ADVANCING RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS
Localization as way forward

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:

UNDERSTAND WHICH FACTORS DRIVE OR HINDER ORGANIZATIONS
in doing research with the
"CIVIL SOCIETY RESEARCH ECO-SYSTEM"

Organizational Drivers
Internal organizational factors contribute to the decision to conduct research or not, what kind of research, and for what purposes.
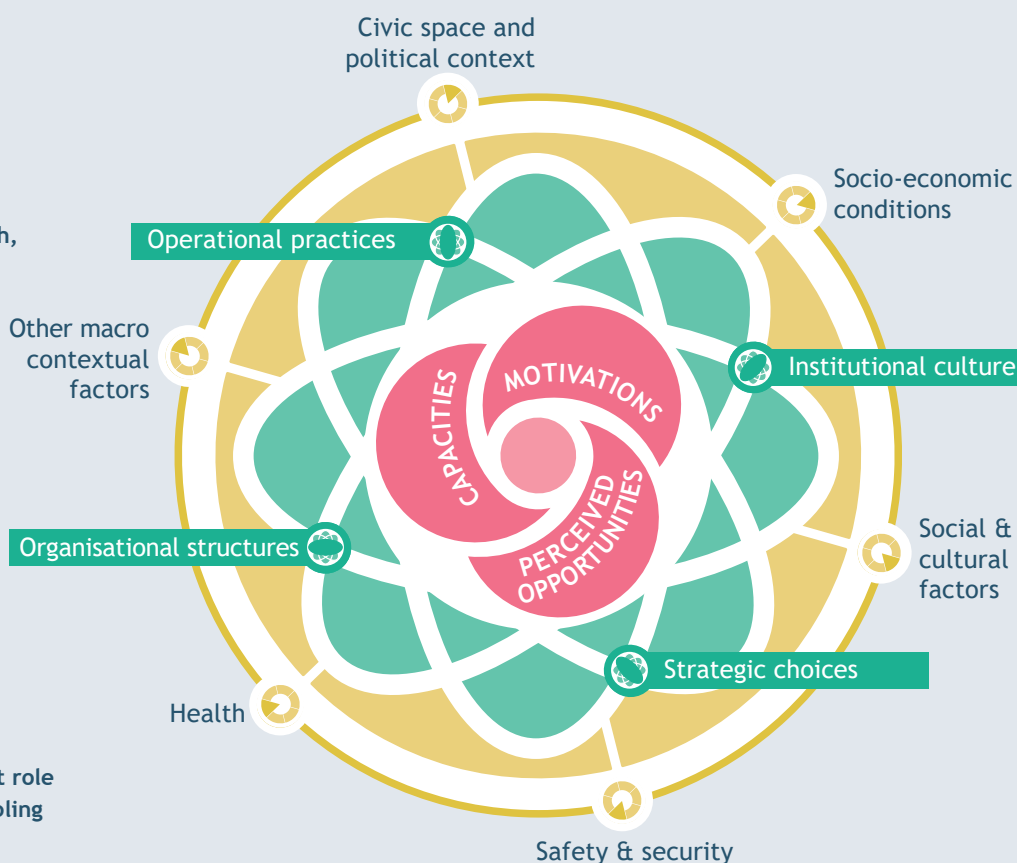
Collaboration context
Doing research is shaped by the set-up of the program and the collaborations between the global, national and local organizations in a partnership.

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

- Civic space and political context
- Socio-economic conditions
- Operational practices
- Institutional culture
- Other macro contextual factors
- CAPACITIES
- MOTIVATIONS
- PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITIES
- Social & cultural factors
- Organisational structures
- Strategic choices
- Health
- Safety & security

MOVE FROM AN 'EXPERT-DRIVEN MODEL' TO A 'FACILITATOR' MODEL OF 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

START THE CONVERSATION
HOW TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR RESEARCH GROUNDED
IN LOCAL NEEDS AND REALITIES

PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

Conversation Starters

ORGANIZATIONAL DRIVERS

Recognize organizations' motivations as key drivers for research

What motivates an organization to do research?

Create space for addressing questions emerging at different levels of the program

What opportunities to carry out research do organizations see?

Strengthen organizations' capacity by building on what is already there

How do staff capacities shape organizations' engagement with research?

PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

Conversation Starters

COLLABORATION CONTEXT

Promote local ownership and leadership by setting up inclusive governance mechanisms

To what extent do existing organizational configurations such as working groups or knowledge hubs support organizations' engagement with research?

Jointly develop organizational structures that are conducive to research in the programme

To what extent are all organizations involved in determining the programme's learning agenda?

Support a culture of learning and exchange within the partnership

To what extent do alliance partners feel that research is a priority in the partnership?

Support a culture of learning and exchange within 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?

PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

Conversation Starters

MACRO CONTEXT

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

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?

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

WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS