

The Bridge Collaborative

Bridging evidence-based impact across environment, health and development communities



VISION

The Bridge Collaborative envisions the global health, development and environment communities jointly solving today's complex, interconnected challenges. By convening people from across disciplines, sectors and perspectives, we are developing a shared evidence base for solutions that bridge inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

AN EVIDENCE REVOLUTION

People and nature are linked. This simple statement belies the complex reality confronting the environment, health and development sectors. Each community recognizes the interconnectedness of their challenges, but they need a common evidence base to design shared solutions.

These three communities already approach problems by creating some form of logic model – or results chain - for how a change in the system will lead to outcomes. A health practitioner considering how to solve a rural health challenge examines how different preventative and treatment options will affect health, costs, access to care and other key outcomes. Development practitioners consider how infrastructure, capacity building, incentives and other strategies will affect people's income and well being. And conservation practitioners

working to aid biodiversity think through how actions from land and water protection to improved management policies and practices will create environmental change.

Each sector's approach weakens when the view is broadened, and a shared challenge becomes the focus of the work. How can a city most efficiently solve air pollution, poverty and health problems? What rural development approaches can secure water, food and energy without drying streams and destabilizing the climate? Results chains and evidence provide a common starting point to understand what works and what doesn't, but these tools do not yet bridge sectors well.

Shared principles for results chains and assessing evidence will unlock the transformation we need to solve our planet's increasingly complex and interconnected challenges.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

The evidence transformation we envision cannot be done piecemeal. We are launching a global coalition that engages 200 experts from the development, health and environment communities in a rapid, innovative attempt at change. The Bridge Collaborative currently operates under the direction of the founding Secretariat — The Nature Conservancy, PATH, Duke University, and IFPRI — who guide decision-making and implementation through two parallel tracks.

Track I: The Secretariat convenes ~200 experts who participate in multidisciplinary working groups led by Co-Principal Investigators. These groups create key principles that contribute to a paradigm-shifting process for securing the evidence base for collaborative problem-solving.

Track II: World leaders in development, health and the environment work together on an Advisory Council to guide the Secretariat. This council lifts up the findings of the working groups toward overcoming our shared problems.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

The Bridge Collaborative is sparking a total transformation in how we see global problems, consider solutions, generate and use evidence, and measure success. Through these efforts, government and corporate leaders, funders, program managers, researchers and practitioners will

- See the full scope of interconnected problems clearly
- Have a much broader set of solutions at their fingertips
- Avoid working across purposes, allowing policies, actions and innovations in health, development and the environment to reinforce each other
- Unlock funding and capacity to make real, system-change impacts possible
- Reveal metrics and create an evidence base that make monitoring and evaluation more cost effective

The world is an intensely interconnected place, yet today's evidence largely misses the links. We aim to change this through an evidence revolution for health, development and the environment. We hope you will join us.

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