

#### WHY DO I NEED THIS?

Articulating the impact of your work is increasingly important for securing funding, academic recognition, and demonstrating the real-world value of your research endeavours.

#### **IMPACT CENTRE**

Co-created by the Science in Society unit, in consultation with the research divisions.



# **IMPACT PLANNING TEMPLATE**

Relevance • Visibility • Impact

#### What is an Impact Planning Template

A research impact planning template is a structured framework or guideline used to outline and assess the impact of your research project or study. It typically includes specific sections or categories to help you systematically analyse and communicate the broader implications and outcomes of your work.

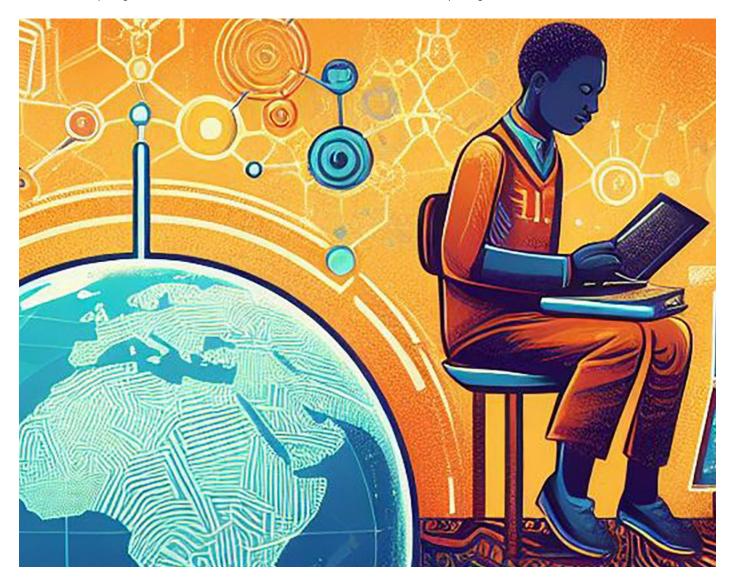
The template aids you in identifying, measuring, and articulating the impact of your work, which is increasingly important for securing funding, academic recognition, and demonstrating the real-world value of research endeavours. The structure and specific elements may vary, based on the funding body, research field or discipline, the nature of the research or the type of impact (e.g. academic, societal, or policy change impact).

#### Why is it useful?

These templates help you define: **objectives and context** by describing the aims of the research and the larger context in which it operates; **methodology and findings**; **impact assessment** of the research on different stakeholders, industries, policies, or societal aspects. They provide **pathways to impact** by outlining the channels or routes through which the research is expected to or has made an impact; **evidence of impact** that demonstrates the research's influence or contribution; and **lessons learned** by helping you reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the research process and outcomes.

#### Need more background?

An Impact Planning Template is a structured method of linking impact goals to publics/stakeholders, research findings and pathways to impact. If you find it challenging to start with impact goals, try identifying your publics/stakeholders and what they might be interested in, and then work back from there to your goals.





## **Examples of Impact Planning Template using HSRC projects**

Impact goal	Target stakeholders or publics	Reasons for being interested in the project	Activities to engage this target group	Indicators of successful engagement [and means of measurement]	Indicators of progress towards impact [means of measurement]	Risks to activities [and mitigation]	Risks to impact [and mitigation]	Who is responsible and what resources are needed?	Timing
Provides trend achievement measures in Mathematics and Science for Gr 5and 8 (TIMMS)	International collaborators National DBE Schools Teachers Learners Fieldworkers	Contributes towards educational outcomes of the country	Face-to-face meetings Radio/TV interviews Policy dialogues Seminars Zoom/team meetings Seminal papers	Dissemination and engagement metrics, number of meetings, radio/ TV presentations, seminars.	Draft policies Interventions/ programs Utilising/where research outputs are cited	Despite good strong evidence to provide policy and programmes directions, evidence not being used. Political influences	Lack of commitment from key players (DBE, teacher unions etc) to change	HSRC-funding and data	Every two years
Provide strategic information on national and sub- national progress towards control of the HIV epidemic in South Africa. (SABSSM)	CDC NDoH MRC UCT Lab Traditional leaders Fieldworkers Participants	Contribute towards production of data and strategic information needed for tracking and planning programmes	Policy dialogues Seminars Face-to-face meetings Radio/TV interviews Zoom/team meetings	Dissemination and engagement metrics, number of meetings, radio/ TV presentations, seminars.	Draft policies Interventions/ programs Utilising/where research outputs are cited	Timeliness of produced information products to inform policy and programming	Information products not being used to inform policies and/or programming	CDC-funding NDoH-Policy developers/ programs HSRC-Data	Series of surveys every 4/5 years
To provide evidence on food security in South Africa (FOOD SECURITY)	Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development Traditional leaders SAPS Fieldworkers SA households	Provide awareness about the state of food security/ insecurity in the country.	Face-to-face meetings Radio interviews Policy dialogues Seminars Zoom/team meetings	Collected data Smooth run project	Research dissemination Draft policies Interventions/ programs	Natural –rain Strikes within communities	Depletion of funds	Dept. of Agric- funding HSRC-data	Every 5 years



### Establish and explain your goals. WHY?

- Identify people involved (stakeholders, partners and audiences). WHO?
- The role each will play in achieving the goals. HOW?
- The necessary actions for delivering those goals. WHAT?

