

WHAT ARE ASSUMPTIONS?

Assumptions are external factors that are out of the control but necessary for the success of a project.

Assumptions and **risks** are two sides of the same coin.

Both influence the success of a project, assumptions do so positively and risks negatively.

Assumptions for each level are **identified during the design phase**.

They should be regularly reviewed during the implementation phase ensuring they are still relevant. By convention they are **framed positively**.

For any assumptions that are serious, they should be addressed in the risk matrix and mitigation measures should be planned.

Limit the number of assumptions to only those that are critical for success.



FOCUS

on assumptions whose probability is uncertain.



CHECK

if assumptions are clearly outside the control of a project.

Good M&E needs **clear** and **valid** assumptions. When objectives are not achieved or problems occur, often a flawed assumption is the underlying cause.

If important assumptions are very unlikely to be true, then they are “killer assumptions”.

In the case of a killer assumption, the concerned part of the project design must be reviewed.