

Inputs should also account for host country contributions to the project, either through the host institution or other avenues.

Assumptions

Assumptions cause the most trouble in a Log Frame. What is recorded is not as important as facing the question: "What has to happen in areas over which project management has no control for the project to be successful?" There are many hazards, some caused by pressure on the host institution from other donor projects, at times from the same donor.

Two errors are common in Log Frame assumptions. One of them virtually amounts to assuming away important problems or hazards to the project. Assuming the host government will make equipment, personnel, and funds available on a timely basis is one such case. Under severe resource constraints exacerbated at times by donor pressure, host institutions simply cannot meet these obligations, and experience in the country demonstrates that it cannot. Assuming that it will is an error.

Another common error is to assume certain factors that should be under the control of or influenced by either the project or the donor. By the time that the project is put in its final form, some conditions that you needed to assume in project development should have been attended to.

It is not reasonable to assume, for example, that "coordination and cooperation will continue between research and extension." If such coordination is precarious, then the project should address it. This is an item critical to institutional development and to success of the project.

Assuming success of project elements is not logical. For example, "small farmer research will be improved through training provided by project" or "effectiveness of extension will be improved by training and vehicles the project provides" are specific variables the project addresses. They do not logically fit in assumptions.

If host institution contribution is likely to be a real problem, it needs to be specifically addressed, either in the project or by donor-host government interaction as an extra-project activity. It cannot be assumed away.

Don't hesitate to write "No assumptions necessary."