

Scaling Community of Practice

Webinar on Scaling and Systems Change

10 May 2021

Main questions for discussion

The following questions are designed to help inform and frame the discussion at the Webinar about scaling and systems change. They draw on the attached Issues Paper prepared by Dr. Richard Kohl. In the questions that follow, the phrase “systems taken into account” is used as a shorthand to cover several points: what systemic factors should be considered in scaling efforts? to what extent or depth? how much systems change should be targeted? Some of the questions are:

1. What systemic considerations need to be taken into account to improve the chances of achieving at least minimal sustainable impact at large scale, i.e., increasing impact, coverage and reach, especially to marginalized populations?
2. How should the extent to which systems are taken into account vary depending on what is being scaled, who is doing the scaling, where scaling is occurring, and the goals of scaling?
3. When in the process of scaling should systems be taken into account?
4. What practical challenges and organizational barriers (time, effort and resources) do scaling efforts face when taking systems into account? What changes in the ways funders and implementers operate would be needed to address those challenges and barriers?
5. Are there particular challenges associated with enhanced attention to systems in places characterized by dysfunctional governments and weak institutions? How can these challenges be addressed?
6. What are the implications for participation when scaling efforts incorporate greater attention to systems, in terms of both of who participates and their respective roles?