

Sustaining multi-stakeholder processes in Africa



Understanding and promoting systemic social change

An event organised by Southern Africa Trust and the Change Alliance

24-25 April 2012, Johannesburg, South Africa

Introduction

Realizing significant change almost always involves diverse stakeholders, such as business, communities and government. Diverse interests and resources should be engaged whether the issue is poverty, health, education, water, security or the environment. Developing successful engagement pathways for multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) for systemic change is the focus of the Change Alliance (CA) and an event is being organized in partnership with the Southern African Trust. We welcome applications to participate in this event, which is designed to create an on-going sub-Saharan CA community of practice.

The **Change Alliance** is a global network launched in 2009 aiming to create the conditions and capacities for effective MSPs. It supports specific stakeholder processes and links these to a global learning platform, in which lessons learnt are shared and new knowledge and understanding about these processes are created.

Developing these strategies goes beyond organising interactive events or 'workshop facilitation' - it is about the design and facilitation of long-term, systemic change processes.

These approaches raise a number of challenges and questions:

- What are the roles of the convening or initiating organisations (often donors)?
- How can we bring on board a diverse group of stakeholders, especially the private sector?
- How do we deal with conflicts, diverse interests and power imbalances?
- What is needed to make multi-actor collaboration locally sustainable?
- How can these approaches be married with persistent (conventional) linear development approaches?
- What capacities are needed to facilitate long term change processes?

This Johannesburg workshop follows a two-day [Inspiring Change event](#) held in Nairobi at the end of the year 2010. A Southern African Trust participant in that event has taken leadership to create this event, April 24-25 in Johannesburg. It is embedded in a strategy for longer term engagement and network development for MSPs in Africa.

The Southern Africa Trust has a history of connecting organizations and development leadership that provides network connections and infrastructure resources. It is involved in a broad range of MSPs and regional stakeholder platforms in a variety of fields. Their initiatives can be involved in the envisaged Change Alliance Network of Practice in Africa.

Objectives

This event will

- Create a space for Africans working with MSP change strategies to learn from each other by sharing methods and experiences;
- Contribute to developing a Network of Practice in Africa for sustainable MSPs, as a mechanism to champion and lead MSPs in Africa and to network with other MSPs in the rest of the world.
- Further develop a specific Focal MSP case¹.

Participants

The event in April 2012 will cover 25-30 participants, targeting practitioners, strategists and facilitators of MSPs in Africa as well as organisations from a specific regional MSP project of the Southern Africa Trust². In addition interested organizations that would like to create MSPs in the region will be invited. In this regard, it is proposed to invite participants mainly from the following countries: Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia (amongst others).

The participants will be selected according to the expectation that they are active drivers of MSPs and that their MSP case is currently active. Further we expect participants to be interested in regular exchange of information on MSPs within a network of practitioners and facilitators.

Participants will be selected on the basis of a prepared case description of facilitation or design of a multi-stakeholder process. During the Event, a dialogue around these cases will play a central role.

¹ An actual MSP from Southern Africa will feature during the event as a Focal MSP case. Participants can engage with the Steering Group members of this MSP, observe their proceedings and link this to their own experiences.

² www.southernaficatrust.org/event_20110909.html

Preliminary Programme

Preparatory activities

- A webinar to get prepared and set the scene for the event;
- Preparation of case descriptions by participants;
- Selection of participants by the Change Alliance and Southern African Trust.

24-25 April 2012 Event

Day 1 focusses on the Focal Case being developed through an Action Learning Development methodology. Day 2 will include other participants' cases and the concrete planning of the long-term change processes. The exchange should cover examples from Africa and will enable learning of the participants on concrete experiences, success stories, challenges and day-to-day work on the ground of an MSP. This will result in a more practice-oriented reflection on MSPs rather than theoretical discussions on MSPs.

Post-Event: Network of Practice; Hub

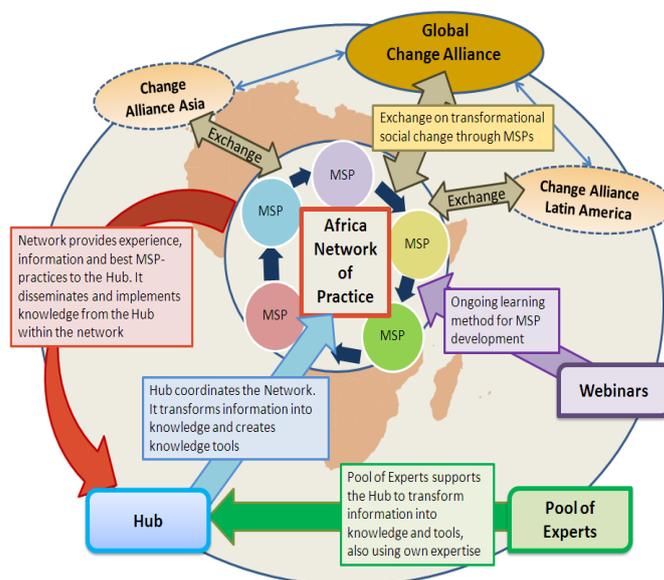
The Change Alliance and Southern Africa Trust will develop concrete structures for MSP practitioners that enable a sustainable process in establishing, improving and maintaining MSPs and securing exchange amongst various MSPs in Africa. In this way, the event and its outcomes are embedded in a three years' timeframe to establish an MSP Network of Practice in Africa.

Sustaining the process

The longer term goal of the Change Alliance and Southern Africa Trust is to sustain on-going processes in Africa through the creation and establishment of a MSP Network of Practice, involving lead organizations active on MSPs in various African countries.

This network would aim to get more players involved, foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge and, in particular, motivate players in Africa to focus on MSPs as a means to address the challenges in the African region.

The network will be coordinated by a regional hub, located in Africa and established by the Change Alliance. This hub will be responsible to capture, filter and effectively customize information of the practitioners of the Network of Practice into knowledge using good practice and lessons learnt by the practitioners.



The hub thereby needs to create mechanisms for reaching out beyond existing networks, to attract new stakeholders interested in MSPs. It will also work together with a pool of experts to harness more knowledge, and to closely link with the Change Alliance.

The Network of Practice, the hub and the pool of experts will jointly identify good practices of MSP in the region.

The approach would lead to increased

- quality and coherence of MSPs in Africa;
- coordination and exchange of processes; and
- access to knowledge and good practices.

If you are interested to partner with us for realizing this longer term ambition, please contact us.

Would you like to attend?

The Change Alliance invites motivated individuals and organisations to express interest in participating in the event. Costs for participation will be covered by the organizers, based on available funding. Selection of participants will be done on the basis of quality of the case submitted (see the 'Call for cases' on our websites).

For more information please contact the Southern Africa Trust, (Ulrich Klins uklins@southernafricatrust.org) or the Change Alliance secretariat, (Herman Brouwer, herman.brouwer@wur.nl), or visit:

- www.changealliance.org
- <http://thechangealliance.ning.com>
- www.southernafricatrust.org