

Celebrating the first cohort of the Certificate in Remote Partnering...



Background

This unique online course was created for those who are involved in partnerships that function mostly or entirely long-distance. Early research and a design lab (information on both is available from: www.remotepartnering.org) revealed a significant gap in what was available as well as generated some great ideas for how to optimise remote partnering and infuse it with energy and creativity. The programme has been curated by the Partnership Brokers Association in close collaboration with a governance group of the original 4 founding partners.

Ten partners in total¹ provided the core funding for the development and delivery costs of the pilot course. In return they were able to nominate 10 practitioners (either from their own staff team or from their partner organisations) who became the pioneering first cohort. The first cohort covered partnering in 90+ countries – many of which were particularly fragile or vulnerable contexts (notably, but not exclusively, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen) with some coming from INGO HQ's which enabled peer learning across cultures and hierarchies.

Our Approach

Working with the Geneva Foundation we were able to access the latest developments in online learning. The remarkable and innovative Scholar approach was selected for its capacity to foster collaboration and innovation as well as the co-creation of content. It also has the capacity to capture continuous and immediate statistics and feedback making it a highly responsive and adaptive learning platform.

The focus on self-managed and practice-based learning, co-created action planning approaches, peer review and direct access for those usually unable to access such opportunities make it a highly appropriate and affordable programme.² The course was demanding, with a range of deliverables throughout the 4 weeks, requiring a time commitment of at least 6-7 hours a week.

There is an option to move on to a Level 2 programme for those who completed the course successfully – an assessed piece of work in the form of a 3-month journal capturing the experience of starting to implement their Remote Partnering Action Plan. This will lead to a qualification in Remote Partnering Practice.

¹ Act Alliance, British Red Cross, Care International, Cordaid, Humanitarian Leadership Academy, IPPF, Oxfam, Partnerships Resource Centre, PAX and Save The Children

² The delivery costs of this programme are similar to the cost of running a one-week face-to-face training for 20 people and its reach, even in the pilot phase, was just short of 80!

The Book

We have an exciting new publication – developed for the course – available now for free download:

Download: [The Remote Partnering Work Book](#)

Results

We are currently undertaking a detailed review and analysis of the pilot and will share these results in due course. Meanwhile we are confident enough to be planning two ways forwards:

- The **next cohort will be starting in September 2018** – we are looking for some new partners to add to the mix (each cohort will be sponsored by a different permutation of partners)
- We are **offering the course on a commissioned basis** to single organisations

If you are interested in either of these – or know any organisations (from any sector) that might be interested, please contact us on: info@partnershipbrokers.org

We believe that...

This is an exciting and unique concept that can potentially make a significant contribution to global partnerships by:

- Ensuring far **greater reach (up to hundreds at a time)** to those on the front line of partnering work – especially to those unable to access / afford face-to-face training
- Empowering those in key partnering roles to have more **confidence and authority** about how to partner effectively in their organisations, partnerships, sectors and contexts
- Creating opportunities for valuable **new insights** through peer feedback loops so that new knowledge is generated out of practical experience
- Helping to **shift power and build greater equity** in partnering arrangements
- **Identifying and supporting** a far greater number of partnership practitioners operating in more remote / disadvantaged contexts
- Building a significantly **greater diversity** in the pool of skilled partnership practitioners from different sectors, cultures and contexts across the globe

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