

This idea is put forward primarily because of an ICA General Assembly priority #1

“We resolve that the key functions are:

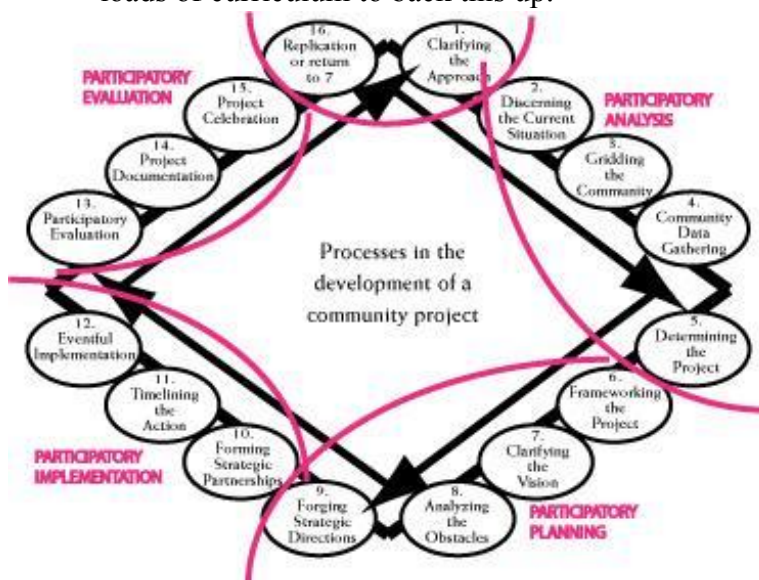
1. PROGRAM SUPPORT

Support and serve from an understanding of ICA core values the existing and new including contemporary programs of national ICA's.”

The main purpose of the CD stream would be map out a “Big Proposal” which could be used by any ICA (or any CD practitioner for that matter) to accelerate community development in any institution or country that was interested. The Big Proposal could be used by an ICA in a country to build a coalition on community development, or it could be used to bring some traditional ICA wisdom to any country to help jumpstart community development in that country. It could be used if a country wanted to start a CD Institute, or if a country wanted simply to empower some neighbourhood initiatives it was interested in. While ICAs would tend to understand the elements, components and values behind the Big Proposal better, there is no reason why other practitioners could not use it as well. Any national ICA could take the whole proposal or parts of it and “shop it around” if they wanted to.

Here are two frameworks key to mapping out the Big Proposal

1. “Processes in the development of a community project” is intended to describe the life cycle of ICAs traditional whole system community development. While there are some small differences that have occurred between various ICAs over time, this “diamond” of development has many of the ICA traditional best practices imbedded within it. In a more general form the diamond also describes other CD approaches, typically analysis, planning, implementation, evaluation. ICAs have loads of curriculum to back this up.



2. Typical Development Impact Strategies was created by Brian Stanfield to show various strategies sequenced in a three column, nine point framework. For example Crisis Relief at the beginning has a very immediate impact while Systems Development at the end is a very long term response. It is very easy to notice the growing sequence. ICAs have participated in all of these, and one could locate many or most other CD initiatives on it. The accuracy of the nine is not the question here. What is useful is that it provides a familiar screen that any institution, government, or even CD practitioner can use to relate to outcomes of their initiatives: e.g. some people want to do relief, some advocacy, some want to work on infrastructure, and some on organizational strengthening, etc.

Typical Development Impact Strategies

Many organizations or departments that promote community development often use one or more of the following strategies. The strategies are not ends in themselves, but rather are ways to help people get more local control.

CRISIS RELIEF

Direct alleviation of immediate suffering such as food aid and disaster relief. Examples would be distributing food, clothing, medical supplies etc. or managing a relief operation.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Building awareness on development topics such as gender and development, the impact of poverty, environmentally sustainable approaches etc. An example would be a workshop on the role of women.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Enabling people to gain the capacities to do their own development. An example would be a training program.

MATERIAL SUPPORT

Provision of physical and financial resources to developing communities and organizations. Examples would be getting medical equipment for a clinic or providing funds for a local project.

ESTABLISHING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Focus on putting basic structures and systems in place - may be mostly technical support. An example would setting up a water or a sewer system.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Working with a partner to develop the systems, structures and capacities to become organizationally sustainable. An example would be working with a partner on board development and financial management systems.

ADVOCACY

Acting on behalf of a group to gain an advantage such as rallying support for a particular perspective on a topic or influencing decisions made by political bodies. An example would be influencing government to make policy changes.

GENERATING LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Emphasis of enabling local groups to determine their own directions and create their own initiatives. An example would be working with a community to determine, design and implement local development projects.

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Working with entire systems to enable a self generated development process to take place. An example would be a project designed to improve education in a particular area or creating community based development associations.

The CD Stream would use the time of the participants to look at:

1. Experiences and outcomes from the various nine strategies
2. Stories of impact on individual lives and communities from the nine.
3. Relating tools of whole system processes of development to the nine part framework.
4. Writing up the Big Proposal

Details of above.

1. Japan and Chile has incredible experience in Crisis Relief, while ICA Canada has great experience in Human Resource Development. There are many other examples of the other nine over the past 10-20 years that could be simply documented before or during the conference.
2. Stories of impact could be generated during interviews during the conference. There are no, doubt, some superb ones that cover the waterfront of the nine.
3. ICAs best practices get used in different ways for different strategies. For instance simple gridding can be an important component of relief work when a tent city is

created during a crisis, but is just as important when trying to launch a project in a downtown city core. Visioning during Advocacy work has a slightly different application than Visioning with an rural community. Discerning Contradictions in Systems Development are a slightly different application than discerning Contradictions with an aboriginal project on Development Education. Each of these processes could be described for the different strategies. No matter which strategy of development is being considered by a donor agency, an institution or government department, there is an ICA process that can accelerate it.

4. Writing up the Big Proposal in a way that can be taken and owned by any ICA, and modified for their local use independent of the type of community development strategy that they wish to undertake. It would probably include some funding guides and some resources from various individuals and ICAs that are currently available.

The Big Proposal could be immediately used by some ICAs. It could also lay dormant with a national ICA for many years until somebody decides to pick it up and launch an initiative for which they suddenly find they have a template and background data to use.