

Responding to COVID-19: How can funders be most supportive?

Co-Impact Webinar

31 March 2020

Introduction



Anna-Marie Harling

**Director, Philanthropic
Collaboration**

Moderator



Olivia Leland

Founder and CEO

Speaker



Rakesh Rajani

Vice President, Programs

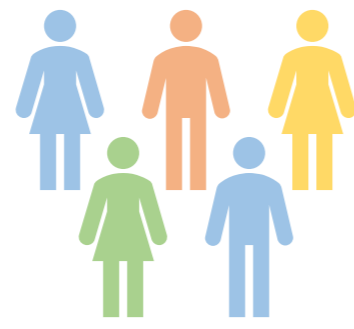
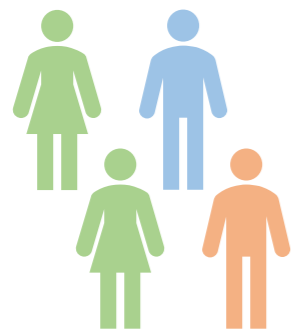
Speaker



Silvia Bastante de
Unverhau

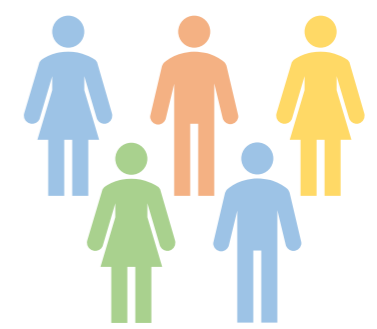
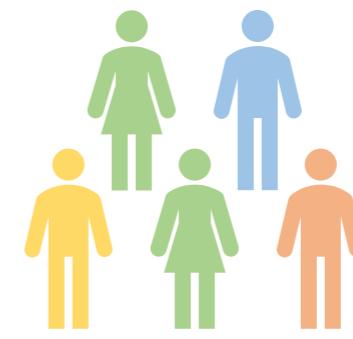
**Chief Philanthropy
Officer**

Speaker



Participants

**Philanthropists, Funders
and Advisers**



Agenda

- Why are we doing this webinar?
- What are we considering in our response to COVID-19?
- How are we supporting our Program Partners?
- What discussions are we having with fellow funders?
- Discussion



Housekeeping

Webinar Technicalities

- 75 minutes in total
- Webinar is being recorded and will be shared
- Please use chat function to introduce yourself
- We have purposely left time for discussion – use “raise hand” if you have a question
- Please use the Q&A function for posting questions if preferable



Why are we doing this webinar?



Our key reflection

Now, more than ever, we need to stay the course.

"The rapidly increasing demand on health facilities and health workers threatens to leave some health systems overstretched and unable to operate effectively... Even though we're in the midst of a crisis, essential health services must continue. Babies are still being born, vaccines must still be delivered, and people still need life-saving treatment for a range of other diseases."

- WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, 30 March 2020

Supporting our Program Partners at Co-Impact



Five principles guide our response

- **Active listening** - Throughout, **we listen more than we talk**. This is about what partners would find helpful, rather than about what we can do.
 - **Showing empathy** - We **acknowledge that this time will be difficult**, in terms of work and personally, and that we understand. We empathize. We ask how is it affecting them, how are they doing?
 - **Being supportive** - We ask **how can we be supportive?** We make ourselves available but do not impose, some people want to talk, others want to be left alone.
 - **Being flexible** - We offer to **be flexible in terms of plans, reporting**, etc. We are open to discussing how they need to pivot. We assure them that our agreed funding will not be threatened by this.
 - **Supporting fundraising**- Where requested, **we connect partners to potential funding opportunities**, and we advocate that it be done in a way that is simple, not burdensome, and supports their core systems work.
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“All efforts must build on existing platforms, infrastructure and relationships and support Ministries of Health and regional authorities as they lead science-based coordinated responses”

- Community Health Impact Coalition

Round 1 Systems Change Grants

Liberia's National Community Health Assistant Program

Liberia



Graduation Approach to Economic Opportunity

*India, Paraguay, Colombia and 10 more countries**



Project ECHO

India



Teaching at the Right Level – Africa

Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Zambia



Round 2 Design Grant Cohort

**CAP Youth Empowerment Initiative
(CAP YEI) & Aga Khan**
Kenya



**DG Murray Trust, Ilifa Labantwana,
and others**
South Africa



**Foundation for Ecological Security
(FES)**
India



Harambee
South Africa & Rwanda



Lend a Hand India (LAHI)
India



One Acre Fund & Landesa
East Africa



Round 3 Open Call

Focus is on:

- Gender & women's leadership
- Global South rootedness



COVID-19 impact on Global South countries

What discussions are we having with fellow funders?

- Shifting away from or shifting towards systems funding?
- Crisis response; existing philanthropy response; longer term response
- Economic impact vs. willingness to give



Discussion

Some resources we have found helpful

- Bridgespan Group – [Opportunities for philanthropic response to COVID-19](#) and [links](#) to other resources
- National Center for Family Philanthropy: [Leadership in Difficult Times: Guidance for Donors and Giving Families Responding to the Emerging COVID-19 and Economic Crises](#)
- Firelight Foundation: ["But I don't fund healthcare..." How all donors - no matter what they fund - can help right now.](#) (US)
- UN Women: [Gender Equality in COVID-19 response](#) (Global)
- Nobel Laureate economists Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo: [A prescription for action: Nine steps after the next 21 days](#) (India).
- CIVICUS - [Open letter: Donors and supporters must act to ensure civil society resilience against COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- WINGS – [Resources \(emergency funds etc.\) in response to COVID-19](#)

- We have also signed **two pledges**:
 - **Council on Foundations Pledge** (US): <https://www.cof.org/news/call-action-philanthropys-commitment-during-covid-19>
 - **London Funders Pledge** (UK): <http://covid19funders.org.uk/>

Thank you!

Please follow us on:



If you are interested in supporting the work of our Program Partners, particularly those working on health systems and COVID-19, please contact stefanie@co-impact.org