

Mini-Project readiness self evaluation

There is a Chinese pro-verb, “Give a man fish, you will feed him for a day, teach him how to fish, you will feed him for a lifetime”

We believe, teaching a man how to fish is not enough to feed him for a lifetime.

Teaching a man how to fish will be useful provided there are enough fish to sustain his lifetime. What will happen when there are no more fish left or when the pond is filled with other creatures or the pond is not big enough?

When the resources are scarce the only solution is to come up with something that is different, that is better, that is more efficient, and that is sustainable.

Our goal is not to give you a fish or to teach you how to fish. Our goal is to help you grow enough fish in your own small pond in your backyard or to help you discover better alternatives to fish that may be healthier so that you never have to depend on someone to either give you fish or to teach you fish.

The result we envision - You have grown your own solution to hunger and many others have replicated your model.

Why do we need you to take the lead?

Because you are the one who can do it. You have lived in the community, you know the people who are dealing with this problem, you see their suffering and perhaps share it, you know the people who can help, you know what resources are available, you care about the cause, you care about the people around you, and you want to make a difference. Beyond that, you are intelligent, self-motivated, and have a passion to help others.

And at a personal level, you will learn, you will network, and you will develop professionally and personally.

What we want to see in a leader?

A commitment to treat everyone fairly - no favoritism, no discrimination when working with community members and team members

Leave your personal biases and ego aside and join hands with everyone willing to help - big, small, senior, junior everyone has something to contribute

Maintain open communication & transparency- report any issues promptly

Willingness to be vulnerable - if you can't do something, say so. Do not be ashamed or fear judgement.

What

- Define is the problem.
- Scale of problem - how many people are affected (example -percentage of population/number of people)?
- Who are the people affected (age/sex/ethnic group? where do they live? what do they do?)
- What is your expected outcome? (short-term and long-term goals - SMART goals)

Why - there are many parts to a problem, sometimes one leads to another

- Why does the problem exist?
- What are the internal factors contributing to the problem? (example - personal habits, gender, genetics, income, education, awareness etc.)
- What are the external factors contributing to the problem? (lack of resources, geographical remoteness, natural disasters, political situation, social injustice, lack of co-operation from external stakeholders)

How

- How will you address the internal & external factors?
- How to do you prioritize the issues?
- How will you evaluate the outcomes? (what are the indicators, how will you keep records to measure those indicators and how often will you measure that?)
- What are the resources required to achieve the desired outcomes and how will you acquire them?

When

- When did the problem start?
- When do you plan to start taking action?
- When do you expect to start seeing the results?
- When do you expect to complete the project?

Who

- Tell us about you (what qualifies you to address this issue? - education, training, experience, personal connections, leadership skills etc.)
- Who are the other people who will be involved in solving this problem (and what qualifies them to be in the team?)
- Who is responsible for what task?

Commitment requirement

How many hours per week can you devote to this project/activity?

How many hours per week can each of your team member contribute?

How will this project benefit you and your team members personally and professionally?