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Community Conversation:
Participatory Research Study on Donor Funding to Networks
Collective Mind is undertaking a participatory research study that engages both networks and donors to better understand donor support to networks. The study will shed light on the “what”, “why”, and “how” of donor funding for networks to improve donors’ funding approaches with networks and to inform networks’ fundraising approaches.
“What”

- What funding do donors provide to networks?, e.g.
  - Types of funding (e.g. core funds, project funds, capacity building funds)
  - Volume/quantity of funding (e.g. proportion of donors’ portfolios, proportion of the funds a given network receives, diversity of funders within a network’s portfolio, etc.)
  - Funding at different stages of a network’s evolution
Why

- Why do donors fund networks?, e.g.
  - Donor objectives (e.g. for themselves, for the network, other objectives)
  - Donor expectations (e.g. about the use of their funds, their influence within the network, etc.)
  - Rationale for different types of funding
  - Anticipated outputs, outcomes, and impacts
“How”

- How do donors provide funding to networks?, e.g.
  - Channels and mechanisms for giving/receiving funds (e.g. administration and finance of networks, channeling funds through host or partner organizations, etc.)
  - Conditions or limitations of funding (e.g. evaluation requirements, presence of other donors, etc.)
What research questions should we ask?
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Survey on Donor Funding to Networks