

## Feasibility/piloting

- 1 Testing procedures
- 2 Estimating recruitment/retention
- 3 Determining sample size

### ToC strengthening

1. Identifies formative research questions by highlighting knowledge gap
2. Highlights barriers to implementation early on and helps develop strategies to overcome them
3. Improves piloting by providing evidence of links between early project activities and short-term outcomes to refine the intervention design

## Development

- 1 Identifying the evidence base
- 2 Identifying/developing theory
- 3 Modeling process and outcome

### ToC strengthening

1. Improves intervention design through:
  - a. Consensus building with stakeholders
  - b. Designing interventions that aim to cause real-world change
  - c. Embedding intervention within the context
  - d. Providing a frame for 'Theory'
2. Creates realistic expectations of impact of the intervention as stakeholders have to compromise on what outcomes are possible within the context and available resources

## Evaluation

- 1 Assessing effectiveness
- 2 Understanding change process
- 3 Assessing cost-effectiveness

### ToC strengthening

1. Allows for multiple pre-specified outcomes
2. Combines process and effectiveness evaluations
3. Helps disentangle which intervention components are most effective by explicitly measuring the impact of each intervention pathway.

## Implementation

- 1 Dissemination
- 2 Surveillance and monitoring
- 3 Long term follow-up

### ToC strengthening

1. Improves dissemination of results with a powerful visual, common sense tool which can be used throughout the project with a diverse range of stakeholders
  - a. Intervention description
  - b. Local buy-in and adoption of results
  - c. Illustrates 'active ingredients' of intervention to facilitate adaptation in new contexts