

Partnership Management Plan¹

One way to strengthen partnerships is to intentionally consider and manage the relationship itself. This tool is intended to support individuals involved in partnerships consider and plan for strengthening the relationship. Individuals involved with more than one partnership can include their full partnership portfolio in the table below.

Next steps should then be transparently discussed and decided with the relevant partner.

The past: What's the relationship been like so far?

- How long have you worked together?
- How do you tend to relate to each other (For example, through sub-grants, information sharing, co-implementing work, consultations, shared decision-making)

The present: Where is this partnership on the lifecycle now?

- Note that partnerships can be between two lifecycle stages, such as *building* and *managing*, or *building* and *reviewing*

The future: What might need attention to strengthen this partnership?

- It may be that what is needed is better clarity internally within your own organisation about what you want for this partnership, and then to work with the partner to transparently share and discuss expectations about the future relationship.

Action: Based on your role in the relationship, what can you do about it?

- What can *you* do towards this work? Appropriate actions will be based on your role in the partnership, as well as what's needed in the partnership.
 - What resources or tools do you need to make that happen?

¹ Sources referenced: The Partnering Toolbook: An essential guide to cross-sector partnering, Ros Tennyson, The Partnering Initiative



When: When might it be best to do this?

- There are natural ebbs and flows in a partnership. Being wise about when to bring up subjects or have discussions can help them happen smoothly and make sense.
- Are there events coming up that might help or hinder this work? If so, how can you plan appropriately? (For example, grant proposal deadlines, reporting deadlines, travel)

PARTNERSHIP	PAST: <i>What has been the relationship in the past?</i>	PRESENT: <i>Where are we on the lifecycle now?</i>	FUTURE: <i>What's needed to strengthen this partnership?</i>	ACTION: <i>Based on your role in the relationship what can you do about it?</i>	WHEN: <i>When might it be best to do this?</i>

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