

28 June, 2017



Working with civil society: the uses of research and evidence in practice and strategies to maximise research uptake

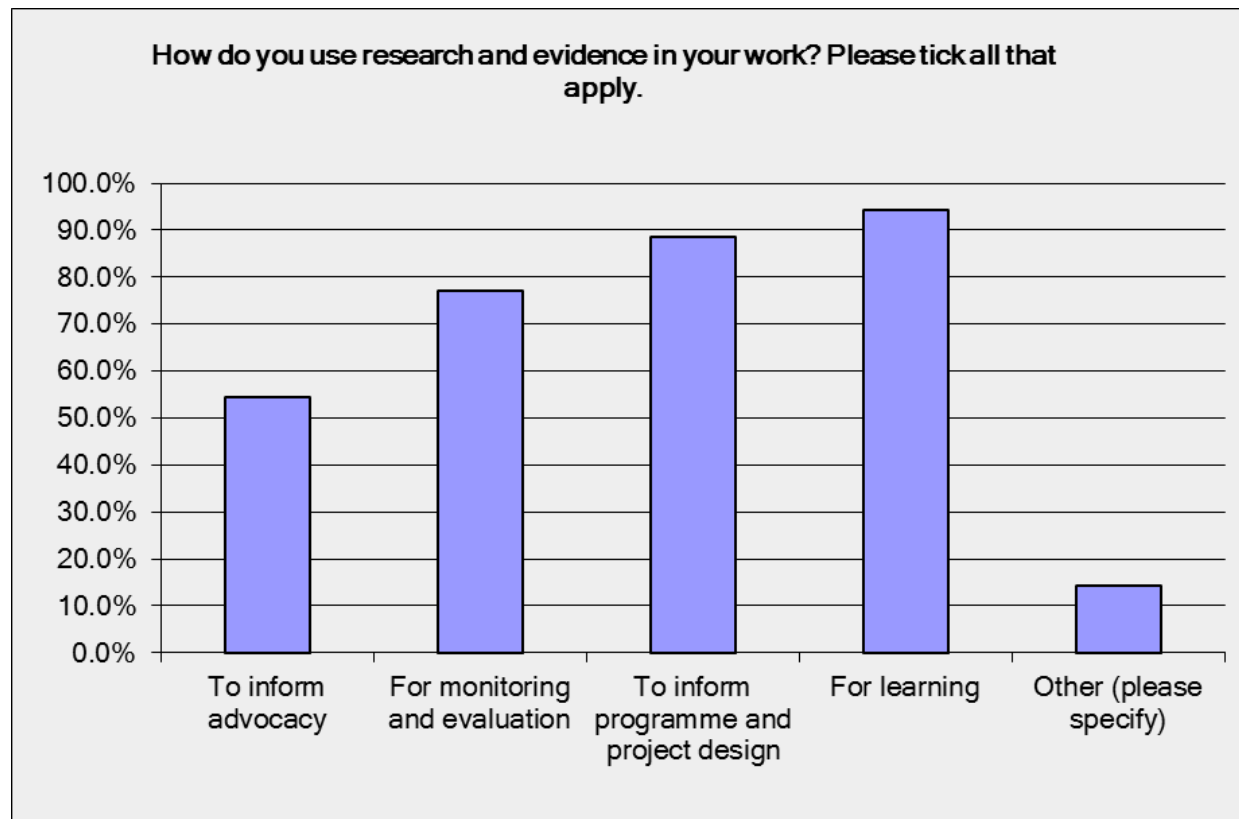
Rachel Hayman
Research, Learning & Communications Director, INTRAC

rhayman@intrac.org

www.intrac.org



Research and evidence in civil society organisations



Source: [‘Getting to grips with evidence’](#) (Hayman and Bartlett, 2013)

The value of collaboration

- To reach the hardest-to-reach, and to ‘leave no-one behind’ is going to require different ways of thinking
- A multi-stakeholder approach offers opportunities for research consortia that could do ground-breaking work
- Not just about new research but new ways to rethink, test, analyse and scale-up existing research and development initiatives

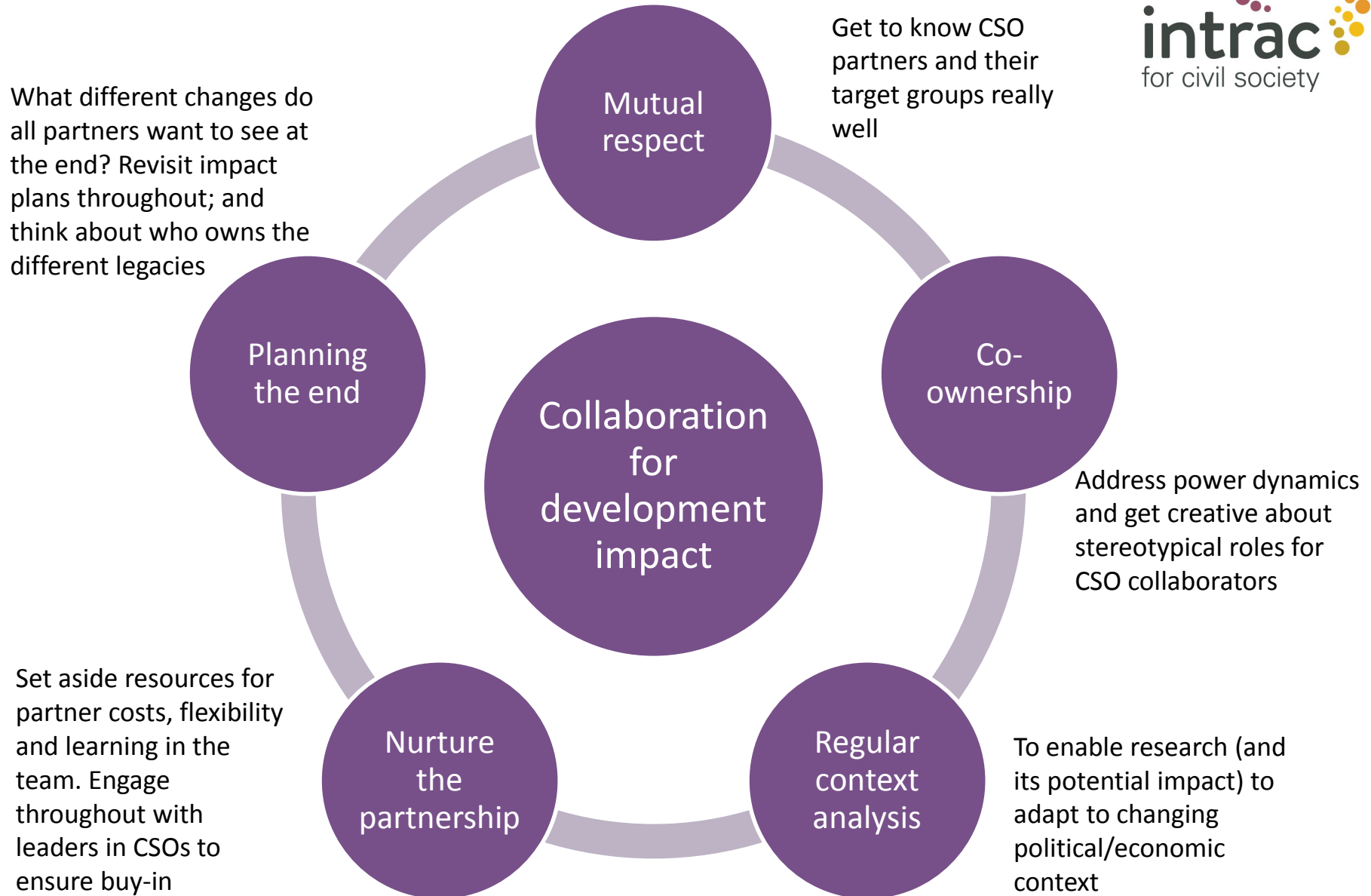
Every GCRF bid should therefore consider:

- How do you ensure that the research is tackling critical questions facing practitioners and policy-makers on the ground, and tackling the biggest gaps in development research?
- How do you ensure that research findings have a significant and sustained impact on policy and practice?
- How do you ensure that the complex arrangements required for partnership and collaboration work for everyone involved?

Example: research on local government performance in Tanzania

- Research question emerged from conversation between academics and practitioners: can a local governance performance index stimulate greater public engagement in holding local leaders and institutions to account?
- ESRC-DFID funded project involving Mzumbe University (Tanzania), INTRAC (UK), Foundation for Civil Society (Tanzania)
- Research process was very participatory and capacity development of participants, including creating space to bring citizens, policy makers, civil servants and CSOs together to problem solve, may be the greatest (unintended) impact
- Collaboration had to cope with multiple changes in political context, partner organisations, and research plans.
- Have research findings and have delivered much of the original Pathway to Impact, but what about the practical impacts on local governance beyond the original research project? Sustained engagement and follow-up required.

More information / project resources: <https://www.intrac.org/projects/holding-local-government-account-tanzania-researching-performance-bottom/>



Further information and resources

For further information on INTRAC's expertise and interests in collaborative research, see:

<https://www.intrac.org/projects/practitioner-academic-collaboration-in-research-to-tackle-global-development-challenges/>