

SIPOC Methodology

SIPOC (Suppliers, Inputs, Process, Outputs, Customers) is a lean tool to map processes end-to-end.

Elements of a SIPOC:

Suppliers: Internal/external providers of inputs Inputs: Materials, information etc. needed Process: High level representation of activities Outputs: Products, services, documents etc. produced Customers: Internal/external recipients of outputs

Benefits:

- Visualizes the complete value chain at a glance
- Clarifies process linkages, dependencies and stakeholders
- Helps identify optimization opportunities
- Enables documentation of processes

Using SIPOC:

- Map current state to crystallize improvement areas
- Define future state to establish process guidelines
- Guide ERP configurations and requirements
- Develop test scenarios based on various conditions

Guidance for SIPOC maps:

- Keep high-level with major steps only
- Show single units of input and output
- Link to sub-process details as needed
- Update regularly as processes evolve

SIPOC provides a simple yet powerful way to define processes comprehensively. This drives documentation, analysis and improvement.