

SEED-SCALE Process for Community Change*

In the early 1990s, Future Generations conducted a disciplined review of how communities change. This research drew on evidence over the last century, involved UNICEF, the Rockefeller Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, and the experience of many organizations. The focus was on what has worked in the field of development over the last one-hundred years, specifically on how to take community-based successes to regional scale, and how to sustain their momentum. Some of the exemplary cases reviewed included UNICEF's China Model Counties project, which scaled up primary health care to 100 counties reaching 400 million people.

This global review identified core principles and activities that created the necessary enabling conditions to propel the world's most successful large scale and sustainable community change efforts. These key elements were simplified and packaged into a systematic process known as SEED-SCALE.

Seed is the process of activating empowerment at the community level and growing a local success. Scale is the expansion of this activity, both in geographic coverage and across development sectors for sustained improvement in quality of life.

Four principles underlie the SEED-SCALE process. When activities embody these principles, momentum for change grows and solutions evolve to fit local circumstances. The four principles are:

1. Build from Success: Strengthen what is working
2. Create Three-way Partnerships: Between community, government, and outside change agents
3. Make decisions based on evidence, not opinions
4. Seek behavior change as the primary outcome.

Using these principles, communities determine their own priorities and focus on practical solutions through the implementation of workplans.

These workplans are implemented with the **guidance of seven tasks**.

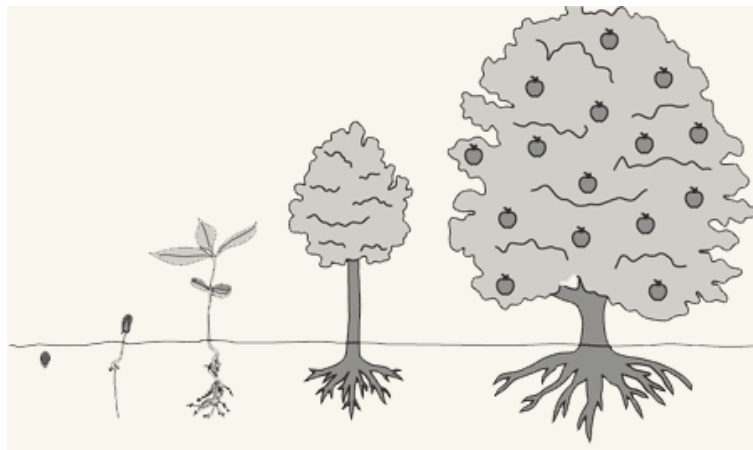
1. Create or recreate a Local Coordinating Committee
2. Identify past successes to make more effective
3. Visit other communities to learn methods that can be adapted
4. Self-evaluate your community to gather evidence about needs and seek actions that can be achieved
5. Focus on community priorities and create workplans
6. Take action and encourage partners to do their tasks
7. Make needed mid-course corrections

In addition to sustaining momentum, this process [extends change to regional scale](#). Successful communities become regional centers for action learning and experimentation that can rapidly train others. Successful communities in this second wave become extension sites themselves, and so on, creating an exponential expansion of change.

SEED-SCALE has been applied in varying degrees in more than 26 countries within a diverse range of cultural, political, and economic contexts and across a wide range of sectors, including conservation, health, women's literacy, and peacebuilding. It is effective in reaching the previously unreached, the poorest quintile of humanity that is unable to access available services. Rather than extending services to these communities, SEED-SCALE grows their capacity and confidence for self-help so that they may break through the barriers that had previously blocked their path to a better future.

Field-practitioners, organizations, communities, and government may all use SEED-SCALE to adapt and improve their existing work. SEED-SCALE has also been used by foundations and organizations as an evaluation tool.

Please see our [Publications page](#) for more detail and case studies on SEED-SCALE, including the book, *Empowerment on an Unstable Planet: From Seeds of Human Energy to a Scale of Global Change*.



*This information is quoted directly from

<http://www.future.org/applied-research/process-change>