



## Call for Applications to *Changing the Story* AHRC Network+ Project

CTS Large Grants Application Guidance

**Call opens: 1 May 2019. Application deadline: 2359 BST 14 June 2019**

### 1. What is Changing The Story?

*Changing The Story: Building inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people* is a four-year international, multi-disciplinary project, aimed at supporting the building of inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people in post-conflict countries. It is a collaborative project between universities, INGOs, policy makers, artists, grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs) and young people across the world.

The legacy of internal conflict, violence, even genocide poses one of the most intractable obstacles to development in post-conflict states. The on-going lack of resolution of the past is often a very significant factor in the marked fragility of any development gains in such countries. Our project investigates the efficacy of civil society organisations (CSOs, including museums, heritage organizations, community participatory arts and activist groups) in promoting social reconciliation and respect for equality and human rights in the aftermath of conflict.

In Phase One of the project (for project structure see below) we focussed on 5 countries from across the DAC list of ODA recipients and from the OECD list of 'fragile states': Colombia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Kosovo and South Africa. Over the last 40 years, these countries have had to confront the material consequences of their violent pasts. Each has a very different relationship to this past, from Colombia, where the processes of reconciliation are only just beginning, to Cambodia where the violence of the Khmer Rouge has passed into history and yet its memory continues to shape contemporary society. The international development community and donor states have invested heavily in the work of CSOs supporting reconciliation initiatives, particularly focussed on children and young people - a disproportionately large part of the population due to the effects of past violence on their parents' generation. This demographic imbalance is often exacerbated by the long-term impact of a wide range of social issues (e.g. HIV/AIDs in South Africa). CSOs are invariably considered 'an essential component of peace-building work' (Zelizer 2003). One thinks, for example, of the role of community theatre in Rwanda which is often cited in efforts to support transitional justice. Such initiatives are often considered to have immediate, therapeutic



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impact for participants, allowing participants to create new 'social imaginaries' (Dancey 2018). At the same time, such work can also be considered to be counterproductive. Indeed, the very notion of civil society can be contested as a potentially ethnocentric, normative, indeed idealistic, paradigm of democratisation and development (Hann 2003). Its transferability into societies elsewhere cannot be automatically assumed. Indeed its well-intentioned 'export', along with the projects that seek to support its development can - however inadvertently - even promote illiberal expressions of civil activism, or help further entrench ethnic or political prejudices (Kostovicova 2006). In post-conflict settings, CSOs, often funded by international agencies, can proliferate. However, they can also frequently fail to gain local traction due to their lack of engagement with existing, local, civic capacities and actors. Thus, In **Phase One**, our research partners working in Cambodia, Colombia Kosovo, Rwanda and South Africa been conducted critical reviews of the role of CSOs in their contexts. This was then followed by a proof-of-concept project in each country to test out some of the ideas that have emerged from these critical reviews.

The project is now in **Phase Two**. This is our commissioning phase, of which this call is a part. To date, 11 Grants of up to £30K projects have been awarded to interdisciplinary teams led by Early Career Researchers working across 12 Countries. More information on this can be found here: <https://changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk/projects/>.

**Phase Three**, which will begin in 2020, is our dissemination phase. While we have been disseminating our findings throughout. In 2020-2021, our focus will move squarely to sharing the findings from all of the project partners' work with wider audiences, in order to reflect on, and further embed, the impact of our work to effect real change for young people across the world.

A key aim of Changing the Story is to deliver the first large-scale comparative study of CSO practice across a range of post-conflict societies, confronting the challenge of building strong institutions for the delivery of social justice for young people.

Adopting quantitative and qualitative, co-production and action-research methodologies, we are working in partnership with researchers at HEIs and IROs across the UK and ODA-recipient countries, using our research findings to develop new methods, case studies and practical toolkits, for engaging children and young people with the many ways that violent national pasts continue to impact on their communities and countries. In the process we seek to generate new theory, as well as making a significant intervention both on the ground and at policy level.



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Changing the Story is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Global Challenges Research Fund. The project will end on 31 December 2021.

## 2. Phase Two Grant-making schemes

We have two funding schemes: an ECR Grants scheme and a Large Grants scheme open to academics at any career stage. Each scheme is designed for projects which are led by a researcher but work in close partnership with other researchers and civil society organisations.

### ECR Grants of £15,000 – £30,000 (duration 6-12 months)

Our ECR Grants scheme was specific to Early Career Researcher-led projects of up to £30,000 and closed on 7 December 2018. The call was co-created with ECRs from around the world at a Project Development Workshop which took place at British Council, London in October 2018. Participants who attended the workshop were then able to apply for the funding scheme. 11 Projects were awarded and ECR Grants activity will continue until December 2020. To see a full list of our current projects see: <https://changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk/projects/>

### Large grants of £50,000- £100,000 (duration 12 months)

Our Large Grants scheme opens on 1 May 2019 and can be led by researchers at any stage of their career, including those who have already applied for the previous round of funding (you can find more information on eligibility and how we define a 'researcher' below).

This call builds on learning from Changing the Story's network of projects thus far, and from priority areas identified at our recent workshop international and interdisciplinary workshop *Learning from the past with and for young people*, which took place in Phnom Penh in March 2019. As such, we do not envisage funding projects working outside of the twelve countries in which Changing the Story is currently operating, though applications of exceptional quality that work outside of these countries but show clear links to Changing the Story learning thus far will also be considered.

To apply for this round of funding, you will need to complete an online application form and equal opportunities monitoring form, submitting all additional documentation to [changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk). The deadline to apply is **23:59 on Friday 14 June 2019 BST**.

## 3. How do I apply for a CTS Large Grant?



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All projects must be led by a single Principal Investigator, whose academic institution will administer the grant. The project can include any number of Co-Investigators, as required to undertake the work, and must include at least one non-academic organisation.

The application should relate to the research questions outlined below, showing how your project will build on the learning that is emerging from Phase One and Two of the project, how it will significantly enhance the Changing the Story portfolio and how it aligns with the overall project aims.

## 4. Research Questions

All projects should reflect upon the following questions:

- What lessons can be learnt from the ways in which CSOs have attempted to deal with the legacy of past violence on the key issues facing young people in these societies today?
- How can these lessons be shaped into practical, and sustainable, development projects on the ground, localising best practice to the situation faced by specific communities?
- How can CSOs most effectively share best practice internationally? What are the higher-level policy implications of our research findings for development agencies and multilateral bodies seeking to roll out more extensive programmes on post-conflict resolution?

In so doing, Changing the Story hopes to:

- Build a strong interdisciplinary network of researchers, artists, CSOs, NGOs and policy makers, committed to supporting young people in post-conflict settings that will be sustainable beyond the life of the project.
- Create a series of case studies that will offer new insights into the ways in which the memory of societal violence continues to impact the lived experience of young people in the developing world for the 'post-conflict' generation.
- Develop and provide training, toolkits and educational material to support new models of sustainable development, fundamentally shaped by Arts and Humanities methodologies that can be used in future interventions by local CSOs around the world.
- Support marginalised and hard-to-reach groups, or 'provincial' communities, that do not often engage with this kind of research, providing safe spaces to create advocacy tools that can help to build community resilience and effect change in their lives.



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- Make a significant intervention in international-development policy across and beyond the ODA countries involved, as well as in the UK, working in collaboration with national and international NGOs and state-sponsored organisations.
- Highlight the importance of Arts and Humanities methodologies to the delivery of the SDGs. An A&H focus on the importance of cultural awareness, historical understanding, and critical discussion of concepts such as peace, justice and strong institutions (in part challenging the SDGs themselves, and the role of CSOs in delivering them in specific countries and contexts) is essential for enabling culturally sensitive and context-specific – sustainable – responses to development challenges.

Thus, we are particularly interested in projects that also consider the following:

- **Research Design:** We are looking for projects that place young people at the forefront of their design, delivery, research and evaluation, that explore the relationship between participatory arts and participatory development and that work at the intersection of the arts and humanities and social sciences.
- **The decolonization of knowledge:** We are looking for projects that engage with questions of power and the drive to decolonise knowledge production. This might involve reflecting upon the relationship between power and language, exploring indigenous epistemologies and pedagogies or deconstructing the core operational terms used in the Changing the Story project ('civil society', 'heritage', 'reconciliation', 'post conflict', 'young person' etc) as well other important terms in development discourse (e.g. 'resilience', 'entrepreneurialism', 'post-development', 'equitable partnerships', 'intersectionality').
- **A comparative approach:** We are keen to build on the work of previously funded projects not only methodologically but also geographically. We do not envisage funding projects working outside of the twelve countries in which Changing the Story is currently operating. However, we would encourage projects that look comparatively across these countries and that seek to generate synergies across the Changing the Story portfolio of projects. Applications of exceptional quality that work outside of these countries but show clear links to Changing the Story learning thus far will also be considered.
- **Sustainability, Scalability and Policy:** We wish to fund projects that engage with questions of the sustainability, scalability and legacy of arts and heritage-based development interventions. This will involve reflecting upon the longer-term impact of the project and its alignment with aims of the CSOs involved. We also welcome projects that have a clear plan for how participants will engage relevant policy actors in order to maximise the visibility of the research. At the same time, we are keen to fund research that





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moves beyond project evaluation to develop new theory on youth-led participatory development in post-conflict settings.

### 5. Eligibility and rules for applying for CTS Large Grants

- Projects may last up to 12 months. Projects to commence 15 September 2019 and must be completed by December 2020.
- The focus of your work must be an ODA recipient country/countries that is recovering from conflict or protracted crises (there is no ‘time-limit’ in terms of how recently conflict has taken place; rather your application should work with themes that are related to the legacy of conflict on communities today). More information about ODA recipient countries can be found below.
- We do not envisage funding projects working outside of the twelve countries in which Changing the Story is currently operating, though applications of exceptional quality that work outside of these countries but show clear links to Changing the Story learning thus far will also be considered.
- Comparative study projects are encouraged, but all countries involved must be ODA recipients.
- The project team must be multi-institutional. It must include at least two academic researchers - one from the UK and one from the ODA-country. One of these must be the Principal Investigator for the project. It must also include at least one non-academic partner working in the ODA recipient country.
- Researchers should apply through an academic host institution. If you believe your project fulfils all the other requirements but the organisation you are affiliated with is not academic (E.g. an NGO or cultural organisation), please contact us.
- Funding may be used for any research related activity; e.g.: pilot project, consultation/needs assessment; developing a larger project; fieldwork; networking activities; making a film/media programme/app; evaluation of a governance programme; attending a conference; hiring an arts consultant or holding a workshop about your research. You are encouraged to include costs for supporting your project through training, mentoring or guidance.
- You may be Co-I on multiple grants but you can only be PI on one.
- Phase 2 ECR Small Grants grantees can apply, but must show the introduction of a distinct progression or new perspective on their original work.
- Your organisation must be willing to undergo a Due Diligence process.
- You must be willing to contribute to the overall aims of Changing the Story, disseminating your findings via the main project website, as well as through other appropriate means, and engaging in building in the project’s evaluation ethos into your work.
- Applicants should declare any links they have with the Changing the Story



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management team and/or any of its previously funded work.

What is not eligible:

- Activities that contain no element of new research.

Fees for individuals to undertake university undergraduate or postgraduate courses.

## 6. What do we mean by the term 'researcher'?

Changing the Story defines a researcher as an academic working in any institution that has recognised research capacity. Researchers are not obliged to have PhDs if they are already working in academic teaching or research posts, but should be able to demonstrate their experience in the application, for example via their CV and publication list.

## 7. What is a DAC country? How can I ensure my application is ODA compliant?

Because this funding will be allocated through the GCRF, projects must demonstrate how they are ODA compliant and will contribute to the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Further information on ODA compliance under the GCRF, as well as a list of DAC countries, is available here: <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>

Applicants are encouraged to pay close attention to the three guiding questions when completing their proposal:

- Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
- How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
- How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

It should be noted that activities in developing countries whose main purpose is to promote the culture or values of the donor (i.e. in this case the UK) are not reportable as ODA and therefore research proposals primarily focused on education and learning about British culture or values in LMICs contexts is not eligible for consideration under this call.

Changing the Story accepts applications from all levels of ODA countries (least



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developed, other low income, lower middle income, and upper middle income countries). More information on the different levels can be found above.

Additionally, because of the nature of our project we expect applications to have a focus on challenges particular to post-conflict settings.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has developed a guidance document that has been prepared jointly with all primary delivery partners and all applications under this programme must therefore be compliant with these guidelines. The guidance provides an overview about ODA compliance, DAC list countries, and also provides some useful advice about how to ensure your Pathways to Impact plan aligns with ODA commitments. You can download the guidelines here: <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>

### 7. Checklist for applicants

- Read the guidance notes carefully to ensure that your proposal is eligible for a Changing The Story grant and that you have completed the application form correctly.
- Applicants are required to fill out and submit:
  - On-line case for support (Click [here](#) for the form. Password: CTSlarge19)
  - 1 page theory of change
  - 2 page CV and 1 page publication list for PI, Co-I and any named research assistants.
  - Confirmation that you have read and agree to adhere to University of Leeds' Due Diligence process (Click [here](#) to read the Due Diligence form). Please note you do not need to fill in this form as part of your application.
  - Financial breakdown of project budget and timeline of activities (Click [here](#) for the form)
  - 1 page justification of resources
  - Letters of support from all institutions involved.
  - Equal Opportunities online form (Click [here](#) for the form. Password: CTSlarge19)





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## Appendix One: Online Case for Support

The online case for support should contain the following information.

- **Project Title**
- **PI Name and Lead Organisation**
- **Co-I(s) and Organisation(s)**
- **Project Partners**
- **Lead Admin Contacts at all participating organisations**
- **Total funding requested**
- **Start date**
- **End date**
- **ODA Countries involved**
  
- **Project Summary (2100 characters)**
  - What do you intend to do?
  - What is the intended impact?
  
- **How does your project build on and enhance the research undertaken in Changing the Story so far? (2100 characters)**
  - You should describe how your proposed project links to existing learning and priority areas identified by Changing the Story's project activities so far. What themes are particularly relevant to your research? What knowledge gaps are you seeking to inform through your project?
  
- **Research Questions or Problems? (2800 characters)**
  - You should describe clearly the research questions, issues or problems that you intend to address. What are the issues that you will be exploring in the course of your research?
  
- **Research Context (3500 characters)**
  - You should describe the research context for your project. Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area? What contribution will your project make to improving, enhancing, or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding in your chosen area of study? To whom will the outcomes of your research be of particular interest?
  
- **Research Methods (2800 characters)**
  - What research methods will you be using to address the questions or issues that you have set yourself, or solve the problems you have identified, or to explore the matters you intend to investigate? Why have you chosen these methods? Why are they the best way to answer the research questions or problems you have identified? What will be your role? If there are other people involved, what will their roles be and why are they the appropriate people to be involved?



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- In describing your research methods it is not sufficient to state, for example, that you intend to visit a particular archive, or an exhibition abroad. You must provide adequate details of sources to be consulted, and you should state briefly what kinds of material you will be consulting, why they are relevant to your programme of research, and how you will interrogate them.
- We are particularly keen to fund projects that include young people in their research design and that are participatory in nature, using aspects of coproduction with relevant stakeholders.
- Depending on the approach you are using throughout your research, you may also need to explain clearly the creative and/or performance aspects of the work, explain how you will develop a new process, product or tool, or provide details on who you have consulted or will be involved in the process of research.
- **Project Management (2100 characters)**
  - How will the project be managed? What will be the roles of the members of staff involved (including you and, if applicable, any Co-Investigator(s) and any research assistants?
  - The project management section should also include the management of the digital and data management aspects of the projects, if applicable. It should be clear what the milestones for the completion of this element and the work should be incorporated into the timetable for the whole project. The project management of the data management aspects of the project should include an assessment of risk in relation to the complexity and delivery of the project.
  - If a postdoctoral researcher is to be employed, you should state clearly the nature of the work they will be undertaking, and describe clearly the working relationships that are envisaged between all the members of the research team. You should describe fully the arrangements for supervising and managing the research assistant. If the researcher is unknown you should state the skills and qualifications sought.
  - Similarly, if the project involves a visit to or a secondment from a member of staff from another organisation, you must state clearly what work they will pursue and describe the working relationships envisaged with other members of the team.
  - In terms of supporting the research staff funded on the project, you should clearly outline the development opportunities which the project will make available. These should include opportunities both in relation to research expertise, and wider opportunities, for example, in connection with the activities proposed in the Pathways to Impact statement.
- **Experience of managing project funds (2100 characters)**
  - What experience do the Principal Investigator and project partners have of managing grant funds and budgets?
  - How do the organisations you are based in mitigate risk and support due diligence to ensure appropriate use and management of funds? Please



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provide a brief overview (a full due diligence process will be required if your application is successful).

- **Project activities and timeline (2100 characters)**
  - What is the timetable for the project? Does it include appropriate milestones and is it realistic? When will the outputs of the project be completed? How will you ensure that they meet the needs of your audience? Can the costs be justified? How will you ensure good value for money?
- **Ethical Issues. (2100 characters)**
  - Please outline any ethical issues raised by your work and how you will seek to address these in your project.
- **Other Risks involved. (2100 characters)**
  - Please outline any potential risks of undertaking your project in this particular country. How will you seek to mitigate these risks?
- **Pathways to impact of your research beyond academia (2800 characters)**
  - The Pathways to Impact should explain how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. How does your project align with the strategic aims of the partner organisation(s) involved, and how will you seek to ensure the sustainability and legacy of the work undertaken.
- **Planned outputs and dissemination strategy (2800 characters)**
  - Please provide examples of the kinds of outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. Please explain further how the research will benefit other researchers in the field and – where relevant – academic beneficiaries in other disciplines.
  - How do you propose to maximise the value of the proposed research outputs and to ensure the sustainability of the proposed activities after the end of the project. You should cross refer here to your 'Pathways to impact' statement.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2100 characters)**
  - Please provide explanation of how you intend to monitor and evaluate the progress of your project. For example, how will you establish baseline data for your study, and seek to measure the impact of the work undertaken?
- **ODA Compliance Statement (3500 characters)**



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- These grants are funded by the UK government's Official Development Assistance (ODA), which seeks to address the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Projects must therefore demonstrate how they are ODA compliant and will contribute to the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The ODA compliance statement should directly answer the following three questions:
  - Which country / countries on the DAC list (click [here](#) for the list) will directly benefit from this proposal?
  - How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
  - How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?
- Further guidance:  
<https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>
- **How would you like to engage with other Changing the Story projects over the course of the award (2100 characters)?**
  - A list of current Changing the Story projects is available here:  
<https://changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk/projects/>



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## Appendix Two: Financial Breakdown

UK research organisations can request costs at 80% of full economic cost (fEC) as per usual UKRI guidelines. All other organisations can request costs at 100%.

### Eligible Costs

Staff salaries

Travel and Subsistence

Other Direct Costs (consumables, fees, etc.)

Overheads for:

UK Research Organisations: as per usual AHRC rules

DAC country organisations: up to 20% of salary costs

### Ineligible Costs

Overheads for non-DAC country Research Organisations

### Budget Template

Please download a copy of a budget template using the link below to summarise the costs you are requesting:

[Download Budget Template](#)

The spreadsheet will also indicate what level of overheads (if any) each organisation is eligible to claim, and what Due Diligence will be required for each organisation.

Please also provide a one page (maximum) explanation of what the requested costs will be used for, broken down by cost category. This should be titled '**Justification for Resources**'.

Please contact [AHCresearch@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:AHCresearch@leeds.ac.uk) with any queries.





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## Appendix Three: Due Diligence

All lead and partner organisations receiving funding in your project will need to complete due diligence questionnaires if their application is successful. The only exception to this is UK Research Organisations. You can view the Due Diligence questionnaire [here](#).

We are collecting this due diligence information because:

- a) Our funder requires us to have this information;
- b) Providing the information as soon as application outcomes are announced will help us get your funding to you much quicker; and
- c) Understanding your organisation will help us support you with the administration of your grant.

**You are not required to submit a completed Due Diligence questionnaire as part of your application.**

However, you are required to confirm that you have read and agree to adhere to University of Leeds' Due Diligence process should your application be successful, providing all necessary documents within four weeks of your application outcome.

As our Large grants are for £50,000 and above, the Due Diligence requirements are more comprehensive than those which were required for our ECR Grants scheme.

If your application is successful, The University of Leeds will provide additional information to help you fill in the Due Diligence form and support you in gathering the appropriate data.

If you have any questions please contact [AHCresearch@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:AHCresearch@leeds.ac.uk)



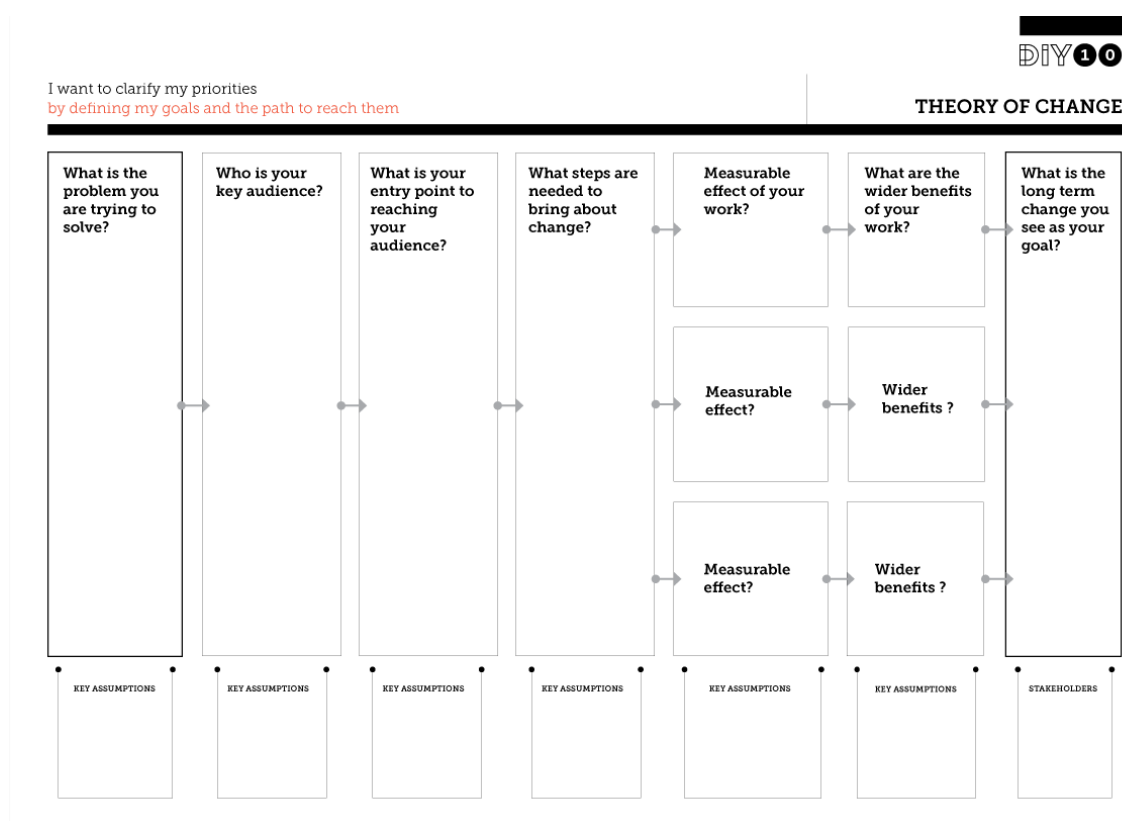
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## Appendix Four: Theory of Change

Each project must submit a one-page theory of change with their application. Your theory of change can be submitted in any format (such as a diagram or in narrative form). You are free to design your Theory of Change as best fits your project, but it should provide a clear and concise overview of:

- your main research problem and/or mission
- activities
- outputs
- outcomes
- expected impact
- any assumptions you are making.

The following template from [Development, Impact and You](#) may prove useful as a guide:



You can find more details about how to create a Theory of Change, as well as other useful resources for your application, on the resources area of our website: <https://changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk/resources/>