

KEY THEMES FROM DIGITAL WORKSHOP ON BUILDING EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE IN PEACEBUILDING

BREAKOUT GROUP 1

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AND EVIDENCE: HOW TO ENCOURAGE ATTENTION TO THE EVIDENCE-BASED ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING

- **Move beyond only gathering evidence and towards practice.** The key is to get the broader public to engage with what the evidence tells us through unified messaging and integration into practice.
- **Create a unified strategic communications effort across stakeholders,** including integrating the voices of local women.

BREAKOUT GROUP 2

DEVELOPING A FOUNDATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES: HOW TO COLLATE AND COMMUNICATE THE FINDINGS WHERE THE FIELD SEES EVIDENCE

- **Need both a standard set of methods & communication of new/evolving methods.** The field should create a standard set of methods that can be replicated across many contexts, and create a channel for sharing adaptations on established and new methods.
- **Focus on identifying underlying issues through a systems lens.** Analysis should prioritize systems perspective to observe and focus on unusual or outlying patterns within data. Categorizing why--or why not--an event has occurred is essential.
- **Emphasis on improving translation and accessibility of data through ADA compliance.** Make sure all materials are accessible in an online format to educate new people and broaden the field's accountability to those experiencing conflict.
- **Using and invest in a systems-based approach.** Our work is a process and not a prescription.

BREAKOUT GROUP 3

PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES IN THE US GOVERNMENT: HOW TO BETTER ENGAGE GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE IN THE DISCUSSION

- **USG must increase its demand for evidence-based programming.** Organizations should incorporate evidence at the strategy/design phase and donors must provide funding to strengthen implementers' MEL capacities.
- **Policymakers have a role to play** in supporting internal restructuring and reorienting of their institutions to support evidence-based practice.
- **More access points are needed to enable peacebuilders outside of government to communicate evidence** (of what works and what does not) and its value to USG actors.

BREAKOUT GROUP 4

RIGOR, NOT METHODS: HOW TO DISCUSS RIGOR IN EVIDENCE WITHOUT DEVOLVING TO A METHODS DEBATE

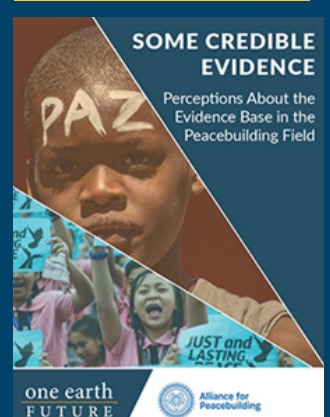
- **Quality over rigor.** We need to determine the preferred way to express the concept of 'rigor.'
- **Exploring options for standardized checklists or frameworks for assessment of qualitative evidence.** In the interest of comparing research, checklists can strengthen assessment and build bridges across organizations.
- **Maximally transparent documentation of research is essential.** A key goal should be recording difficulties, challenges, and failures of methods to inform future efforts.

BREAKOUT GROUP 5

NEXT STEPS FOR PEACEMAKING EVIDENCE: HOW TO IMPROVE EVIDENCE IN PEACEMAKING

- **Learning from failure + reflective practice.** It is hard to accept that a project may not have had the results we wanted, but if we acknowledge the failure, reflect on it, and share that learning, we improve our evidence base.
- **Collective impact.** We need a way to look at evidence of collective impact in peacemaking. No single initiative is likely to have a great impact in isolation, but collectively many efforts build overall peace. **Deep case studies** would contribute to building evidence of the shared impact of collective efforts.

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