

REPORT ON FACILITATION MEETING BETWEEN CAFOR AND SENSEMAKERS COLLECTIVE

Held on 18th December 2020

Abstract

Co-creation webinar on CAFOR's new flagship projects– African Virtual e-Library and Street Children of Africa. The main focus was on possible collaborations with CAFOR members and fundraising for effective projects implementation.

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Coalition on media
and education for
development Africa
Forum



Contents

AGENDA.....	2
OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- CAFOR	4
SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP.....	5
THE WAY FORWARD	8
ANNEX	9
I- Statement of Executive Director CAFOR.....	9
II- MIRO White Board Pictures.....	11
III- List of Participants	13

AGENDA

Agenda for December 18th 2020: Co-creation webinar on CAFOR's new flagship projects

Host: CAFOR

Facilitator: Sensemakers Collective

TIME (GMT+3)	CONTENT	WE NEED	WHO
	Opening Remarks	By CAFOR	Dr. Lawalley Cole
10:00	Welcome and Check-In: Please share one word, how are you here today?		Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
10:10	Please, share in the chat box: What is CAFOR to you?		Mr. Pierre Golbach
10:15	Show agenda (explain roles and ask for attentive listening on project needs)	Agenda	Mr. Pierre Golbach
10:20	Presentation of African Virtual eLibrary by CAFOR	Presentation by CAFOR	Mrs. Hemalatha + SMC takes notes on MIRO
10:40	Questions on the Presentation		Mr. Pierre Golbach
10:50	Group Sharing/Complementing Resources and Capacities	MIRO	Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
11:00	Drawing a Resource Map and adding capacities and resources by CAFOR and partners	MIRO	Mr. Pierre Golbach
11:15	What's missing? (adapt project design; resource strategy)	MIRO	Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
11:25	10' break		
11:35	Presentation of Street children Project	Presentation by CAFOR	Mrs. Hemalatha + SMC takes notes on MIRO
11:55	Questions on the Presentation		Mr. Pierre Golbach
12:05	Group Sharing/Complementing Resources and Capacities	MIRO	Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy



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12:15	Drawing a Resource Map and adding capacities and resources by CAFOR and partners	MIRO	Mr. Pierre Golbach
12:30	What's missing? (adapt project design; resource strategy)	MIRO	Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
12:40	Voting Exercise: Where do we see most potential and what should be implemented by CAFOR?	Polling in Zoom	Mr. Pierre Golbach
12:50	Closing Round: Please name one thing which you gladly take with you from today's meeting.		Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
13:00	End of Meeting Closing Remarks	By CAFOR	Dr. Lawalley Cole



OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- CAFOR

CAFOR's Executive Director, Dr Lawalley Cole, welcomed the Sensemakers Collective of Germany facilitation team led by Mr Pierre Golbach and Dr Malika Virah Sawmy. The vision at Sensemakers Collective is to be effective system change facilitators for a global environmental, social and economic transformation. Sensemakers collective pursues its mission by integrating various state-of-the-art facilitation approaches enabling embodied, emotional and cognitive intelligence for collective transformation processes.

Dr Cole also introduced CAFOR to the attendees and sighted the global vision of CAFOR's work. Having completed regional consultations with CAFOR members in the five regions of Africa between 18th September and 2nd October 2020, and with a considerable lot of recommendation for fundraising and project implementation, this webinar would pave the way to work collectively with CAFOR members and partners and provide CAFOR with the right orientation. He welcomed the CAFOR members and thanked the guests for their attendance.

The Executive Director indicated that CAFOR would seize this opportunity to use Collective Impact's principles to become functional as a coalition, for solving complex problems and generating a more meaningful dialogue. This webinar allows for adaptive problem solving by pushing multiple organizations to look for resources and innovations to solve a common problem which will enable learning through feedback and coordinating responses among participants, to achieving collective impact for successful project implementations which requires the fundamental mindset shifts.

As we moved forward, he emphasized learning a lot from the participant's co-operation with facilitators in this workshop and expressed fruitful deliberations during the seminar.

(The full speech is attached as an annexe.)

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP

CAFOR's Flagship Project AFRICAN VIRTUAL E-LIBRARY

The first flagship program of CAFOR is called the African Virtual e-Library. The project is designed in line with the implementation of the African union policies in education, especially in the field of technology and innovation strategy for Africa. The digital library would provide an opportunity to the African youth, professionals, researchers and academia. There will be a wide range of information access by using digital content and integrating the skills using electronic devices. This project's primary purpose is to support online integrated e-textbooks networking for universities, colleges, and schools in Africa and enable knowledge exchange programs.

The project's main objective is to promote knowledge management among young Africans by enabling e-books networking and contributing to the promotion of virtual e-Learning in a controlled environment.

The critical success factors for this project include:

1. Targeted number university courses that are being available virtually
2. The target number of education institutes virtually connected
3. The target number of students who are enrolled in virtual e-Learning
4. Establishment of online networking libraries
5. The target number of smart research classrooms established

Project Risks Include:

1. Resistance to change.
2. Lack of balance in emphasis on education domain.
3. Lack of expertise to promote the development of e-Books.
4. Lack of necessary resources.
5. Competition from other organizations.
6. Lack of coordination and cooperation with existing university and education institutes and education ministries.

The Resources and Capacities Required for Successful Implementation include:

1. Financial resources to meet the project's implementation cost, which estimates to 1 million USD along with continuous finance during the project period.
2. Mapping of education institutions.
3. Knowledge of existing structures/ practices.
4. Generation of the capability matrix.
5. Leverage e-Library through partners.
6. Mapping of gaps in the supply of internet, electricity, computer or TV.
7. IT personnel and IT resources.

Relevant resources which CAFOR and its partners can activate are as follows:

The primary resources for project initiations include:

1. Communities- as they will have knowledge about the target group of the population for the project.
2. Inclusion of the target group is essential to connect universities virtually.
3. Studies on best practices of education institutes are needed.
4. Mapping of secondary education institutes needs assessments.
5. IT resources experts from CAFOR members.

Details of resources required and capacities which not covered by CAFOR and partners are as follows:

1. Required finance to initiate the project.
2. Organizing ourselves for project implementation.

Conclusions for this session:

CAFOR has high expertise members for this project as it's a membership organization and can harness its members' skills. There is a possibility of considering non-financial resources that are already in place which will enable to kick off the project. Project initiation can begin with data collection on learning the existing e-Learning practices and e-Libraries which are in use. The conclusion was that African Virtual e-Library should be for everyone interested in using it and ensure that this project includes the population currently excluded in availing these services.

The group discussed the odds for successful implementation and concluded that E-learning is up in countries like Kenya, but even in these countries, there is a concern for internet accessibility or a family to have a gadget which will enable this usage. And in some areas of Africa, TV and electricity might not be available.

For internet usage, CAFOR suggested that TV as a medium of instruction and local channels and news channels can be used to impart prerecorded videos of the virtual classes.

CAFOR's Flagship Project STREET CHILDREN OF AFRICA

The second flagship program of CAFOR is the Street Children of Africa Project. This project emphasizes providing protection and skills development to the street children by providing access to primary education, clean water, health care, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation during this COVID-19. This project gives these children vocational skills to join the labour force market and survive in the existing job market.

The causes for this kind of situation can be divided into social and economic factors (i.e. political instability, unemployment, low incomes and poverty). There are also cultural factors (Lifestyle changes, modernization of traditional cultures, authoritative influencers of the society and changes in living arrangements). There is also the factor of urbanization (includes moving from place to place in search of jobs) and lastly family (conflicts among family members, deceased parents, child abuse and gender-based inequalities).

The project's main objective is to provide minimum social safety and protection to the street children, overcome marginalization, and promote social integration.

The project's implementation includes establishing a juvenile support centre, enrollment of children based on age groups, and enabling them to use integrated child support centres.

The critical success factors for this project include:

1. The target number of established juvenile support centres across the region.
2. The number of street children enrolled under different age groups.
3. The number of street children provided with skill development.
4. The number of street children qualified for jobs for their survival.
5. The number of street children equipped with immunization and healthcare facilities.

Project Risks Include:

1. Lack of multi-stakeholder commitment and engagement.
2. Lack of sustainable funding.
3. Weak and non-responsive service delivery.
4. Shortage of staff.
5. Lack of donor and local authorities' involvement.

The Resources and Capacities Required for Successful Implementation include:

1. Needs assessment for street children.
2. Focus on rehabilitation and improved care.
3. Lessons learned from the Zambia government project for 200 children.
4. Acquisition of land facility construction.
5. Connection with local authorities.
6. Exchange with partner organizations and learn about innovations in this sector.
7. Multi-sectoral approach.
8. Emphasis on the empowerment of communities.
9. Finance for the project implementation.

Relevant resources which CAFOR and its partners can activate are as follows:

The main resources for project initiations include

1. Technical support.
2. Census data is available.
3. Inform coherence of project design with research.
4. Take Kenya's experience in this field of the sector and provide a unique solution.
5. Using resources to develop ideation and programming.

Details of resources required and capacities which not covered by CAFOR and partners are as follows:

1. We need alignment of needs and availability of existing resources.
2. Required finance to initiate the project.
3. Organizing ourselves for project implementation.

Conclusions for this session:

The workshop concluded that we need to consider also those children who are affected by COVID 19. Tracing family, strengthening, and including various forms of support in the project. Stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation process would also need multiple forms of support. Rethinking of the program will be fundamental considering these issues. The juvenile centres have a connotation of children in trouble with the law. It is crucial to have a financially intensive juvenile support centre. It was also suggested, not to invest in the construction of buildings. The comparative advantage for successful implementation of this project will include the resources and the capacities of the personnel involved.

THE WAY FORWARD

CAFOR would like to reinforce its cooperation with CAFOR members and partner organizations such as Lumos Kenya, UNICEF, and ATUPA to implement these projects. CAFOR expressed its interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sensemakers Collective as a way forward for working together and for reinforcing the close collaboration with Sensemakers Collective.

Financial resources and human capital resources are equally crucial for a successful project, and CAFOR can start the basic ground research and necessary data collection at the country level for better ideation towards the projects. Lumos Kenya offered to contribute to conducting the ground research and provide with the data as need be. Lumos Kenya representative, Ms Grace Mwangi, expressed interest to create a shared vision and collective impact in working together with CAFOR on both the projects. The group also suggested that CAFOR consider including the socially excluded group in the first CAFOR flagship program, the African Virtual e-Library and financial mapping of institutions, and target partner organizations' inclusive interests. The Emmanuel Development Association (EDA) Executive Director, Dr Tessema Bekele expressed interest in working with CAFOR on the street children project and developing the project design.

ANNEX

I- Statement of Executive Director CAFOR

Opening Remarks by Dr Lawalley Cole at the CAFOR-Sensemakers Collective Workshop – 18th December 2020

Good morning and welcome to all participants of this workshop. Let me also warmly welcome our facilitators from Sensemakers Collective in Germany, Mr Pierre Golbach and Dr Malika Virah-Sawmy. The vision at Sensemakers Collective is to be system change facilitators for a global environmental, social and economic transformation. Sensemakers collective pursues its mission by integrating various state-of-the-art facilitation approaches enabling embodied, emotional and cognitive intelligence for collective transformation processes. They harness co-creation to enhance systemic, strategic planning, purpose-orientation, organizational evaluation, learning, and change. Their focus is mostly on strategies for sustainability, inclusivity, trust-building and cooperation.

CAFOR is a nonprofit membership organization comprising institutions, organizations, experts and individuals who are committed to ensuring that education systems in Africa are relevant to young Africans with newly acquired skills that correspond with what obtains in the labour market within the African continent. CAFOR is a Coalition with a team of experts numbering more than 50 individuals, and rely a great deal on external experts and its networks of more than 1,600 journalists, communicators and advocates in the field for implementation of activities. CAFOR draws on the expertise of various areas related to its work: ministries of education, agriculture, employment, gender and women’s affairs, youth, economy and finance through their communication or information units. Also, media specialized in learning and development reporting, communication researchers and trainers, education specialists and development organizations engaged in areas of concern to training for the youth and development.

Having completed regional consultations with CAFOR members in the five regions of Africa between 18th September and 2nd October this year, and with a considerable lot of recommendations for fund raising, project implementation etc, we are now just starting to work collectively and hence this workshop to provide us with the right orientation.

CAFOR will make use of the principles of Collective Impact to become functional as a Coalition. “Collective impact is the commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem.” By their very nature, these

complex problems cannot be solved by any single organization or sector alone. Yet many collaborations that seek to solve complex social and environmental issues still omit critical partners in government and the nonprofit, corporate, and philanthropic sectors, as well as people with lived experience of the problem. Including the often radically different perspectives of these diverse players can generate a more meaningful dialogue.

As we develop new partnerships, we realize that many of our partners had never worked together before, and some had dramatically different views. As we evolve to become a continental force gradually, we intend to grapple with their differing viewpoints and ultimately create a shared vision for reform: to promote youth development and success in Africa using the policy instruments of the African Union which is our host institution.

Also, through our Collective impact principles, we will not only engage the formal sectors, but we will even understand the importance of working with people who have lived experience. Too often, the people who will ultimately benefit from program or policy changes are excluded from the process of understanding the problem and then identifying and implementing solutions. Authentic engagement with people who are experiencing the issue at first hand is critical to ensuring that strategies are effective. For example, we will try to work as much as possible with young people to improve outcomes for disconnected youths on the continent by reconnecting them to school and work.

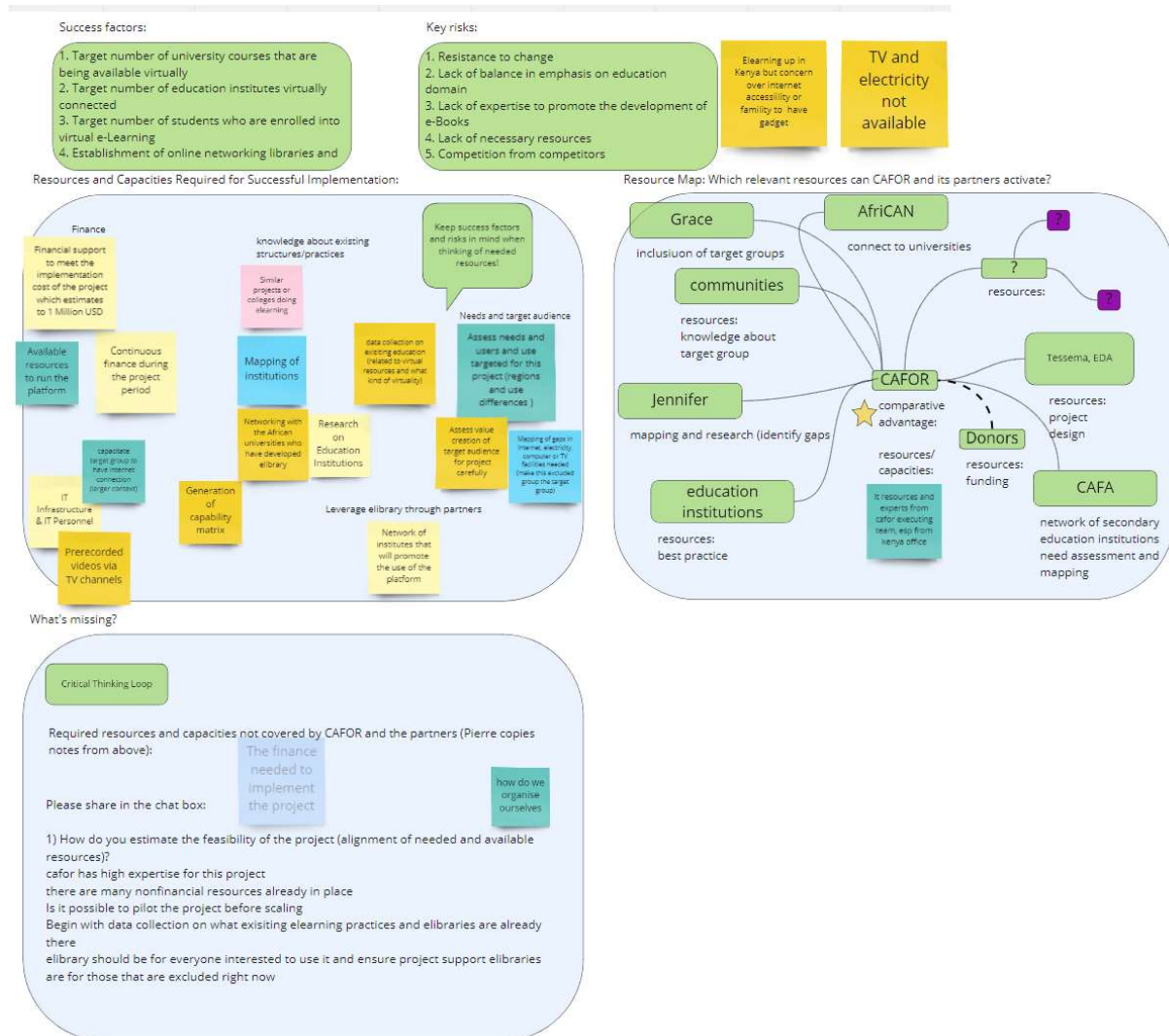
Data and evidence are critical inputs for collective impact efforts. However, we must not underestimate the power of relationships. Lack of personal relationships, as well as the presence of strong egos and complicated historical interactions, can impede collective impact efforts. Collaborative impact practitioners must invest time in building strong interpersonal relationships and trust, which enable collective visioning and learning. When beginning a joint impact initiative, stakeholders are often tempted to focus on creating a “strategy”—a specific, tangible set of activities that they believe will ensure progress toward their goal. Although it is crucial to have a sense of how partners will address a problem, the fact is that in many cases, the solutions are not known at the outset. We believe that a critical mindset shift is needed: Collective impact practitioners must recognize that the power of collective impact comes from enabling “collective seeing, learning, and doing,” rather than following a linear plan. The structures that collaborative impact efforts create would allow people to come together regularly to look at data and learn from one another, to understand what is working and what is not. Such interaction leads partners to adjust their actions, “doubling down” on practical strategies and allowing new solutions to emerge.

Collective impact allows for adaptive problem solving by pushing multiple organizations to look for resources and innovations to solve a common problem, enabling rapid learning through continuous feedback loops, and coordinating responses among participants. Achieving collective impact requires the fundamental mindset shifts we have described here—around who is involved, how they work together, and how progress happens. These shifts have significant implications for how practitioners design and implement their work, how funders incentivize and engage with grantees, and how policymakers bring solutions to a large scale. Without these vital mindset shifts, collective impact initiatives are unlikely to make the progress they set out to accomplish.

As we look forward to learning a lot from our facilitators in this workshop, I wish us all fruitful deliberations. I now declare this workshop formally open.

II- MIRO White Board Pictures

A- African Virtual e-Library





B- Street Children Project



III- List of Participants

S.NO	ORGANISATION	NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT
1	CAFOR	Prof Kate Adoo Adeku
2		Ms. Jennifer Kimani
3		Dr. Tessema Bekele
4		Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga
5		Ms. Jahou Faal
6		Mr. Behki Massako
7		Ms. Isatou Jallow
8		Dr. Lawalley Cole
9		Mr. Tshimanga Mukadi-Mutoke
10		Mrs. Hemalatha Vanam
11		Mr. Michael Awonon
12	Lumos Kenya	Ms. Grace Mwangi
13	ATUPA	Ms. Mildred Nafula
14	UNICEF	Ms. Nsanshya Faith Chilupula
15		Ms. Rahel Mesfin Leikun
17	Sensemakers Collective	Mr. Pierre Golbach
18		Dr. Malika Virah-Sawmy
19	Absence with apology by CAFOR members	Ms. Mounia Belafia
20		Dr. Khaled Gulam
21		Mr. Bright Kampaundi
22		Mr. Rotimi Onekama
23		Ms. Liliane Kambirigi Sebatigita
24		Ms. Bukola Olatunji