

AccessEd: Researcher Development Programme Researcher Engagement and Reflection Log

Workshop: Social enterprise, institutions and impact 101

Outline

This worksheet is designed for you to reflect on the key learning steps from the training workshop you attended and think about workshop learning outcomes in line with your learning portfolio.

We encourage you to make a note of your responses in a word document or otherwise, ensuring your record your reflections and consider what legacy this will have after the training has finished.

Consider the following actions that you might take in relation to this workshop engagement and reflection log:

- ✓ Consider sharing your reflections with your peers – Commonwealth Scholars and others
- ✓ How can you best record your notes and reflections to best suit your own individual style of learning?
- ✓ How might you use reflections from this worksheet log in the future to contribute towards learning in other workshops?

A. Self-reflection: Skills development

1. Think about a social organisation that you might set up based on your research or an idea you have. During training, we discussed 'signs of a strong social organisation of any kind'. When thinking about your idea for a social organisation, how would you rate your idea against the following (1= needs improvement, 5= very strong):

	Strong and clear social mission
	Ability to show its unique offering in the sector
	Diversified income streams
	Strong partnerships or collaboration to maximise reach
	Strategy for showing your work benefits the people who need it
	Able to clearly communicate impact to motivate continued support of investors
	Understand how delivery work leads to impact
	Total (max: 35)

2. During training we discussed how social organisations can have the most impact.

We left training with the following 4 tips – rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of confidence in engaging these strategies (1=low confidence, 5=high confidence).

	Listening to the voices of people which your social organisation seeks to serve
	Leading collaborations or partnerships to create sector change
	Understanding their unique ability to help a problem
	Achieving impact through depth, not just breadth (reach)
	Total (max: 20)

3. What was your biggest learning takeaway from the workshop?

4. How will you apply what you have learnt today to your research/studies, and how does it complement your learning portfolio?

5. What is one commitment you will make to building a new social organisation idea?

E.g.

Skill: Strong partnerships or collaboration to maximise reach

Action: Set up at least 3 conversations with interested stakeholders to explore potential for collaboration.

Skill:

Action:

B. Self-reflection: Learning in relation to Social Enterprise and Impact

6. During training, we discussed the differences between not-profits, NGOs, charities and social enterprises.

Write down an example organisation you know that falls under each of the categories above (an example that wasn't discussed during training) to check your understanding of the differences between these.

*Top tip: remember that lots of organisations will fall under more than one category!

<i>Not-for-profit</i> <i>NGO</i> <i>Charity</i> <i>Social Enterprise</i>

7. We discussed how **not-for-profits** and **social enterprises** are funded, for example: individual donations; corporate partnerships; foundation grants; government contracts; loans; membership fees; trading activity.

Think about an idea that you have for your own social organisation, or how you might fund a research project. Do some research and write down:

- (a) which one of these funding options would work best for your specific idea?
- (b) What are some specific examples (specific contracts, grants) you could pursue?

(a) (b)

8. During training, we discussed Theory of Change as a critical thinking tool to help underpin the link between activity and change. You started to plot your Theory of Change statements during training: take time to finish these.

We believe that if we do x (action), then it will achieve y (change). If we do x, then we will see y result, because z.
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9. Measuring impact is key. In the following table, list the **ACTIONS** that you will take against each of these key features discussed:

Improving results: using findings to improve activities	
Accountability: reporting to funders in time	
Fundraising: impact measurement to attract funders	
Credibility: power of data to promote organisation	
Create opportunities: share data with others, collaborate	

10. We discussed measurement terminology: 'Mission', 'Impact Goal', 'Objectives', 'KPIs'. Use your time to plot these out for your own social organisation idea.

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C. Tools to takeaway: Social Enterprise and Impact 101

Below is a list of further tools that can be used.

- (i) Theory of Change DIY toolkit

A practical tool to clarify your priorities by defining your goals and the path to reach them:

<https://diytoolkit.org/tools/theory-of-change/>

D. Further reading tip....

Books and articles:

O'Hallaron, Richard, and David O'Hallaron. *The Mission Primer: Four Steps to an Effective Mission Statement*. Mission Incorporated, 2000.

Collins, Jim, and Jerry I. Porras. *Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*. HarperBusiness, 2004

Kirkpatrick, Shelley A. *Build a Better Vision Statement: Extending Research with Practical Advice*. Lexington Books, 2016