

Global Knowledge Initiative



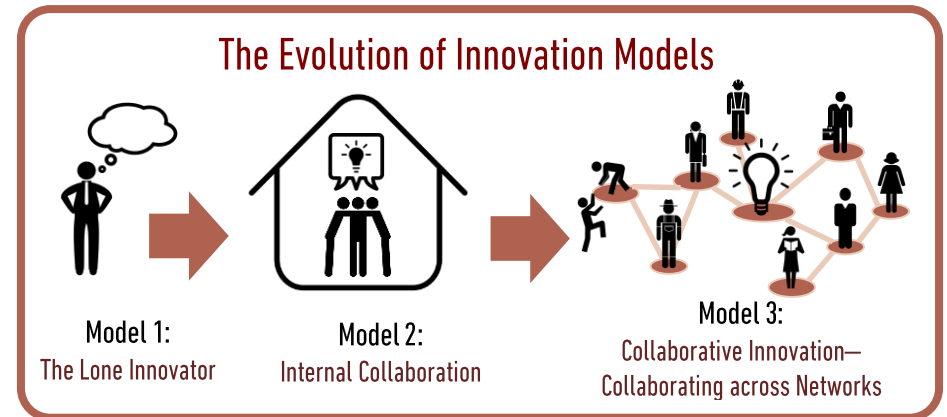
What is Collaborative Innovation?

“Collaborative Innovation” means infusing collaboration at every stage of innovation from hatching an idea to realizing impact. GKI defines Collaborative Innovation as the act of combining efforts, and sharing complementary resources with partners to create, test, or implement innovative ideas. The World Economic Forum study on Collaborative Innovation reports that only 14% of disruptive innovation is emerging from traditional “Lone Innovator”/ Innovation Team” models of innovation. By contrast, when changemakers work with partners across organizations, sectors, and cultures, they are better able to unleash innovations with the potential for big impact. GKI believes that the skills needed to innovate collaboratively are learnable, yet often not addressed in traditional training and organizational settings.

Through our Collaborative Innovation Capacity Building program, GKI addresses this gap. Since 2009, we have worked with individuals, institutions, and networks hailing from 60 countries, serving their Collaborative Innovation requests that extend from **sensing** needs, to **creating** high-impact solutions, to **accelerating** impact. We serve a multi-sectoral audience that spans entrepreneurs, nonprofits, private sector companies, researchers, and policy makers. We enable our clients to build, practice, and ultimately master Collaborative Innovation skills through interactive workshops, trainings, and coaching.

How is Collaborative Innovation Different?

In this first decade and half of the 21st century, we are witnessing system-changing innovations emerge and scale out of dynamic collaborations. Fuelled by creativity, the pursuit of common purpose, and a belief that sharing empowers achievement, Collaborative Innovation changes how we work and how successfully we innovate. A departure from old models of lone innovators toiling alone, Collaborative Innovation harnesses the power of networks within institutions and between them. The result: more and better innovation.



GKI's Collaborative Innovation Model

SENSE

We help our partners develop skills to understand user needs, innovation contexts, and the root causes of problems they seek to solve. With sensing skills, partners can create shared vision by assessing opportunities for innovation and the system dynamics that bear on them.

EXAMPLES of GKI's SENSING SKILLS AND TOOLS

Empathizing with users: Empathy mapping helps innovators synthesize their observations of end-users to better understand their needs and inspire the development of effective solutions.

Applying Futures Foresight: Three Horizons is among many Futures Foresight tools used by GKI that help users imagine future changes to problems, contexts, and even whole systems.

CREATE

GKI develops the capacity of users to build and improve integrated solutions. Empowered with Collaborative Innovation skills aimed at creating solutions, partners can identify, connect to, and use resources within their reach – skills that enhance their capacity to develop and implement their ideas.

EXAMPLES of GKI's CREATING SKILLS AND TOOLS

Strategy Shaping: Strategy Shaping enables teams to demonstrate their mission by creating a map – collaboratively and in real time – that demonstrates how the many pieces of a project or initiative fit together.

Journey Mapping: Journey Mapping is a tool that helps innovators optimize user benefits by elaborating the steps of their experience.

ACCELERATE

GKI brings a host of tools and skills to those seeking to build upon validated prototypes and go to scale. Successfully expanding the impact of innovation requires such “acceleration skills,” including business model refining and network cultivation. GKI addresses these needs.

EXAMPLES of GKI's ACCELERATING SKILLS AND TOOLS

Distribution Channels: Understanding distribution channels helps users choose the best method for delivering a product or service to a customer or user, and also scale effectively.

Storyboarding: Storyboarding is a simple, yet powerful, storytelling technique that visually represents how a user interacts with a system, illustrating an innovation's pathways to impact.

Sense

Create

Accelerate

GKI's COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION CAPACITY BUILDING IN ACTION

HOW WE WORK



INDIVIDUALS

GKI works with individuals – policy makers, researchers, and entrepreneurs – to build capacity across a range of skills: from understanding users to defining problems to prototyping solutions while effectively working with other teams or networks. Additionally, through workshops and ongoing mentoring, we help individuals assess available resources within their networks and build strategic partnerships to most effectively realize their innovations and ideas collaboratively.



INSTITUTIONS

GKI works with nonprofits, foundations, and private companies to identify high-impact opportunities to mainstream Collaborative Innovation tools and capacities across operations. GKI helps build organizational capacity to collaborate and innovate within networks, which increasingly helps institutions assure that their innovations deliver value. We do this through trainings and workshops aimed at developing outreach strategies or designing customized Collaborative Innovation programs for whole institutions.



NETWORKS

Highly engaged and collaborative networks – acting with shared purpose toward a common goal – have emerged as critical drivers for scaling successful innovations to address development challenges. GKI has a proven track record for boosting network members' capacity to communicate across distances and manage distributed problem solving. We help networks develop shared vision, measure and incentivize network activity, and mainstream shared Collaborative Innovation skills needed to achieve impact.

RESULTS

UGANDAN ENTREPRENEURS: 2015

At the request of Uganda's National Council of Science and Technology GKI trained early stage entrepreneurs using tools and strategies from the SENSE and CREATE dimensions of GKIs Collaborative Innovation Model. These helped the entrepreneurs move their ideas toward implementation. They were able to refine their value propositions and develop strategic plans to increase strategic partnerships and funding. The entrepreneurs—whose ventures included gravitational flow intravenous drips to a low-cost Tuberculosis diagnostic—left the training energized and equipped with skills, knowledge, and mentoring connections to grow their ideas effectively.

UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION, TANZANIA: 2013-16

The Nelson Mandela Africa Institute of Science and Technology (NMAIST) in Tanzania seeks to become an innovation hub. Through support from UNESCO, GKI developed a training-of-trainers program, leveraging its tools and strategies from the SENSE dimension its Collaborative Innovation (CI) model. These focused on boosting local innovation capacity & increasing university-community engagement. NMAIST faculty has since trained over 150 community members, and Tanzanian policymakers using the GKI curriculum on CI skills. More recently, UNESCO invited GKI to build additional content to boost policymakers' ability to understand, guide, and improve innovation policy for Africa.

HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS NETWORK: 2012-13

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a global experiment in 2012 with its Higher Education Solutions Network, a confederation of 8 Development Labs from 7 global universities. The essence and functions of the "Network" were less clear. Working with USAID, GKI designed a multi-stage process to SENSE and ACCELERATE network interactions and outcomes among the Labs. A series of GKI-led internal coaching sessions and external brainstorming sessions highlighted specific opportunities for further network integration. GKI also trained USAID staff on key network facilitation skills and tools, positioning them as better-equipped network managers looking ahead.

LINK: A GKI Case Study in Building Skills to Sustain Purpose-Driven Networks

GKI's Learning and Innovation Networks for Knowledge and Solutions (LINK) Program began in 2011 with the explicit aim of building purpose-driven networks around some of Africa's changemakers in agriculture, water, climate, and other key development areas. LINK leverages all three dimensions of GKIs Collaborative Innovation model – SENSE, CREATE, and ACCELERATE – to build individual, institutional, and network capacity in key Collaborative Innovation skills. These will enable innovators to more effectively identify partners and resources and deliver innovative solutions. Over the years, GKI has observed that for LINK teams that elicit deep skill building and tools to enhance the way they work and innovate collaboratively, their networks achieve great things. Today, LINK offers a 2-part training program to all winning teams designed to help them and their networks better build and manage problem-solving networks

Throughout the two-part course, LINK teams grow more confident about their purpose, more strategic about their partnership plans, and more focused in terms of the impact they seek to deliver. Their shared commitment to building networks that solve pressing problems in Africa continues to inspire us at GKI. In the words of one of the LINK team leaders, Dr. Sandy Turketti, "The experience with GKI has helped me think about my idea much more clearly. I am going to apply the training tools and processes – especially journey Mapping and Strategy Shaping – to my team in Botswana so we can plan our project launch!"

Sense

Create

Accelerate

Sense

Create

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