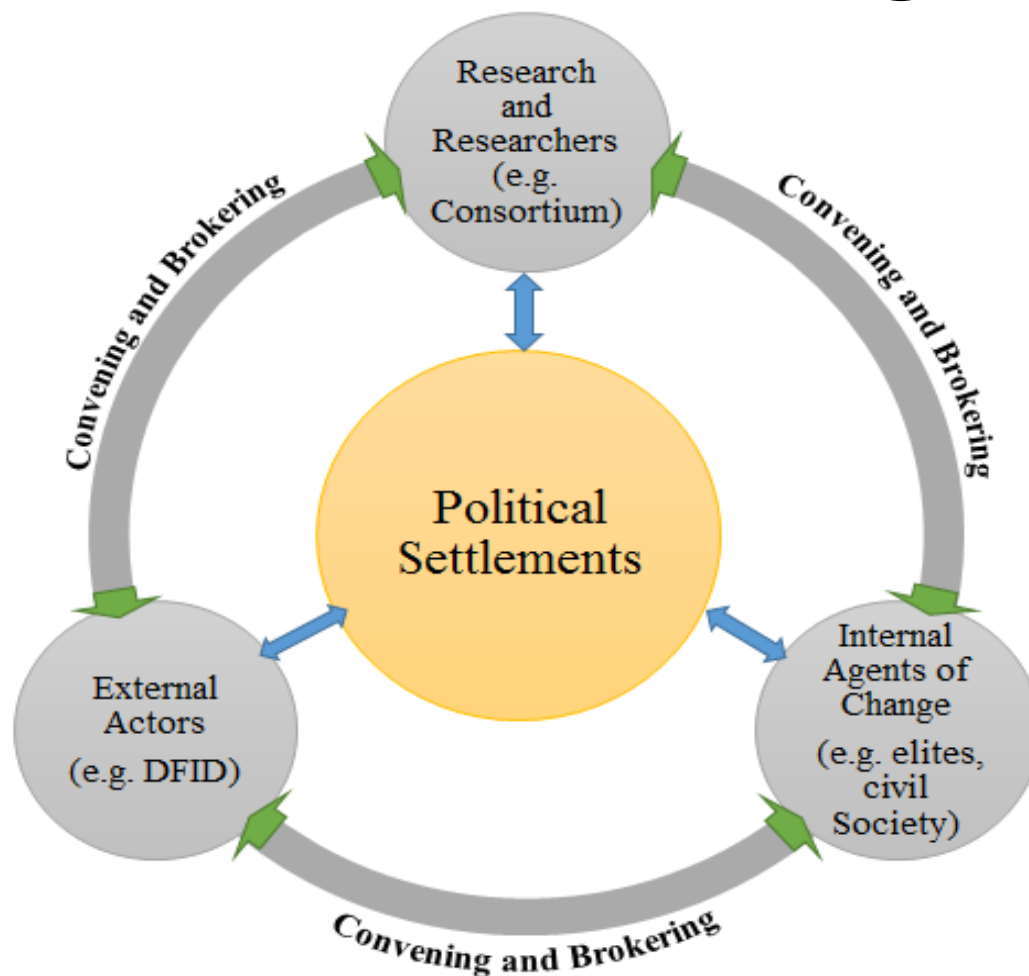
Research Uptake



- DFID definition:
'All activities that facilitate and contribute to the use of research evidence by policy-makers, practitioners and other development actors'
- measurable 'outputs' and 'outcomes' in PSRP Logframe

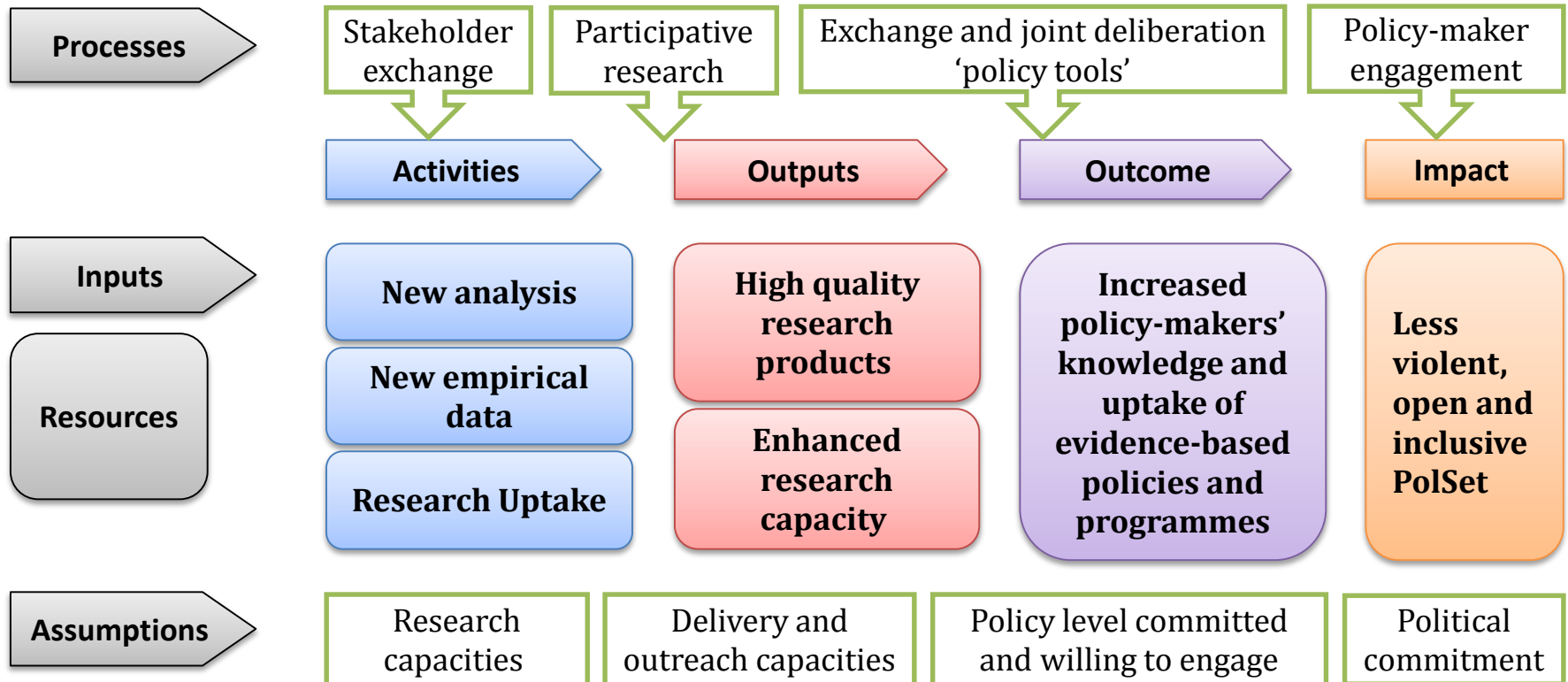


Process of Change





Process of Change



Logframe



PO6663 Political Settlements Research: Towards Open and Inclusive Settlements

PROJECT TITLE									
IMPACT Future political settlements (including both state and informal bargaining processes, rules and institutions), in fragile and conflict-affected states, and in conflict affected states more generally, will be open, inclusive of all the groups within society, and stable. They will be effective in delivering public goods such as improved economic outcomes, growth, development, security and protection of basic human rights on a basis of equality.	Impact Indicator 1 Figures for state fragility and non-discrimination will all improve for FCAS	Planned	Baseline Current indicators of fragility show improvement for each country	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Target (date) Target 2025: Indicators of fragility improve			
	Achieved								
	Source								
	Human Security Index, Human Peace Index, Fragility Indexes, Polity, Datasets								
	Impact Indicator 2 Deaths in conflict and violent homicide will reduce.	Planned	Baseline Country data for "deaths in conflict" and homicide rate per country.	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Target (date) Target 2020: Reduction in rates of non-lethal violence			
	Achieved								
	Source								
	Uppsala Conflict Programme Data, and World Bank intentional homicide data								
	OUTCOME Increased knowledge and uptake by policy-makers of evidence-based policies and programmes for achieving open and inclusive and non-violent political settlements.								
	Outcome Indicator 1 Complexity of promoting change in FCAS is better understood with external actors better coordinating across governance, conflict resolution, and political bargaining interventions.	Planned	Baseline Current level of understanding	Milestone 1 2017 Integrated 'how to' tools, reflecting analysis of 'complex or wicked problems' debated	Milestone 2 2018 Integrated 'how to' tools, reflecting analysis of 'complex or wicked problems' trial-designed	Target (date) 2019 Integrated 'how to' tools, reflecting analysis of 'complex or wicked problems' formalised		Assumptions *Policy makers' interested to engage with research *Research uptake strategy in place, functioning and effective *Coordination between policy actors *Commitment and environment for evidence-based policy *Process for, and capacity to, manage and absorb complex information into policy process *Lack of disrupting alternative political imperatives	
Achieved									
Source									
Review of 'how to' or similar analytical tools in key									
Outcome Indicator 2 New donor strategies for supporting open and inclusive political settlements in place within countries, based on new research		Planned	Baseline Current strategies	Milestone 1 2017 4 case studies indicate policy initiative responsive to new research	Milestone 2 2018 4 further case studies indicate policy initiative responsive to new research	Target (date) 2019 12 total case studies indicating policy initiatives based on new research			
Achieved									
Source									
Documentation of case studies by donors assisted by mid-cycle and end of project evaluations									
INPUTS (€)	DFID (€)		Govt (€)	Other (€)	Total (€)				
INPUTS (HR)	DFID (FTEs)								



Early Evidence of Impact



- **Gender database:** www.peaceagreements.org made public in the context of UNSCR 1325@15
- **Syria consultations:** programme provided evidence-based advice to FCO (possible models for transitional constitutional arrangements in Syria, based on database)



Critical Issues



- ‘Research evidence’?
- Measurability of impact?
- Artificial criteria/indicators for change?
- DFID’s *real* perception of impact – high level events?

