



Building Capacity to Measure Impact: A Private Foundation's Vision

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Strategy

Improve development outcomes, build lasting community connections, and advance peace by mobilizing religious leaders and communities to address common challenges.



Building Evaluation Capacity

- Our partners may know they are doing good, but can they demonstrate it to others?
- Partners' needs include:
 - Robust independent evaluations
 - Enhanced evaluative thinking (internally)
 - Longer-term developmental evaluations

GHR's Approach to Evaluation

- Goals: Accountability & Learning – for us and our partners, with emphasis on learning
- Two challenges:
 1. Partners differ in evaluative capacity
 2. Shaky evidence around inter-religious action
- Building capacity for evaluation – Two core principles:
 - Foster trust and open conversations around expectations/needs on both sides
 - One size does not fit all



Case #1: Mercy Corps

Inter-religious Peacebuilding in Northern Nigeria (IPNN)

- Strong evaluation systems/framework
- GHR's role: Seek to understand and support creative approaches to evaluation and sharing knowledge



Case #2: Religions for Peace (RfP)

- Global network w/ wide range of evaluation experiences
- GHR's role: Provide resources to support's RfP's desire to strengthen evidence of impact across network; connect RfP to evaluators with appropriate skills/sensitivities

Myths and Fallacies

- Good work speaks for itself.
- Foundations are only interested in quantitative data.
- Foundations are monoliths.
- Funders know what they want.

Suggestions

- Evaluations should stimulate conversations between funders and grantees
 - Help your funders absorb key findings
 - Don't let your evaluation report speak for itself – show how you learn/adapt
 - Remember that grant/project evaluations inform donor strategies – seek to understand your funding partner
- Be clear about what you don't know – we don't expect you to have all the answers



Critical Next Steps

- Seeking evidence showing if/when/how inter-religious action improves development outcomes and builds peace – can you help?
- Continue to engage with our partners and others to learn and adjust our strategies
- Invite others to evaluate our own work – the IRA initiative and our partnerships
- Connect our partners – we learn from them, and they learn from each other

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

THANK YOU
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