

PATH OF JOINT ACTION

Building Partnerships for Collective Impact

You have chosen to work on building partnerships for collective impact. The steps of this Path guide you in setting up an effective collaboration and jointly tackling a specific social issue or problem. The collaboration may take place between two or more CSOs or may be cross-sectoral – diversity in a collective impact partnership usually fosters innovative and transformative solutions.

WHO SHOULD GET INVOLVED?

This Path should be taken by you and your partners together. The ideal setting is a group of 10-15 people, and includes representatives of all partners from both a strategic/governance level and an operational/program level within each organization.

Note: If you are not sure about the ideal composition of your partnership, it may be helpful to conduct an upfront stakeholder analysis to find out who is needed to tackle the issue (see Method Card [Stakeholder Analysis \(34\)](#)).



AT THE END OF THIS SESSION YOU WILL HAVE:

- A common understanding of the issue at hand and a shared vision and purpose for the partnership.
- A joint system of tracking success in regards to the issue.
- A clear and effective structure of roles within the partnership.
- A set of agreements on communication, information sharing, and strategic steps.

PREPARATION

All partners should be clear about their own strategic intent, capabilities, resource availability, and constraints in regards to the focal issue. Furthermore, partners should prepare the Worksheet [Projects as an Interface \(24\)](#).

Prominently visualize the focal issue or the jointly addressed problem somewhere in the room (written/illustrated on a flipchart paper).

MATERIALS

- Markers
- Flip Chart
- Large Pin Board
- Moderation Cards
- Sticky Notes
- Figures (3 red & 3 green per person)

TOOLS

Method Cards:

- Vision Statement for Guidance (20)
- Problem Tree and Solution Tree for New Strategy (21)
- Stakeholder Analysis (34)
- Creating a Shared Vision (44)
- Defining Partnership Roles (45)
- Partnership Assessment (46)

Background Papers:

- Collective Impact (31)
- Partnership Assessment Table (32)
- How to Start Planning a Project (33)

Worksheet:

- Problem Tree (10)
- Solution Tree (11)
- Projects as an Interface (24)

ORIENTATION 60MIN

HOST / PREPARATION GROUP: Introduce Path and day program. If suitable, propose and agree on ground rules for the meeting (e.g., confidentiality, communication practices, conflict resolution).

First round and discussion:

Initiate a short round of sharing the results of partners' answers to the **Project as an Interface (24)** ■■

Meet in mixed triads (groups of three) to share brief stories of successes and challenges around the issue in your work.

INPUT TO PATH CANVAS: The challenges that you noted down in your triads.

GROUNDWORK 120MIN

To facilitate a common understanding of the jointly addressed issue, develop a **Problem Tree and Solution Tree for New Strategy (21)** ■■

Share and add sticky notes to indicate which problem causes are already being addressed by whom in the partnership.

INPUT TO PATH CANVAS: 3-5 core causes/sub-issues of the problem the partnership is addressing.

SUMMIT 90MIN

HOST / PREPARATION GROUP: Present the **Collective Impact (31)** ■■

Work through the steps of **Creating a Shared Vision (44)** ■■

Identify 3 indicators that would show progress towards the shared vision.

Explore in a round of statements from each person if and how all partners can agree to contributing to the monitoring of these indicators.

INPUT TO PATH CANVAS: One sentence vision statement for the partnership and 3 indicators.

OUTLOOK 70MIN

Work through **Defining Partnership Roles (45)** ■■

INPUT TO PATH CANVAS: The primary role of each partner.

ACTION PLAN 65MIN

Use **Partnership Assessment (46)** ■■ to take a closer look at your future collaboration within the partnership.

INPUT TO PATH CANVAS: Green/red ratio for each field and priorities to work on and next steps.

CLOSING 30MIN

Final round / Check Out
Allow a moment for everyone to reflect individually on the meeting before you go into a final check out round together.