

SOCIAL IMPACT INCUBATOR



PRESENTED BY CARE BURUNDI

For local civil society organizations seeking to expand their impact and professionalize their growing operations, the Social Impact Incubator is a low-cost capacity building program that aims to develop new leaders, foster collaboration and position indigenous NGOs for new funding.

THE PROBLEM

Are We Ready for We Ready for the Localization of Aid?

Historically, aid has been delivered through organizations which are based in donor countries, rather than organizations that are wholly owned and operated in the recipient country. Donor agencies and international NGOs are committed to upending this system and placing more funding, ownership and control in the hands of local organizations. Are local organizations prepared to take on the challenge? As international NGOs such as CARE shift our role from direct implementer to supporter and convener, we search for effective mechanisms for capacity-building to ensure the answer is yes.

The Weight of Legacy Systems in Burundi

While donors and international organizations may be open to shifting ownership to local organizations, traditional approaches to capacity building are often still limited by a donor's agenda and do not address the full set of organizational strengths needed for the organization to sustain. With an incomplete set of capacities, local civil society organizations (CSOs) cannot fully grow and are unable to secure partnerships with new donors, often shutting down at the end of the project cycle. Concurrently, years of violent conflict and political unrest have prevented a vibrant and strong civil society from taking root. CSOs that do exist have limited programmatic capacities, weak internal systems and limited credibility with local communities. Additionally, the Burundian and current donor context provides limited opportunities for CSOs to collaborate with each other and collectively address the broader issues in the political environment and shrinking space for civil society.

THE INNOVATION

A Voice for Everyone

The Social Impact Incubator (SII) was developed to provide civil society organizations (CSOs) with more effective and efficient methods to help their constituencies: 1) address barriers to basic human rights; 2) achieve freedom of expression; 2) improve political participation—particularly for women; and 3) voice their interests to build the capacities of both rights holders and duty bearers. Available free of charge to any selected local emerging CSO, Social Impact Incubator targets institutional capacities and relations with peers and potential donors. Through a seven-month strengthening process, CSOs receive support in donor engagement, mentorship, learning, networking, and other technical topics.

OUR CURRENT IMPACT:

The Social Impact Incubator Effect:

From our 33 Champion CSOs:

78% increased their revenue

81% gained new partners

65% increased size of their paid staff

66% improved management systems

Two-thirds increased collaboration and networking with peer CSOs

40 new donor connections totaled USD\$1.2M

Saw increased female leader participation by 40%

POTENTIAL IMPACT:

Hundreds of CSOs incubated and their results magnified!



THE SCALE X FACTOR:

- Free of charge
- Targets women
- Strengthens local CSOs
- Promotes gender equity
- Fosters a collective voice
- Increases resilience to crisis
- Supports freedom of expression
- Contributes to inclusiveness in governance

THE IMPACT

2020 VISION

Within Burundi, scaling up will occur by decentralizing the model out of the capital city, training more organizations per year, further refining the SII with new modules according to partners' feedback and requests and addressing current challenges identified by the evaluation.

THE CHALLENGE TO SCALE

In order for the Social Impact Incubator to scale effectively, we are seeking additional expertise surrounding organizational development and expertise to develop additional metrics to measure our impact. Finally, we need support to document and package the model so that can be adapted and scaled outside of Burundi.

Opportunities include:

Funding

Mentorships

M&E support

Operations support

Business strategy support

Join us in accelerating change for good!