
16 April 2015

Dear Friends,

Today we are sharing two tools we learned about in an Acumen training on Lean Data Approaches to Measure Social Impact. We hope these resources will help you think through simple ways to collect useful information on the impact of your work.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) Progress out of Poverty Index - Grameen Bank

(Resource) SMURF Checklist for Designing Good Survey Questions - Acumen and ID Insight

(News) Elumelu Foundation Selects Participants for Entrepreneurship Program - Philanthropy News Digest

(Call for Applications) Small Grants for Organizations Working with MSM and Transgender Health Access - ViiV Healthcare

(Call for Applications) International ReSource Award of US\$150,000 for Sustainable Watershed Management 2015

(Resource) Progress out of Poverty Index

The Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) is a poverty measurement tool developed by the Grameen Bank for organizations and businesses with a mission to serve the poor. The PPI is statistically-sound, yet simple to use: the answers to 10 questions about a household's characteristics and asset ownership are scored to compute the likelihood that the household is living below the poverty line – or above by only a narrow margin. With the PPI, organizations can identify the clients, customers, or employees who are most likely to be poor or vulnerable to poverty, integrating objective poverty data into their assessments and strategic decision-making.

Questions are easy to answer, for example, about the type of roof of a family's house. We think this tool could be make it easy to do baselines and end lines to show the impact of an organization's work at the family level.

This website (www.progressoutofpoverty.org/ppi-country) has PPIs developed for 55 countries, most of the countries where our partners work. In order to access the PPIs, you need to set up a free account on the website.

Have you used these tools? If so, tell us about your experience!

(Resource) SMURF Checklist for Designing Good Survey Questions - Acumen and ID Insight

We have all heard about SMART indicators in M&E: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timebound. In a recent Acumen training on Lean Data Approaches to Measure Social Impact, we learned a new acronym for designing good survey questions: SMURF!

It stands for Specific, Measurable, Understandable, Relevant, and Framed. Acumen encourages organizations to draw from questions that have already been tested in their field whenever possible, but if you cannot draw from an existing survey, you can use the “SMURF” checklist to write good questions.

SPECIFIC

Do your questions focus on just one thing at a time? (i.e. don't ask: “How many cows and goats do you have?” instead just ask “How many cows do you own?”)

MEASURABLE

- Are different respondents able to give different answers to the questions?
- Can respondents answer the questions honestly?
- Will respondents' answers remain the same, regardless of who is administering the survey, where it is administered, or the time it is administered?
- Did you use a Likert scale or a Net Promoter Score (applicable if asking people about their preferences)?

UNDERSTANDABLE

- Is the survey free of jargon?
- Will everyone understand the words and terms in the same way?
- Can you back translate the survey before piloting? (i.e. if you had it translated; can you have someone back-translate it into the language of the survey designer so that they can verify its accuracy?)
- Did you budget extra time if you are working in a language with an uncommon script?

RELEVANT

Are your questions tied to key indicators? (i.e. will the answers to your questions help you determine whether you were successful?)

FRAMED

- Do your questions define the time in which the activity occurred? (i.e. How many cows did you purchase last year?) This time horizon should not be either so specific that a person with a normal memory would have time recalling, or too broad.
- Do your questions define the context in which the activity you are asking about should have occurred? (i.e. How many times in the last week did you visit a clinic in your village?)

You can learn more about Acumen's free online Lean Data Approaches to Measure Social Impact course here: <https://novoed.com/lean-data>

(News) Elumelu Foundation Selects Participants for Entrepreneurship Program - Philanthropy News Digest

We thought news of this entrepreneurship training program is exciting. Maybe some emerging entrepreneurs from your country will be included in the first class? Perhaps you know someone to recommend to apply for the 2016 class!

The Tony Elumelu Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria, has announced the first thousand participants in its Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme, a \$100 million initiative to discover and support ten thousand African entrepreneurs over the next decade.

The selected entrepreneurs will participate in a nine-month customized business skills training course, an entrepreneurship "boot camp," and the annual Elumelu Entrepreneurship Forum, and will also receive seed funding, mentoring, and membership in the initiative's alumni network. Drawn from more than twenty thousand applicants, this year's cohort represents fifty-two African countries and territories across a range of sectors, from agriculture to education to information and communications technology.

The 2015 class is the first of ten the foundation will identify and support through the program, with the dual goal of creating a million new jobs and \$10 billion in annual revenues. The top five countries in terms of participants are Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, and Ghana, with all major regions and language blocs on the continent — Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, and Arabic Africa — represented.

"The high quantity and quality of applicants we have received is testament to the brilliant ideas and incredible talent that exists in abundance across Africa," said Parminder Vir, director of entrepreneurship at the Elumelu Foundation. "The Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme will give structure and support to these African entrepreneurs to develop themselves and to grow their businesses. Through TEEP, the ripple effects of the long-term investments in a new generation of Africapitalists will be felt throughout the continent."

For a complete list of 2015 Elumelu Entrepreneurs, visit the Elumelu Foundation website: www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/teep

Full article available here: <http://bit.ly/1Gv0bKS>

(Call for Applications) Small Grants for Organizations Working with MSM and Transgender Health Access - ViiV Healthcare

ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action program is seeking proposals to fund projects that support MSM and Transgender (MSM/T) communities to strengthen their capacity to lead, participate in policy-making, and advocate to address the severe disparities and health service access issues keeping MSM/T individuals from lifesaving prevention and treatment.

The Programme is seeking proposals that can help meet three key objectives:

- Reduce the level and impact of stigma experienced by MSM/T individuals
- Increase access to health related services through community-based collaborations with local governments and health care enablers
- Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations that engage MSM/T communities in reducing HIV

To reach these objectives, The Positive Action MSM/T Programme will prioritize the following programme strategies:

- Community engagement, participation and leadership
- Community-centred approaches
- Evidence-based and Evidence-generating
- New technology and Innovation
- Advocacy and Empowerment

This small grants call for proposals is focused on nongovernmental and community-based organisations that can deliver change at a community level thanks to their links with or representation within affected MSM and transgender communities

This RFP will be a call for a series of small grants – covering a two year period – with funding amounts up to £25,000/year.

Deadline: 8 May 2015

More information available here: <http://bit.ly/1Fsqli6>

(Call for Applications) International ReSource Award of US\$150,000 for Sustainable Watershed Management 2015

The International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management is an internationally recognised prize acknowledging leadership in the implementation of the principles of sustainability in watershed management. Every year US\$150,000 is awarded across several projects being implemented in non-OECD countries.

The award is an initiative of the Swiss Re Foundation committed to support water protection projects for sustainable access to clean water supplies in developing and emerging countries. Recent winning projects have supported communities in such diverse locations as Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands, China and Guatemala.

Project Types

The project must

- Contribute to raising awareness of the ecological, social and economic significance of water sources and watersheds in developing and emerging countries.
- Preference will be given to those projects which demonstrate innovative approaches to effective adaptation to the expected regional consequences of climate change harming the watershed and allow scaling up on a self-sustaining basis.
- Such projects should be based on transferable concepts and thus enable sustained efforts to be made to protect the quality and availability of (drinking) water in other locations.
- The project must commence no later than 2015.

Criteria of the ReSource Award 2015

The submitted projects will be assessed along the following areas:

- Impact: What is the expected impact of the project in the ecological, economic and social dimension?
- Innovation: What innovative approaches are planned that allow effective adaptation to the expected regional consequences of climate change harming the watershed?
- Local involvement: To what extent are the local community and regional institutions involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project?
- Feasibility and governance: feasibility of the project's implementation and the governance structures which will be in place.
- Financial structure: detailed breakdown of the financial structure of the project, including donations, in-kind contributions, and long-term economic viability.

Eligibility Criteria

- NGOs, private, scientific or public institutions and similar bodies are invited to participate in the tender for the International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management.
- Projects comprising more than one institution (e.g. public-private partnerships) are also eligible for the award.
- Bodies with strong links to the local communities of regions where water sources are located are particularly encouraged to participate.
- Participants cannot submit more than one project each year.
- Applicant must have a proven track record in sustainability and project planning and/or management in the specific field of water and source management.
- The prize is not for building-up or strengthening the organizations that are submitting an application.

How to Apply?

Eligible applicant can submit short proposal online or via email.

The deadline is not yet posted on their website, but it looks like short proposals will be due in April 2015.

Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal.

Application guidelines are available here: <http://bit.ly/1y9YeQW>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

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