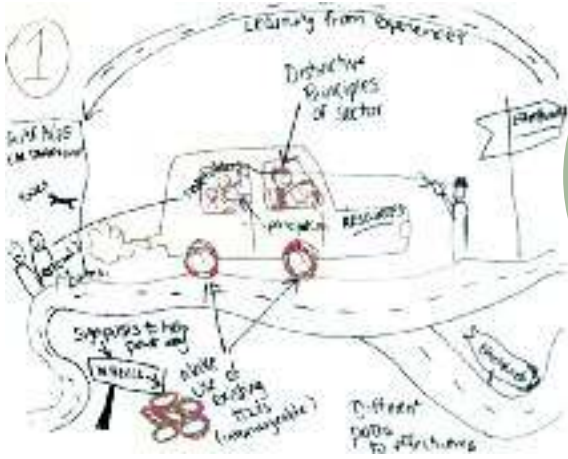


Meeting of minds and moving ahead



• A sample of group work on the scope of the effectiveness framework

“I am impressed by the number of organisations who took learning from challenges very seriously.”

Small NGO leader

Julian Srodecki, Effectiveness Programme Manager, provides an update on recent progress and outlines how you can help define the NGO Effectiveness Framework.

In February 2010, 40 staff from 30 organisations met to discuss the way forward for a common NGO Effectiveness Framework.

This was a watershed moment for the Effectiveness Programme as it begins to shift from general discussions towards developing content. Most participants valued the journey that we are on, particularly the process so far and opportunities to learn from others. Building on this, we need to all work together to define the framework.

To see a summary report of the event, go to bond.org.uk/effectiveness and the Past meetings and events section.

What did the event achieve?

A good understanding of the context and need for the NGO Effectiveness Framework

Those newer to discussion felt that the event was a valuable learning and networking exercise. Others felt that it was going over old ground and the debate needs to move on. At this stage differences of opinion are not a bad thing – they help to strengthen our thinking. Bridging this gap and moving forward together will be key to the success of the programme.

Proposals for the scope of the framework

A majority of those present were supportive of suggestions to keep the framework simple, involve the field, look at both programme and organisational effectiveness and allow NGOs to

choose their own tools and approaches when using the framework. In the group work, additional themes emerged around empowering beneficiaries, sharing best practice and measuring the value of our contribution. There were also calls to change the incentives driving our work and to develop a common vision of effectiveness and then build on it.

Recommendations on the content of the framework and how to take the work forward

Participants made recommendations for content as follows:

- the need to empower and be accountable to beneficiaries
- measuring our results and evidence of change
- organisational learning
- partnerships and relationships with field partners
- best practice and standards and learning

What themes emerged during the event?

- **The majority of people are positive**, particularly about the process, learning and networking opportunities in group work and the experience of the February consultation event.
- **There is support for a framework but we need to clarify some things** around what it is for and how it fits with donor agendas.

- **Facilitation at the event was excellent, but a minority felt that Bond could listen better** and be more inclusive when identifying and analysing programme trends.
- **The majority want to move forward on content, while a significant minority wanted to finalise work on scope.** Differences remain on the details but these need to be worked out in smaller groups.
- **Excellent content and new thinking was developed during the event** that needs to be incorporated into the programme.

How will we go forward?

Small groups will work to develop recommendations on the scope and content of the framework. On 22 June 2010, all members are invited to the next Effectiveness Programme event that will review and move this work forward. Between now and then Bond members can shape the direction of the framework by:

Joining the Scope Task Group, a small group that will come together to analyse the products of the last meeting, identify common issues and make recommendations for the final scope of the framework in time for the June meeting.

Joining the Content Task Group that will recommend a structure and some headline content of the framework. The group will build on suggestions from the February meeting and make recommendations that will be reviewed in the June meeting.

Signing up for the 22 June event. Go to bond.org.uk/effectiveness and click on the Future plans and meetings page.

Bond will support this work by commissioning relevant research and gathering other stakeholder inputs. Other Bond groups, such as the Quality Group will be brought in as appropriate.

“Some good discussions, and good to get so many organisations in one room. I am keen to see what happens next.”

Senior leader of a large NGO

If you are a Bond member and would like to be part of the either task group, e-mail: ngoeffectiveness@bond.org.uk or go to bond.org.uk/effectiveness and click on the Opportunities to get involved page.