How to

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How to – introduction

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In this chapter we look at some examples of specific workflows in causal mapping, mostly illustrated with the Causal Map app. It's work in progress, we only have a couple of pages at this point.

If you want to know about how to answer specific questions with causal mapping, look here:

Individual questions -- introduction

Print view of links

Bundle: Diet improved; Diversified >> Improved health

Source: MNY-5

The meals I buy in the market have changed because I have the option to buy various goods. The spare food type has change as I now have access to better seeds for my farm and some material.

Increased

The motive for this change is in the varieties of foods cultivated in my farm, in my livestock creation and also in the food varieties from the market.

More variety

The reason is as a result of the varieties and the different foods. We have a variety of good in the market. Some from my garden and it is the reason I am healthy.

Source: MSX-1

Increased

MORE FOOD VARIETIES THAT GENERATED A GOOD NUTRITION IN THE FAMILY overall AND WE ALSO CONSERVE MORE FOOD. Increased from the introduction production of horticulture such as tomatoes, onions these enabled more food. With tomatoes and onions we could now do stew to avoid only eating green vegetables.

More variety

AFTER, THE GOOD WAYS OF CONSERVATION OF FOOD AND VARIETIES IN FOODS HELPED A GOOD RESULT IN THE HEALTH OF THE FAMILY.

Recoding labels temporarily

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Recoding labels temporarily

Sometimes you want to improve your factor labels (cause/effect text) without changing the original data. You might want to:

- **Experiment safely** — try different prompts or AI settings without overwriting what you coded
- **Iterate** — run factor relabelling several times, refining the prompt each time, until you're happy
- **Compare** — switch between original and improved labels to see the difference
- **Review before committing** — only merge into the main cause/effect fields when you're satisfied

The app supports this with two features that work together: **Temporary Cause/Effect Fields** (a filter) and **Target suffix** (in AI Answers → Factors).

How it works

1. **Create temporary columns.** When you run factor relabelling, you can choose a "Target suffix" (e.g. `_temp` or `_version1`). Instead of overwriting `cause` and `effect`, the AI writes to `cause_temp`/`effect_temp` (or `cause_version1`/`effect_version1`). Your original labels stay untouched.

2. **Show them on the map.** Add the **Temporary Cause/Effect Fields** filter in the Filter Links tab. Point it at those same columns (e.g. cause_temp, effect_temp). The map will display the recoded labels instead of the originals.

3. **Iterate.** With the filter active, you can run factor relabelling again. The AI will work on the *current* temp labels (what you see on the map), not the originals. So you can refine prompts, fix odd results, and run again — all without touching the underlying data.

4. **When you're happy**, you can either leave the temp columns as a separate view for analysis, or merge them into the main cause/effect fields if you want to make the changes permanent. The easiest way to do that is with Save As Currently Filtered.

Summary

- **Why:** Experiment, iterate, and compare label improvements without changing your original coding.
- **How:** Use a Target suffix when running factor relabelling, then add the Temporary Cause/Effect Fields filter to display those labels on the map. You can then run factor relabelling again to refine the temp labels further.

