

Tools for Collective Impact

About Collective Impact

Collective Impact is a set of principles and conditions for tackling complex social problems that cannot be solved by a single organization. The CI, or cluster model, organizes five effective behaviors of successful systems change initiatives: 1. an anchoring organization to convene, 2. diverse actors around a common agenda, 3. supported by strategic alignment and 4. continuous communication, with 5. agreed measurements of systems change.

Clusters

Clusters are made up of diverse actors including government, civil society organizations, community groups, businesses with a unique combination of skills, services, interests, knowledge and influence needed to understand and strategize around the pieces of the problem.

Anchors

Anchor organizations maintain a neutral and productive space to convene the cluster. An anchor needs credibility, connections, and sector expertise to mobilize the cluster, build trust, facilitate continuous communication, and coordinate individual roles and responsibilities.

How We Support Collective Impact

Root Change designs and facilitates innovative capacity building approaches to support systems-oriented and adaptive programs. We introduce new ways of viewing organizational capacity as capacity 2.0: skills for networked and localized impact. We help collaborative leaders design, test, and adapt the tools they need to mobilize and sustain collective action. Our approaches to strengthening collective action incorporate experiential skills building, tools to track progress, and metrics to visualize power and influence.



Transformational Program Design

We design and support the processes, exchanges and resources to shift the power.



Relationship Mapping

Automatically-generated network maps to visualize organizations and relationships.



Data-Driven Facilitation

Shared data on relationships, strategies, and outcomes make it easy to leverage everyone's contribution.



Tools for Shared Measurement

Tools for reflective capacity building, network analysis, and outcome harvesting track progress.

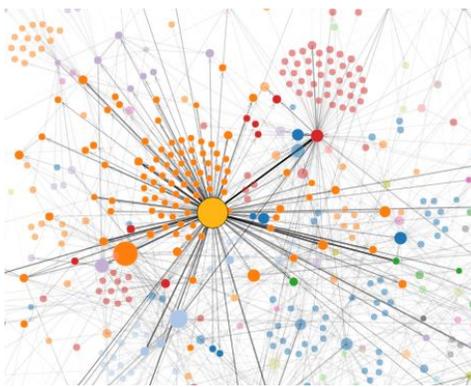


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Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE) Program

Root Change worked with Chemonics and the USAID-funded SACE program in Nigeria to support 18 clusters of advocacy and public engagement organizations trying to influence social issues ranging from open budgeting in education to accessibility of infant and newborn health services.

Drawing on collective impact principles, insights from network mapping and analysis, and regular feedback, this five-year program worked with anchors and cluster members to develop the information, knowledge, and skills to coordinate and track their efforts at the national and state levels in Nigeria. Among SACE's outcomes, cluster collaborations have contributed to the passage of legislation to increase national and state budgets for healthcare, youth development, and school accessibility.



Network Mapping

Root Change introduced network mapping at the beginning of the SACE program to identify the diverse organizations working on specific advocacy issues. Throughout the SACE program, anchors and cluster members have updated their relationship data to reevaluate the flow of information and show how cluster members' connections could support each other. Root Change uses its online platform Pando (www.mypando.org/) to demystify the network analysis needs of collective impact initiatives.

Cluster Feedback

Successful collaborative work depends on trust among actors. In Collective Impact initiatives anchored by a backbone organization, leveling power dynamics between the anchor and cluster members requires regular communication within the group. Cluster feedback provides a lightweight mechanism to anonymously capture perceptions within the cluster and provide a space to surface underlying issues.



Strategy Alignment

Clusters track activities and outcomes over time using shared strategy/outcomes matrices. These maps visualize the varied contributions of the cluster members, allowing the group to develop coordinated strategies and support each other's activities and constituencies. Supported by cluster coaching, clusters shift their strategies over time as members learn from each other's work.