Critical Shifts for Reimagining Technical Assistance

**SHIFTING HOW WE PLAN FOR, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS**

- **Aligning to country driven priorities & decisions**: Shift from a system where priorities, models, and structures are imposed on countries by donors/funders, to one where communities and governments are empowered and lead the agenda setting and coordination of health programming. In this way, donors/funders are playing a complementary, supportive role, listening and responding to local needs and priorities.

- **Respecting sovereignty & fostering independence**: Shift from a system that depends on continuous donor/funder support for survival to one that builds on existing local governance and structures, leverages country capacity, and prioritizes sustainability through local resources and expertise.

- **Collaborating on the basis of trust & mutual accountability**: Shift from a system that perpetuates power structures and mistrust in institutions and individual motivations to one that fosters mutual understanding of varying cultural norms and power dynamics, and promotes accountability across different levels and stakeholders (funders, governments, implementers, etc.).

- **Driving strategic & coordinated investments across the system for long term change**: Shift from funding siloed, fragmented, and piecemeal efforts to investing in long-term gains and systems-based approaches aligned with country priorities. Allocate or mobilize the resources necessary to meet the true cost of the health challenge.

- **Using approaches that contextualize & respond to the needs of the problem**: Shift from predefined and uprooted solution-driven approaches (e.g., ‘one-size-fits-all’, ‘best practice-led’, ‘cookie-cutter solutions’) to approaches that seek to understand the local context and adjust to suit local needs. Understand why past projects succeed or fail before scaling or discontinuing them and to inform new program design.

- **Designing programs that are adaptive, iterative & foster innovation**: Shift from a system driven by static, inflexible, and standardized program design (i.e., timelines, activities, metrics, etc.) to one that emphasizes monitoring, evaluation, research and learning, and supports programs designed for flexibility and agility to navigate unprecedented challenges and innovate unprecedented solutions focused on making sustainable impact.

- **Strengthening capacity of individuals, institutions and the entire system**: Shift from a system that presumes capacity gaps in TA/CS recipients to one that recognizes the need for institutions, structures, and all stakeholders involved in TA/CS to synergistically improve their capacity to enhance impact efficacy.

- **Fostering systems that promote equity in gender & power**: Shift from taking actions that are blind to gender and power inequalities and perpetuate hierarchies driven by privilege and power to recognizing the role and importance of gender equity in health outcomes. Create a conducive ecosystem, driving towards greater equity in gender, power, and other forms of inequity.

- **Promoting feedback & learning between communities & donors/funders**: Shift from systems that are closed to community-driven feedback or dissent to donor-driven systems that foster feedback and learning across multiple levels (e.g., communities, implementers, governments, and donors/funders). Decouple funding power with the right to evaluate and enable all stakeholders to contribute to decisions and evaluation.

**SHIFTING HOW WE SET THE AGENDA, FUND, AND PARTNER**

- **Using approaches that prioritize & ensure accountability across different levels and stakeholders (funders, governments, etc.)**: Shift from predefined and uprooted solution-driven approaches (e.g., ‘one-size-fits-all’, ‘best practice-led’, ‘cookie-cutter solutions’) to approaches that seek to understand the local context and adjust to suit local needs. Understand why past projects succeed or fail before scaling or discontinuing them and to inform new program design.

- **Creating technical & financial independence**: Shift from a system driven by static, inflexible, and standardized program design (i.e., timelines, activities, metrics, etc.) to one that emphasizes monitoring, evaluation, research and learning, and supports programs designed for flexibility and agility to navigate unprecedented challenges and innovate unprecedented solutions focused on making sustainable impact.

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