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How to achieve impact from research





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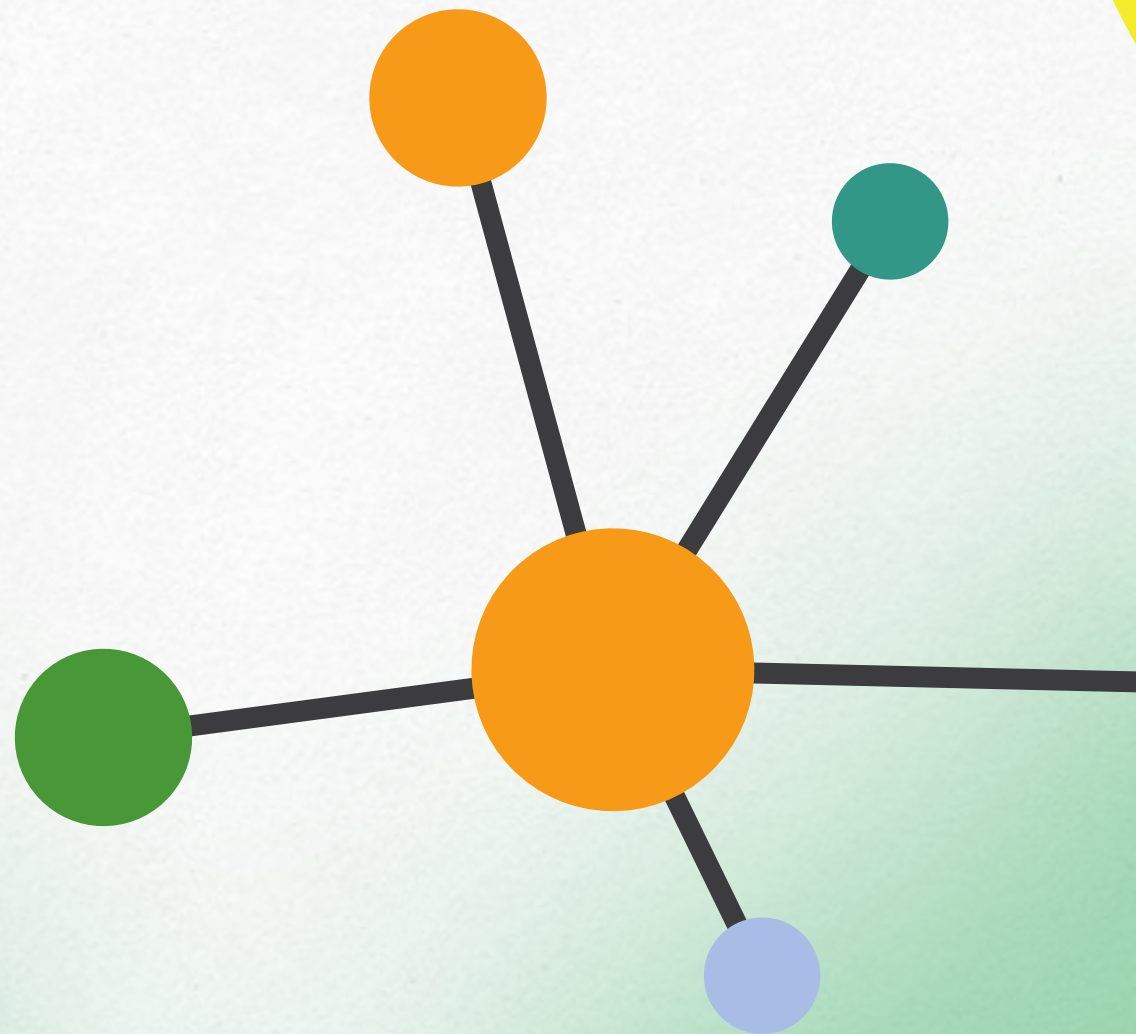
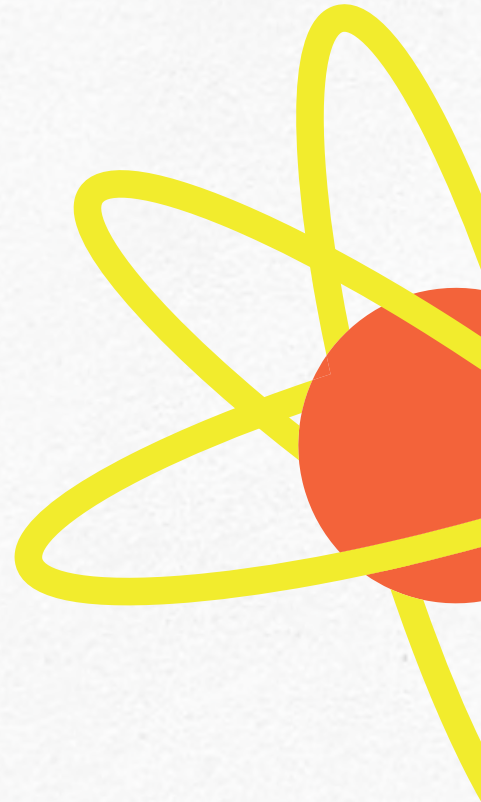


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Transforming science into real-world change is a challenge.

Insights on what enabled CGIAR Climate Security and partners to succeed can be useful for other research-for-development efforts.





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In 2023–2024, CGIAR Climate Security and partners achieved 12 outcomes, including:

- informing Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan III to counter climate-related security risks
- shaping Zambia's Green Growth Strategy to achieve peace and security under climate change
- equipping Guatemalan civil servants to better manage climate-induced migration
- enabling UNHCR to issue credible calls to protect 90 million people on the frontlines of climate change





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The power of storytelling

CGIAR Climate Security documented research outcomes in a story format.

The stories help to communicate what was achieved, and also serve as a strategic tool for reflecting on what made impact possible.



Our outcome story approach

- 1 Identify outcomes, such as changes in policy, practice, knowledge, and skill
- 2 Review research outputs and discuss with researchers
- 3 Interview demand, innovation, and scaling partners
- 4 Craft a narrative that documents the trajectory from research to outcome





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Top enablers of outcomes, according to our partners



We analyzed our interviews with partners to identify what they perceived as top enablers of outcomes.



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This partnership helps us to understand the current situation better, and it helps us to prioritize.

– partner at UNHCR

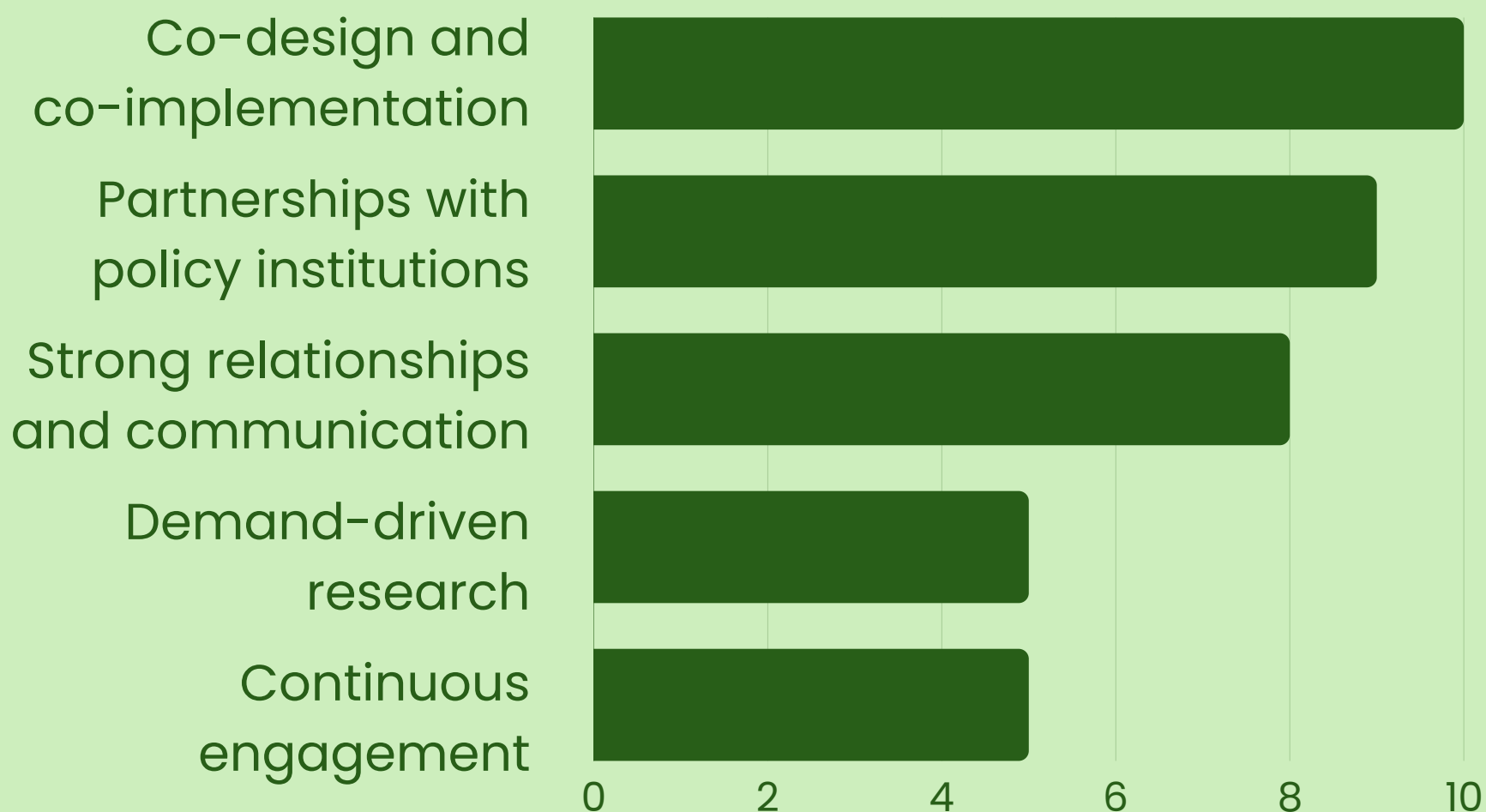


The collaboration with the CGIAR Climate Security team also provided us with the gift of a credible voice.

– partner at regional university in the Philippines



Top enablers of outcomes, according to our researchers



We asked our team of researchers to pinpoint what enables outcomes, based on their experience.



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Our presence in these countries is kind of an intangible, but it's really, really important.

– CGIAR Climate Security researcher

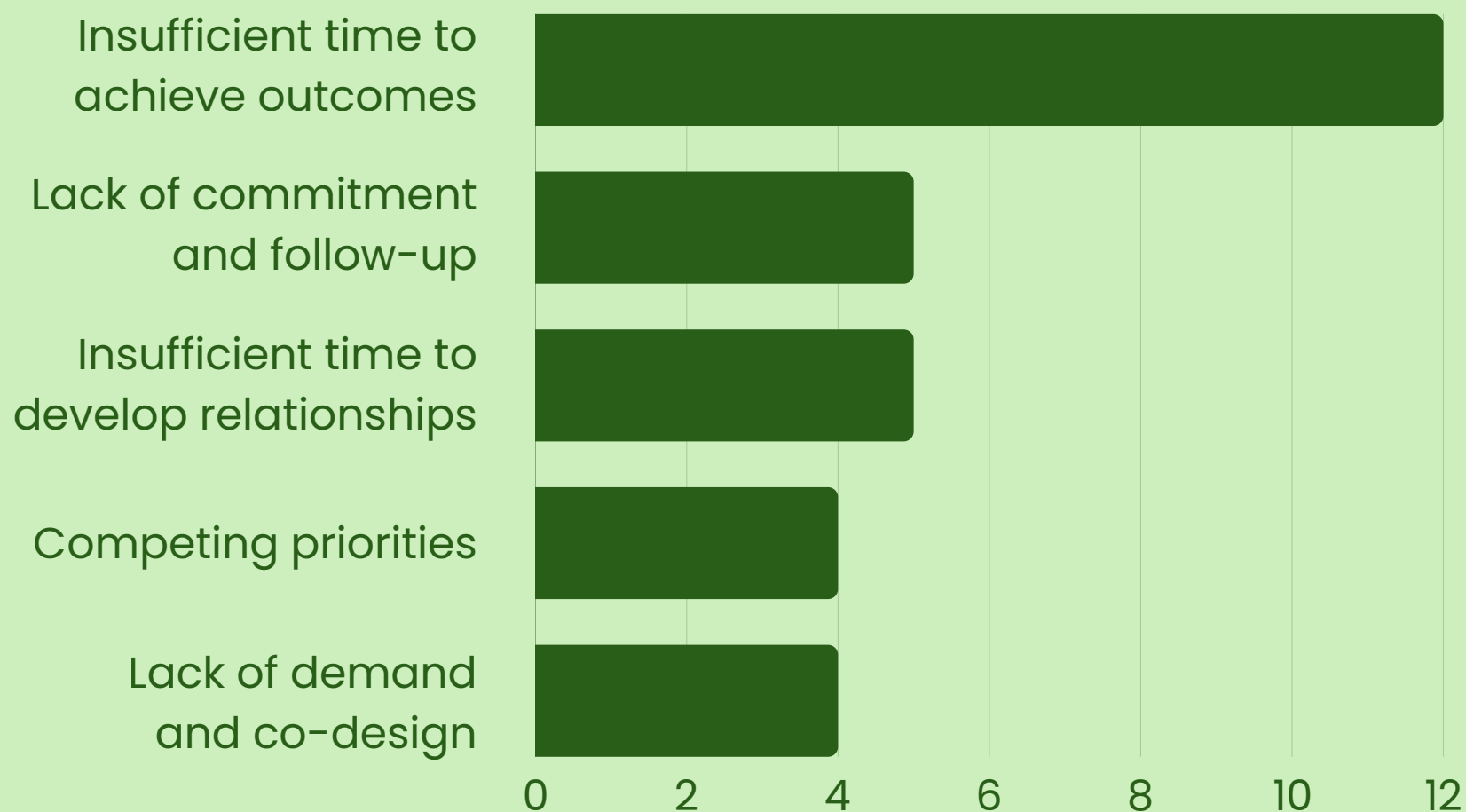


Having a collaborative and cooperative attitude across all partners builds a reputation.

– CGIAR Climate Security researcher



Top challenges to achieving desired outcomes, according to our researchers



We also asked our team of researchers to reflect on what challenges outcomes from research.





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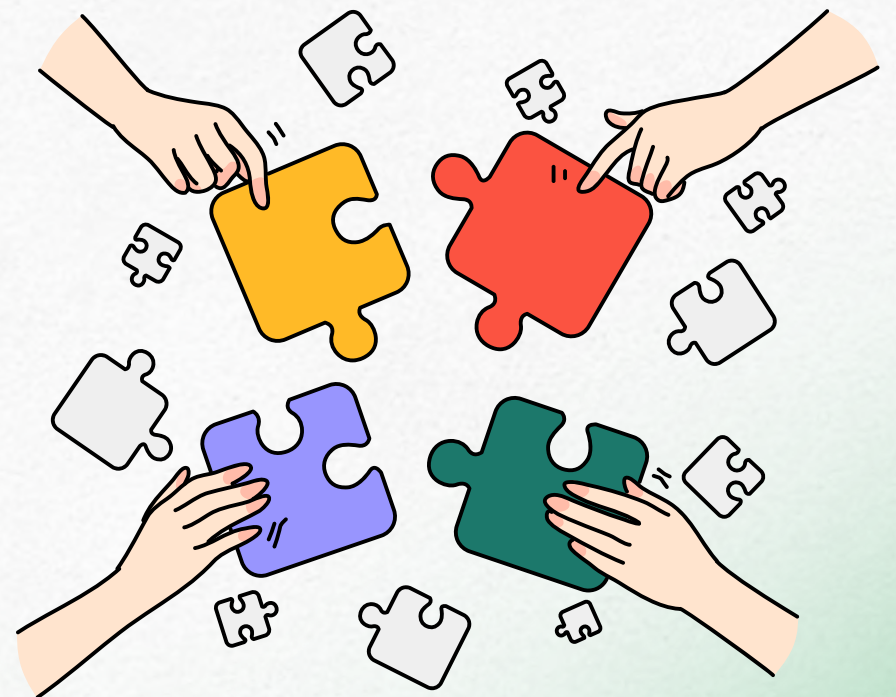


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1 Insight

**Co-design enables
partners to recognize
the value of research**





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Co-designing and co-implementing research through a cooperative and participatory process is important.

It enables partners to recognize how **evidence, data, and research expertise** can help them reach their objectives and achieve joint outcomes.





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2 Insight

**Achieving desired
outcomes from
research takes time**





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Demand-driven research outputs are more likely to produce outcomes. But outcomes might only materialize after several years.

The outcome story process can help **link research outputs to outcomes**, making outcome trajectories clearer and thereby informing planning and prioritization.





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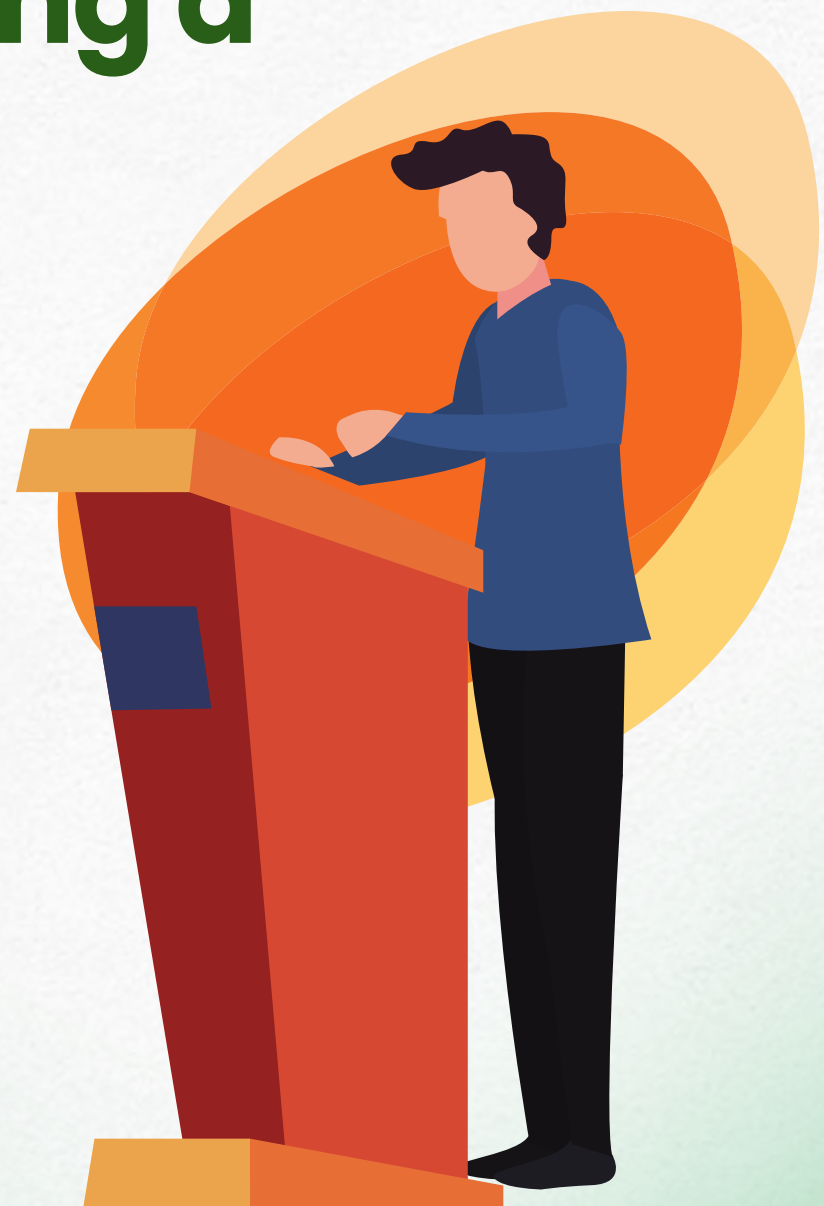


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3 Insight

**Investing in building a
strong reputation
pays off**





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Providing robust evidence of previous research outcomes lends validity and credibility to your organization's reputation.

A strong reputation can spark interest from valuable partners.



4 lessons for research-for-development initiatives

- 1 Respond to specific demands and understand that meaningful change takes years.
- 2 Co-design research with partners from day one to achieve joint outcomes.
- 3 Invest in building a strong reputation to attract valuable partners.
- 4 Document outcomes in a story format to better understand what makes impact possible.





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These insights are based on 13 interviews with partners, 1 outcome-harvesting workshop with partners, and 1 reflection workshop with the CGIAR Climate Security team.

[READ the Insight Note for more.](#)