Partnering for more effective aid and development

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Why should researchers and international development organisations work together?

• Combining resources for greater impact
• Multi-sector approach in order to address complex problems
• Combining multiple sets of knowledge in order to create new knowledge
• Creating multiple pathways to use evidence and influence policy and practice
What are the benefits of partnership?

“You make a good point; we both hate the cat. I’m just not sure what it is you’d bring to a partnership.”

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How to Partner for Development Research
What is partnership?

A continuum of practice

Level of involvement of researchers and NGOs, and other stakeholders

Source: Adapted from Partnership Brokers Association
What is partnership?

A continuum of practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not integration</th>
<th>Autonomous</th>
<th>Cooperative</th>
<th>Coordinated</th>
<th>Collaborative</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organisations operate independently</td>
<td>Remain independent but network and share information</td>
<td>Some joint planning</td>
<td>Shared culture, visions, values and resources</td>
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<td>Low commitment</td>
<td>Often project-based coordination</td>
<td>Medium commitment</td>
<td>Joint planning and delivery of some services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Informal arrangements</td>
<td>Semi-formal partnerships</td>
<td>High commitment</td>
<td>Formalised partnerships</td>
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The value of transformation

Transdisciplinary research

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein
## How to partner?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepare</th>
<th>Manage</th>
<th>Review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find a partner that’s going to work best for you</td>
<td>Measure and reflect on your milestones</td>
<td>Measure the value and impact of the partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish the foundation of partnership</td>
<td>Manage any emerging challenges to your partnership</td>
<td>Build ongoing partnerships</td>
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<td>Establish working arrangements to carry out the research</td>
<td>Conduct partnership health checks</td>
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<td>Define research outputs and communication for impact</td>
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The....How to partner?
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What we know about the value of partnership for development outcomes

⭐️ Credible evidence to inform policy
⭐️ Stocks and flows of knowledge – for thinking and practice
⭐️ Learning for refinement in project implementation
⭐️ Staff and organisational development
⭐️ Critical and constructive
Development research in partnership

- Go in with your eyes wide open
- Communicate honestly and create shared commitment
- Check in on your partnership
- Respect and value all partner contributions