



STEP 8: FOLLOW-UP AND SUSTAINABILITY

Cre8
in 8

'A long journey starts with just one step; the same long journey ends with one step... The memory lives on forever.'

INTRODUCTION

It is important to have a plan for a follow-up, to ensure a lasting effect. Many well-intentioned project initiators end up confusing, if not even reversing, the gains they made, due to their lack of a proper ‘sustainability’ plan. In this context, sustainability does not mean that you will continue being involved with the participants on a daily basis after the project, but rather that the initial gains and impacts realised by the project on different levels will be sustained.

CONTENT AND GUIDELINES

In terms of sustainability it is important that:

- the skills learnt and the capacity to transfer them will remain within the community through the training of trainers (ToT)
- the project becomes partnered with local stakeholders who have the capacity to integrate the method within their regular programming
- a sustainability plan or strategy is developed that includes the wishes and the circumstances of participants at the core of its implementation
- this sustainability plan is both realistic and within the means and capabilities of the participants, local partners and the community.

A good sustainability plan is part of the project plan, and the initiator should make sure that all partners are well briefed in that regard.

EXAMPLE

In Moshi, Tanzania, Cre8 worked with the Mkombozi management to ensure there would be a follow-up and that the effects would be sustained. Working according to a setup agreed upon in advance, Mkombozi mainstreamed the Cre8 project within its programmes, such that the participants were allowed to meet regularly at the institution to further develop their skills. Besides the staff member whom the organisation had appointed to be in charge of the project, local skills facilitators such as the acrobatics teacher were also regularly invited to guide the

participants. The staff member periodically wrote reports on the participants’ progress and shared those with Cre8. After one year, Cre8 organised a follow-up session with the participants in partnership with Mkombozi. No less than 60% of the original members participated in that session.

By means of a focus-group discussion, the participants shared about the progress they had made over the previous year since the end of the project. They also displayed some of their work, which served as evidence of how their artistic skills had further developed but also of how their awareness of development issues had advanced. For example, the young people who

had been working as visual-artist trainees during the project had established a visual-arts studio in their community, where they produced paintings and other products for sale. They also established a community visual-arts training-and-mentorship centre.

CONCLUSION

Thinking about the sustainability of the results of a project is something that needs to be embedded in every step of the project cycle. Every decision made should be made with an eye to ensuring lasting results. The responsibility for sustainability lies with the beneficiaries, including both the host organisation and the participants.

CHECK-OUT BOX

- **A well-considered sustainability plan.**
- **A sustainability agreement with the local partner(s).**
- **A monitoring-and-evaluation plan aimed at measuring results and impacts.**