Delivering on the Promise: Driving Collaboration for the SDGs

Webinar, June 30ᵗʰ 2016

Transcript of comments:

(links shared separately and comments not addressing the content of the webinar e.g. "Thanks to the panelists!" left out in the interest of concision)

From David Nabarro to Everyone: (02:16 p.m.)
Greetings to all from David. What an exciting paper. Platforms can provide safe spaces where trust and respect can flourish and this leads to opportunities for extraordinary and unusual progress. Conflicts are inevitable: if there is trust they are more easily handled. I am interested in the context within which platforms operate.

From stefan to Everyone: (02:17 p.m.)
PMNCH as part of county of country level multi stakeholder dialogues that are planned for the coming months, national babyWASH coalition efforts are facilitated to bring key stakeholders in WASH, Nutrition, Health, Education together for improved collaboration and delivery at scale.

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:17 p.m.)
The 'shift' needed to assure the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships fit for Agenda 2030 purposes in the 21st century will require urgent attention to challenging assumptions about existing 'development models' and new performance metrics.

From Dadirai to Everyone: (02:19 p.m.)
This is assuming that the government is willing to engage

From Noel to Everyone: (02:19 p.m.)
Noel Schroeder from Women Thrive Alliance here: Am curious how an approach with governments at the center can adequately counteract power asymmetries and include civil society as equal partners in SDG implementation.

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:20 p.m.)
Great to have WV at the table - otherwise the danger is that we have a flurry of 'northern'/elitist activity that doesn't begin to address programme realities for the vast majority of people left behind. None of us can afford for that to continue.

From Valerie Amato to Everyone: (02:20 p.m.)
How could we use systems thinking to accelerate implementation of the SDGs?

From Dadirai to Everyone: (02:21 p.m.)
Dadirai Caritas internationalis - these partnerships are assuming that government is willing to engage

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:22 p.m.)
Also good to have people who think 'relationally' not just financially and technically to refresh the narrative on inequality and injustice.

From stefan to Everyone: (02:23 p.m.)
Leaving egos and logos behind to jointly solve common global public goods issues... critical message from David

From Dr. A. Labigne to Everyone: (02:26 p.m.)
How can we scale real, serious cooperation betwenn "forprofits" and "nonprofits"? Not to fund NPOs but to make forprofits better and stronger. And what is a better name for "nonprofits"? CSOs like civil society organizations?

From JessieHenshaw to Everyone: (02:29 p.m.)
How do we measure our pressures on the unstable systems of society and nature as we put ever growing pressure on them??

From David Kupp to Everyone: (02:29 p.m.)
Good point about language, Dr Labigne. 'Social enterprises' and other orgs are also blurring the lines between for- and non-profits.

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:29 p.m.)
There is growing expertise in 'strategic foresight' circles in Geneve to bring influential people from different UN organisations, disciplines, constituencies, to brainstorm on possible, plausible/probably and preferred futures, back casting to identify outdated world views, research gaps, changes in policy and purposeful investment in scaling up proven approaches at the grass roots to accelerate systemic change and multiply immediate but sustainable benefit for the most vulnerable.

From Sebastian to Everyone: (02:30 p.m.)
Dear all, the platform approach seems most interesting and promising to scale up and make a difference but it should take better into account the political economy and incentive structures so that policy makers actually translate policies into practice, which is ultimately the elephant in the room for various issues but particularly for stimulating businesses to invest and act responsibly, inclusively and sustainably.

From jkwak to Everyone: (02:30 p.m.)
Thank you so much David. I heartily agree. To have the heart of a learner and seeking to serve is something we all need to truly achieve the vision of the SDGs.

From David Nabarro to Everyone: (02:34 p.m.)
I would love to share thoughts. David Nabarro email nabarro@un.org cell (for texts) +41 78 610 2625

From JessieHenshaw to Everyone: (02:34 p.m.)
I think it's not the "country" level exactly that's been left out, but the "culture" level, they are two very different kinds of voices, and for development it's the cultural development that is really, not the business or project development. So who speaks for the needs of the cultures and their learning and growth as a whole??

From Trihadi Saptoadi to Everyone: (02:34 p.m.)
I 'd love to hear your thoughts my email address trihadi_saptoadi@wvi.org

From Dr. A. Labigne to Everyone: (02:35 p.m.)
Jane Nelson, is this about subsidiarity? I mean like: "a central authority should have a subsidiary (that is, a supporting, rather than a subordinate) function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level."

From David Nabarro to Everyone: (02:35 p.m.)
I like this reference to culture - and it makes me wonder what "cultural sensitivity" means in practice and how to encourage it. "Platform working" opens up opportunities for seeing issues through the eyes, hearts and minds of different persons and groups

From David Nabarro to Everyone: (02:36 p.m.)
Make the local into the centre of operations, and headquarters as the support: I think business does that a lot

From JessieHenshaw to Everyone: (02:37 p.m.)
If people want to know about my work generally, write sy@synapse9.com.   I'm a natural systems scientist active at the UN.

From Cecilia to Everyone: (02:37 p.m.)
Hi all, Cecilia Brady here from USAID's partnership team. Completely agree with Jane's point about the full spectrum of business engagement. Important point, especially across different national contexts.

From Dr. A. Labigne to Everyone: (02:39 p.m.)
Defintely, Cecilia, we should not forget about straight forward "helping" when talking about strategic core business CSR only!

From kits to Everyone: (02:39 p.m.)
Harry with World Vision Canada. I think the report was nuanced about government "running" the platform. Government remains a duty bearer, how does the platform strengthen the best of that "duty bearer" role, and demonstrate transparency and accountability of both the platform and the government.

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:39 p.m.)
Just a reminder that there are very few donors who are prepared to finance the 'process' of partnering. If we don't resource the investment in partnering, the default is for existing distribution of power to be maintained despite the adoption/adaptation of participatory language. This is where shared commitment to authentic accountability is essential to retain legitimacy (rather than co-option). We don't need more 'centres' of learning on partnering skills, we need to learn by doing.

From JessieHenshaw to Everyone: (02:39 p.m.)

One way is for all projects to need a true cultural buy-in, not easy to define, but aim is for the people to know what's being done to change their world and to widely approve

From pascale.bonzom to Everyone: (02:40 p.m.)
Hi Cecilia! Great to read you! Pascale Bonzom from UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development cluster in Addis, here. Totally agree with you. The appetite from Private Sector engagement varies across enterprises and contexts.

From pascale.bonzom to Everyone: (02:42 p.m.)
We have talked about who should lead platforms, but how about who should facilitate these platforms? What should be the key criteria for selecting a good facilitator (both in terms of institutions and individuals)?

From Dadirai to Everyone: (02:42 p.m.)
The 'local' is very much abused most of the times. Most of these local companies will still be controlled from global levels. How can we make the local platforms thrive as local as possible?

From Beris L Gwynne to Everyone: (02:42 p.m.)
Let's re-visit the UN SG's "Information and Accountability Commission" model for the platforms. Check out 'relational analytics'. Also Karen Wilson's work (for OECD) on separating the sheep from the goats in impact investing.

From Noel to Everyone: (02:42 p.m.)
@Beris: Great point on need for funding for the process of partnering. Similar with Jane's mention of grassroots organizations' lack of resources needed to participate in these partnerships in the first place. How do we get the donor community/governments to finance these processes and engage all stakeholders?

From stefan to Everyone: (02:43 p.m.)
A key sector we seem to be often missing in existing platforms is the financial sector and their need to engage in innovative financing mechanisms, such as impact investment, Development Impact Bonds etc. This is an important aspect but currently only large international banks, like UBS, JPM etc. are involved but not many national banks.

From ffriedrich to Everyone: (02:44 p.m.)
Contributors above mentioned "cultural buy-in", and the fact that the process of partnering needs to be financed, rather than just using existing expertise to dominate interventions. For us, this is encapsulated in the areas of capacity strengthening and what I'll call "policy impact"; ultimately, you have to accept that things may be more complicated, need more flexibility, and possibly cost more, if you don't just "deliver an outcome" but actually build local capabilities in sustainable and resilient ways.

From Dadirai to Everyone: (02:44 p.m.)
Most platforms are formed by those that have resources so the leadership that we are talking about here is lost. How do we get the donors to finance but disengage?

From Valerie Amato to Everyone: (02:45 p.m.)

System leadership...

From JLS to Everyone: (02:47 p.m.)
"Trust bulding" seems to be a core issue to overcome the business as usual schemes. But we have to bear in mind that It`s not only about different actors but also societies and cultures.

From Annie Beaulieu to Everyone: (02:47 p.m.)
Hi everyone, thanks for sharing all your insights. I'm working on a new global collective initiative to leverage sustainable tourism for development (SDGs) integrating most of what we are discussing. We are still at the very early design stage to ensure the inclusion of all stakeholders views… so if you would like to share any ideas for collaboration, please contact me via Linkedin Annie Beaulieu or email, annieb@freeedom.is or WhatsApp +61 439 626 585. I hope to attend the HLPF Partnership Exchange, so maybe we can talk then!

From JessieHenshaw to Everyone: (02:52 p.m.)
The first problem with not leaving the most vulnerable behind is to somehow stop increasing the pressures making more and more people increasingly vulnerable... not easy to think about, but forces one to realize we have not actually addressed the root problems yet…

From Annie Beaulieu to Everyone: (02:55 p.m.)
Some platform could be for purpose for profit with a mix of donors and government support and private investment, but that required a new innovative approach like B Corporation and a shift for donor or impact investors to "donate" to for profit for purpose initiative… this will of course work when there is a product/services to sell and where we can drive sustainable consumption to drive positive change.

From David Nabarro to Everyone: (02:58 p.m.)
I heard this the other day about LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND: "Find those who are hidden; count those who are not measured; see those who are not seen; hear and respond to those without voice - do it in ways that avoid exposing them to oppression or disadvantage

From stefan to Everyone: (02:58 p.m.)
Patient Capital is a critical elements for successful partnerships that aim to tackle complex issues. Exellent input from David

From saida to Everyone: (02:59 p.m.)
saida benhayoune from MIT D-Lab: Thank you all for your insightful remarks. We have been experimenting over the last 2 years with a multistakeholder platform that is focused on knowledge exchange but does have goals for leadership and mindset development among diverse organisations. http://impact-alliance.mit.edu/. One powerful tool we have experimented with is locally based summits. Happy to share more if there is interest.