Attempting Feminist Scale with SASA! Together in Mexico and Honduras

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What is SASA! Together?

SASA! Together is a community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women – an updated version of SASA! by Raising Voices.
Power Poster Start Phase

¡Tenemos Poder!
¿Cómo estamos utilizando nuestro poder?
SASA!, SASA! Faith, SASA! Together and Scale

- Adapted in over 35 countries by a variety of organizations
- Most attempts to scale have not been done with optimal conditions for safe and impactful programming.
What is feminist scale?
An example of feminist scale . . .?

The process in Mexico with Raising Voices, Vista Hermosa Foundation, Xilotl and Amextra

• Identifying that a methodology fills a gap
• Involving methodology originators, in the spirit of conversation and learning
• Investment in adaptation with support and testing of interested partners, no strings attached
• Conversations to discern partner interest, no pressure
• Modification of donor procedures to fit the methodology and what works in VAWG prevention
• Separate fund for this, set up for success
Challenges

• Engaging the whole community (women, men, everyone) in everyday community spaces.
• Perceptions of feminism
• Shifting donor procedures, Raising Voices role
• Working in new regions
• Building relationships at a distance
• Scaling without coercion takes time, flexibility and sustained commitment!
Opportunities

Keeping the focus on:

• process and *eventual* numbers
• relationships and power.
• the local ecosystem and how this fits
• flexibility and dialogue
• as this evolves - accountability mechanisms.
The Spirit of Feminist Partnership

- Work together as peers with respect
- Balance power
- Open, honest and transparent communication
- Support and accompaniment, not oversight and supervision
- Mutual accountability
- Always work in the best interest of women and communities we serve

Have fun together!
Ingredients for effective SASA! Together use

The 'right' organizations & communities
* Organizations with balanced power with communities and a feminist spirit
* Has appropriate community size and staffing for methodology
* The methodology fills a gap & there is interest in it

The 'right' technical assistance
* Quality TA
* Delivered in a cohort model with significant exchange opportunities
* Can contribute to feminist movement building

The 'right' funding structure
* Longer-term, flexible core support
* Balanced power with donors
* Friendly reporting requirements so staff can focus on communities
Lessons learned

We can create the conditions for quality implementation of evidence-based methodologies and contribute to feminist movements through cohorts of activist organizations, effective technical assistance, and donors with flexible, long-term and core funding.

It offers benefits to everyone involved.

*SASA! Together* in Mexico . . . could this be a living example of feminist scale?
Let’s Discuss!

Thank you!

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