

Table x. Common designs used in TBIE.

<p>Contribution Analysis</p>	<p>A theory-based approach to verify the contribution a program has made to a change or set of change by exploring a range of evidence. In Contribution Analysis, it is proposed that it is reasonable to conclude that an intervention is contributing to outcomes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a reasoned Theory of Change. • The activities were implemented as intended. • The Theory of Change (or key elements) is supported and confirmed by evidence and the chain of expected results occurred and has not been disproved. • Alternative explanations and other contextual factors that are known to affect the desired outcomes have been assessed and either shown not to have made a significant contribution or their relative role acknowledged. <p>(Step 2 in the above process highlights the connection between CQI and impact evaluation alluded to earlier in this chapter.)</p> <p>A particular advantage of contribution analysis is that many of the steps can be undertaken in a participatory mode.</p>
<p>Realist Evaluation</p>	<p>Realist evaluation is specifically focused on understanding what works, in what situations, for whom and why. It is based on the premise that social programs only ever work for certain people in certain circumstances, and the central task is to understand and explain these patterns of success and failure. It explores this through identifying, articulating, testing, and refining a program's explanatory components, that is context(s), mechanisms, and outcomes.</p> <p>Based on the evidence collected, a set of specific context-mechanism-outcome (CMO) statements are developed: "In this context, that particular mechanism fired for these actors, generating those outcomes. In that context, this other mechanism fired, generating these different outcomes."</p>
<p>Process Tracing</p>	<p>Process tracing is a case-based approach to causal inference which focuses on the use of clues within a case (causal-process observations) to decide between alternative possible explanations.</p> <p>Process tracing involves four types of causal tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straw in the wind, which lends support for an explanation without definitively ruling it in or out. • Hoop, failed when examination of a case shows the presence of a necessary causal condition, when the outcome of interest is not present. Common hoop conditions are more persuasive than uncommon ones. • Smoking gun, passed when examination of a case shows the presence of a sufficient causal condition. Uncommon smoking gun conditions are more persuasive than common ones. • Doubly definitive, passed when examination of a case shows that a condition provides both necessary and sufficient support for the explanation. These tend to be rare. <p>Process tracing can be used both to see if results are consistent with the ToC and to see if alternative explanations can be ruled out. It can also be combined with advanced quantitative methods, where the probability of a contribution claim being true is calculated statistically, to help to strengthen causal claims.</p>