



The HBI Collaboration Model

Inspired by years of work with grassroots organizations, community led projects, local leaders, partner NGOs and government funded programs; Health Bridges International carefully evaluated the structure that demonstrated the greatest success for the communities and the people we were serving. Out of this evaluation has grown the **HBI Collaboration Model**. Too many organizations operate in isolation. Too many programs lack a connection to a broad services delivery model. We believe there are more than enough resources to meet the needs of every person and community – the challenge is linking these resources. To this end, we strive to create connections. Bridges between resources and needs. Bridges between what is and what can be.

HBI believes that working together is the key to resolving the inequalities of the world. We are committed to a model that champions collaboration and helps to develop and reinforce the sustainable steps to foster and reinforce partnerships. We bring together change agents from diverse sectors of medicine, health, social justice and policy to create model programs that can be evaluated and challenged. We seek to validate our programs and projects so they can be scaled to other communities and environments.

Finally, we work to ensure services delivery and long-term advocacy are continuously administered in parallel. We work alongside our in-country partners to support them in their own vision for the future. We continually seek to assure opportunities for communities to source their own future – while delivering evidence supported health and human services . . . this is the model of Health Bridges International.

The HBI Collaboration Model for crafting and driving sustainable change is based on the following structures:

- 1 *Identify and support local champions:* The most profound programs are based on the needs of in-country, on-the-ground change agents. HBI involves community participation at all levels of our programs and projects.
- 2 *Build a coalition:* Change never occurs in isolation. In fact, true, lasting change occurs in relationship . . . in community. HBI seeks to develop and reinforce community-based

coalitions for change. Working with leaders and representatives to define the stages of change and the steps needed to craft a new future. Coalition building is a process that requires patience and persistence. We work to act in cultural humble and sensitive ways to fully empower community partners to walk together in our work.

- 3 *Identify the needs:* The identification of needs is a complex process. Identifying the *true* needs of a community requires carefully listening and observing. It requires working with on-the-ground change agents who can help you navigate the cultural and social nuances of a community. And it requires respect for the natural timelines and change cycles of diverse environments. Identifying the needs of underserved communities or people living in marginalized experiences requires a patience, humility and time.
- 4 *Identify the resources:* Resources are often viewed as the greatest limitation to change. HBI believes resources are abundant - but often untapped. We work to assure the right resources are identified for the true needs of a community. To this end, we meticulously and continuously build our portfolio of relationships and stakeholders. We seek to broker these relationships to generate resources for communities of need. We work with our stakeholders to pool resources, share skills and leverage our talents for the communities we serve.
- 5 *Align the resources:* Resources must be accurately aligned with needs to generate the desired impact. However, all too often - resources are delivered to a partner or community and then summarily forgotten. For HBI, aligning resources with needs means we must work with our partners to consider all of the implications and impacts of the resources. We help to define the necessary steps of implementation and the tools needed to best utilize the resources as they address of well-defined need. We help a partner or community consider the many levels and layers of operationalization needed to best connect a resource with a need.
- 6 *Make the connection:* Identifying need and aligning resources requires that the connection is solid and supported. HBI believes the connection between a resource and need is the bridge; and strong columns or pillars must support bridges. Our work is based on the four pillars of training, consulting, connecting and serving. We seek to support our in-country partners and the communities we work with through our pillars. This means we offer training where needed, consulting on projects where requested, create connections where defined and serve whenever possible. We know that making strong connections is an ongoing effort and we work to assure the bridges we help to build are strong enough to stand on their own pillars before we end our support.

- 7 *Identify opportunities, challenges and threats:* A big piece to assuring sustainability is defining the opportunities, challenges and threats to our programs or projects. We work with community leaders and partners to name the opportunities (financial, partnerships, coalitions), define the challenges (mission drift, changes in partners, loss to follow-up) and understand the threats (financial, social, political) to sustaining their efforts into the future. Sustainability is a dynamic effort that requires continuous input and consideration. Identifying opportunities, challenges and threats early in the project process - is a key component to sustainability.

- 8 *Provide ongoing support for sustainability:* Working with a community to identify and define a new future often means we work in communities for extended periods. We build strong relationships. We foster sincere friendships. And our support for our partners doesn't end at the conclusion of a grant or the completion of a project deliverable. We continuously seek ways to support our partners. This means helping them to cultivate the self-advocacy skills they need to be their own bridge builders. This means working with them through all of their challenges and triumphs. It means supporting our relationships.