The use of evidence is essential for improving development policies, programs and practice. With limited research opportunities and power imbalances in the aid systems in favor of the global north, how can development partnerships create conditions that allow for evidence-based working grounded in local needs and realities? This infographic provides a model to understand the research context, five collaboration principals and conversation starters for change:

**Organizational Drivers**
Internal organizational factors contribute to the decision to conduct research or not, what kind of research, and for what purposes.

**Collaboration context**
Doing research is shaped by the set-up of the program and the collaborations between the global, national and local organizations in a partnership.

**Macro context**
The macro context plays an important role in creating either an enabling or disabling environment for research.

**Five Principles Based on Equality**
- Embrace diversity of organizations
- Strengthen capacity - building on existing capacities
- Facilitate exchange and learning to build mutuality
- Address questions of power
- Diversify research funding mechanisms/opportunities
## PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

### ORGANIZATIONAL DRIVERS

- **Recognize organizations’ motivations as key drivers for research**
- **Create space for addressing questions emerging at different levels of the program**
- **Strengthen organizations’ capacity by building on what is already there**

### PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

- **Promote local ownership and leadership by setting up inclusive governance mechanisms**
- **Jointly develop organizational structures that are conducive to research in the programme**
- **Support a culture of learning and exchange within the partnership**

### PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

- **Analyze which macro level issues - such as civic space - influence CSO engagement in research and how challenges can be navigated or mitigated**

### Conversation Starters

- What motivates an organization to do research?
- What opportunities to carry out research do organizations see?
- How do staff capacities shape organizations’ engagement with research?
- To what extent do existing organizational configurations such as working groups or knowledge hubs support organizations’ engagement with research?
- To what extent are all organizations involved in determining the programme’s learning agenda?
- To what extent do alliance partners feel that research is a priority in the partnership?
- How can research processes, procedures and guidelines in the partnership be constructed in a way that maximizes organizations’ motivations, capacities, and opportunities to do research?
- Are there constricting laws and regulations hampering organizations to do research?
- Are there safety and security issues that hamper organizations to do research?
- Which socio-economic conditions hamper the engagement of organizations in research and how can these conditions be navigated?
- To what extent do local norms and traditions encourage or hamper research?
- To what extent do organizations experience health risks and related challenges when it comes to research?
- Which other macro contextual factors influence or hamper the uptake of research by partners and how can these be navigated?

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**CHECK OUT all the conversation starters and pathways of change in the full guide.**

**READ MORE?**

Check out the full guide to advance research in development partnerships here: [www.wncb.org/advancing-research/](http://www.wncb.org/advancing-research/)

The principles, research ecosystem, conversation starters and pathways for change were developed as part of a study conducted by Wageningen University for **Work No Child’s Business**. 
**Advancing research in development partnerships. Localization as a way forward.**

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**Work: No Child’s Business**