Video Transcript: Introduction to the IRTS Theory of Change module

In this eLearning module we introduce theory of change in the context of Integration of Refugees through Sport, or IRTS for short. Theory of change is a technique of mapping out how services or products lead to impact within the context of a wider system and explores the assumptions behind this.

My name is Damian Hatton and I will be your host for this module. I am the Managing Director and a Senior Consultant at inFocus Consulting Ltd and in my role at inFocus, I have developed theories of change for a variety of organisations around the world. This has included both international NGOs such as UNDP, Terre des Hommes, Promundo-US, and the Clinton Foundation to mention a few; and a variety of local grassroots NGOs working in challenging conditions around the world.

There are seven main topics covered by this module, followed by a final assessment where you can test your knowledge gained from the videos, exercises and articles.

All too often refugees face discrimination in the countries in which they claim asylum and political rhetoric and media coverage can generate a range of misconceptions. We start the module with an exercise exploring some of the most common misconceptions about refugees.

We then go into a video and exercise introducing the theory of change technique and format that we use at inFocus including the situation; problem; target audience; stakeholders; impact; outcomes; activities; and assumptions.

We then turn to a case-study of theory of change in an IRTS context exploring each section of a theory of change in relation to the work of UISP in Italy, who have run IRTS programmes in refugee camps.

We then turn to the different scopes and levels of work at which different innervations operate within an IRTS context, that can all be reflected using theory of change, before looking at backwards mapping, one of the key differences between a theory of change and other, similar, techniques that map out how activities lead to outcomes and impact.

Next we look briefly at the history of theory of change and theory-based approaches in general, before exploring the different benefits of theory of change; as a basis for impact measurement, for marketing, communications and fundraising, to support strategic planning, and finally, for planning a new project and getting staff generally on the same page with one another with how change happens in the real world context.

Our final step in the course is to introduce templates and resources that you can use to develop your own theory of change.

That concludes this introduction to the theory of change IRTS module, we hope you find the content both enjoyable, as well as helpful in carrying out your work in the future.