



The Movement for Community-led Development

**How should
domestic civil society engage with government
to enable community-led development?**

Welcome!
**Today we will co-create Guiding Principles
to help answer that question.**

Civil Society - Government relations are evolving

- Decentralization / devolution are expanding government presence
 - *Offers many opportunities community-led development*
- Moving from contentious to collaborative
 - Still roles for “watchdogs”--but many other roles too



Civil Society - Government relations are evolving

- Key concepts re: connecting communities to their government
 - Social accountability
 - Transparency
 - Collective action
 - Collaborative governance
 - Gender and Inclusion
 - Systems change (for virtuous cycles)



Civil Society - Government: evolving relationships

Biggest barriers--in both directions

1. Mindsets: Mistrust, competition
2. Gaps in intentional relationships and connections
3. Government bureaucracies move slower
4. Civil society & democracy nascent in many countries
(colonial roots)



Civil Society - Government: evolving relationships

Biggest barriers--in both directions

5. International actors often dominate the landscape
6. Lack of successful experience to build on
7. Lack of access to case studies, guidance

What else is hindering effective collaboration between civil societies and governments?

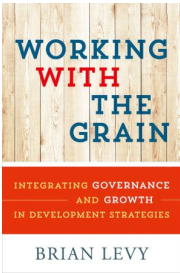


Civil Society - Government: Emergent Learning

- Governments and domestic civil society--***and links between the two***--are keys to sustainable development
- “Social accountability” most effective when linked to public sector reform
- “Right fit” versus “Best practice”

Civil Society - Government: Emergent Learning

- Broad-based economic & political inclusion
foundational to stability and democracy
- Initial positive actions as strong start, followed by
adaptive learning and continued intention
- Focus on incremental change that is fueled by
continuous positive momentum--over many years
- Practical systems-change tools are critical: *Water of
Systems Change*, Collective Impact, Systems
Convening Guidance



#ShiftThePower conference titled Local Philanthropy, Localisation and Power: Communities driving their own development

Systems Convening

A crucial form of leadership for the 21st century



Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner

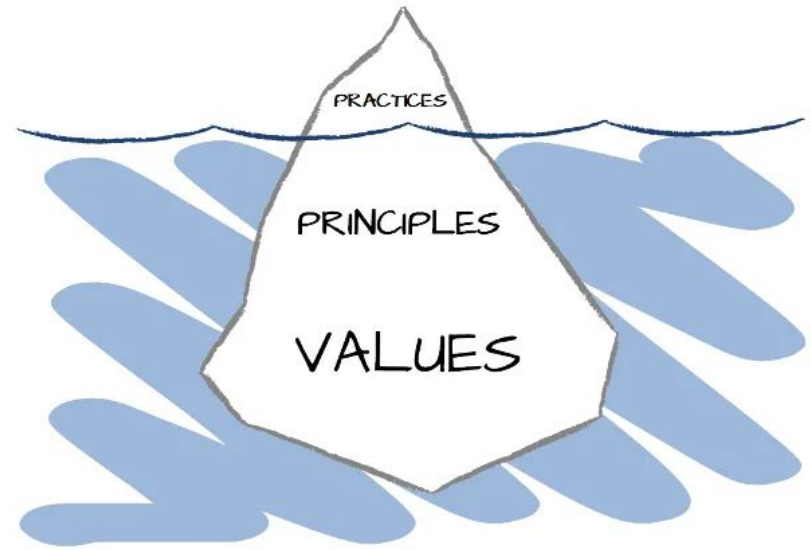


Today's co-creation challenge:

Based on our CLD values and experience, **what guiding principles** enable CLD efforts to effectively engage with governments (at all levels)?

Values (or beliefs) are our internal reference for what is good and bad, desirable or undesirable in ourselves and others.

Guiding Principles combine values and strategy to guide practical action.



Examples of Values (Beliefs) and Principles

Value: I believe every human being is sacred.

Principle: I seek to treat each person I meet with respect.

Value: Every human being has unique potential.

Principle: Ensure ALL people in the community have a chance to contribute to community-led development efforts.

Value: When people meaningfully connect, surprising things can happen and you never know when).

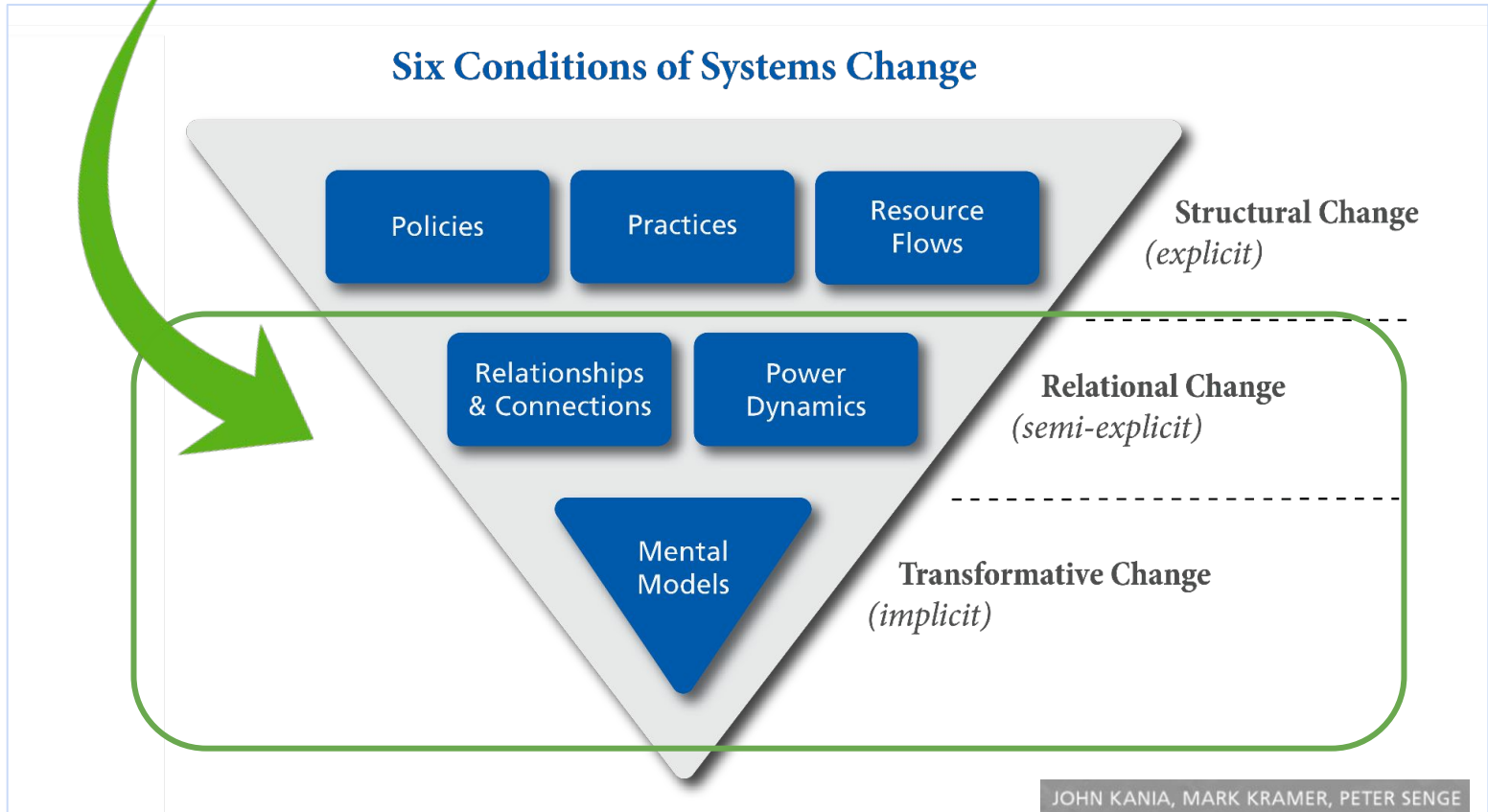
Principle: Get to know all kinds of people, e.g. government staff, even if you don't have an immediate purpose.

Today's Co-creation

In breakout groups, we will generate **guiding principles** to help civil society effectively engage with government (at all levels)

- No right or wrong--all ideas on the (zoom) table!
- A guiding principle often begins with a verb, is a “rule of thumb,” can be specific or general
- Link with and build on your own values & of community-led development.
- Take a screenshot of the next two pages for use in your breakout groups or we'll put the link to the slides in the chat.
- Jump right in--self facilitate, and take notes!
- Report out: One to three principles (total, any category)

Using this framework as a guide, **let's create some guiding principles** for civil society engagement with government



Mental Models / Mindsets:

What guiding principles can civil society actors use to understand and improve mental models?

Sample principles

- Recognize mental models are at the heart of systems change.
- Seek to understand mental models in place that may be helping or hindering collaboration between government and civil society.
- Create dialogue with key actors about these issues to create shared understanding and learn more.

Relationships & Connections:

What guiding principles can help create strategic relationships / connections?

Sample principles

- Build sincere human relationships with all kinds of people--be honest and open, look for points of connection.
- See relationship building as a long-term effort.
- Don't use or manipulate people.

Power dynamics:

What guiding principles might apply here?

Sample principle

- Listen carefully and regularly to diverse representatives of the communities you are representing.