

HOW CAN WE FOSTER EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE NETWORKS?

FACTORS THAT AFFECT NETWORKS

- clarity of purpose(s) and scope
- members (roles, identities, capabilities, matchmaking)
- scale
- governance structure
- funding model
- communication
- context (demographic, political, cultural, historical)
- prevailing narratives
- shared resources (financial, human, content, information, best practices, toolkits)
- motivation, incentives, infrastructure for collaboration (on an informal to formal continuum)
- quality and types of partnerships
- capacity / comfort / readiness to collaborate
- engagement practices (among members; with communities, power holders)
- stability (in resources, membership, commitment)
- transitions (in leadership, staff, network members, growth, funding)
- flexibility / adaptability/ agility
- tensions / tradeoffs/ 'competing' interests

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT NETWORKS

- Navigate network priorities and network member priorities
- Synchronize with parallel initiatives
- Balance flexibility and consistency
- Tell the story of additive value, beyond what individual members could do
- Cultivate relationships
- Know who has the power to support, endorse, incentivize collaboration
- Prepare for (nonlinear) change
- Plan for both immediate needs and the long term
- Listen together, learn together, decide together
- Create conditions that actively reduce competition
- Foster productive narratives

**NO PERFECT MODEL:
WHAT IS FIT FOR PURPOSE AND CONTEXT?**

**NOT RIGHT/WRONG:
WHICH, TO WHAT EXTENT, WHEN?

AND THEN, HOW...?**