Introduction to the Annual Workshop 2021

Plenary 1 of the 6th Annual Workshop of the Global Community of Practice on Scaling Development Outcomes

November 8, 2021

#ScalingCOP

The Origins, Purpose and Trajectory of the CoP

Origin

- Founded 2015
- 40+ initial members
- grew to 900+ members since and developed in scope, governance and operating modality

Purpose

- The CoP brings experts and practitioners interested in scaling the impact of development intervention (innovations, projects, policies) together to exchange experience and develop/share knowledge about scaling
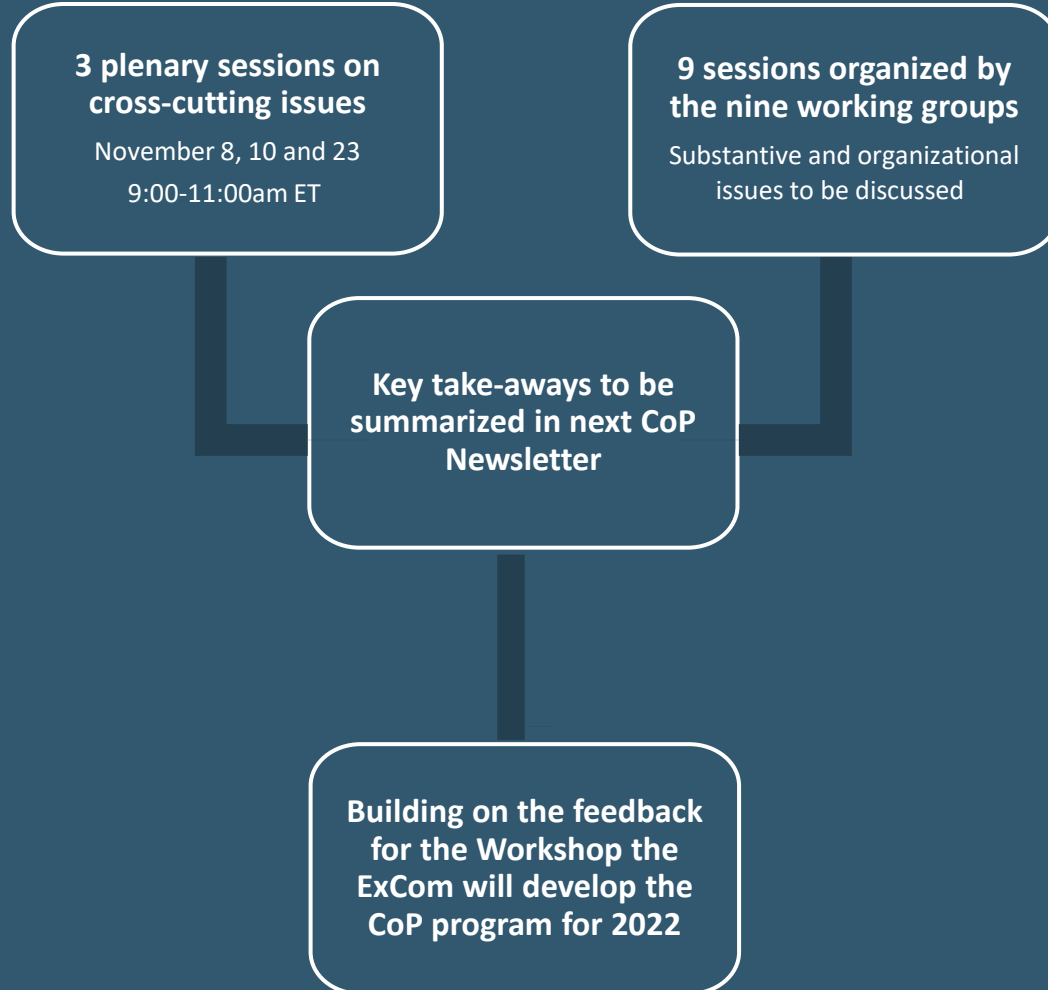
Governance

- Informal structure with open membership
- 9 working groups where the chairs serve as volunteers
- ExCom consists of working group chairs, funder representatives, and selected experts

Operating Modality: Activities and Products

- All participants contribute on a voluntary and pro bono basis
- Annual Workshops, quarterly ExCom and WG meetings, quarterly Newsletters and a website serve a principal platforms for knowledge sharing
- Recently, a more systematic focus on developing knowledge products on cross-cutting issues of CoP-wide interest

Structure of the 2021 Annual Workshop

3 plenary sessions on cross-cutting issues
November 8, 10 and 23
9:00-11:00am ET

9 sessions organized by the nine working groups
Substantive and organizational issues to be discussed

Key take-aways to be summarized in next CoP Newsletter

Building on the feedback for the Workshop the ExCom will develop the CoP program for 2022

Date	Working Group
11/09	Youth Employment
11/12	Fragile States
11/15	Health (9:30-11:00am ET)
11/16	Agriculture and Rural Development
11/17	Climate Change (8:00-10:00am ET)
11/18	Nutrition (8:00-9:30am ET)
11/18	Education
11/19	Monitoring and Evaluation
11/22	Social Entrepreneurship

Scaling Community of Practice: Cross-cutting Knowledge Work

Speakers:
Larry Cooley, *Founder and President Emeritus at MSI, Founder and Co-Chair of the Scaling Community of Practice and Co-Chair of the CoP's M&E Working Group*

Johannes Linn, *Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Founder and Co-Chair of the CoP*
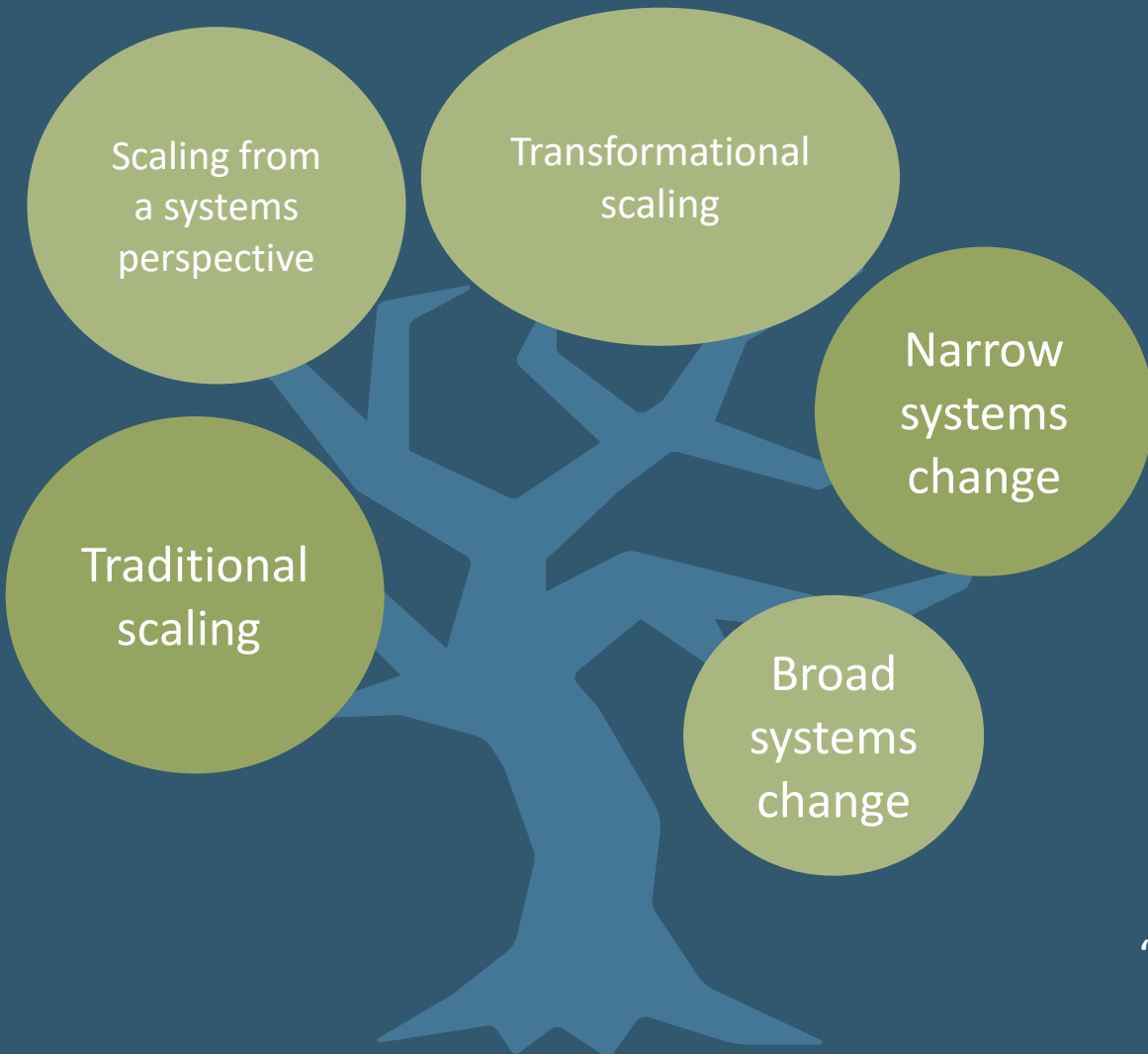
The Main Cross-Cutting Issues

Based on the discussions at the 2020 Scaling CoP Annual Workshop and on review of the scaling literature, these are considered principal issues for further exploration

Four of these issues have been identified as priorities for further CoP knowledge work

- Articulating and Elaborating the "New Consensus"
- Risk, Uncertainty and De-risking
- Costing and Economies of Scale and Scope
- Variance of Impact and Robustness
- Demand-Driven Scaling
- Digital
- Partnership and Collaboration
- **Principles of Scaling**
- **Systems, Systems Change and Complexity**
- **Mainstreaming the New Consensus**
- **Information, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Learning for the New Consensus**

"**Crosscutting Issues Affecting Scaling: A Review and Appraisal of Scaling in International Development.**" Scaling CoP Working Paper. Feb 2021.
https://www.scalingcommunityofpractice.com/wp-content/uploads/bp-attachments/7770/Scaling_Report_Final.pdf

Scaling and Systems Change

Scaling from a systems perspective

Transformational scaling

Narrow systems change

Traditional scaling

Broad systems change

Based on review of literature and practice, 5 common approaches to scaling have been identified.

It was concluded that scaling and systems change are usually *complementary*, not competing perspectives.

"Scaling and Systems Change: Issues Paper." Scaling CoP Working Paper. May 2021.
https://www.scalingcommunityofpractice.com/scaling-and-systems-issues-paper/

Institutionalizing/Mainstreaming Scaling

- To be effectively applied, the scaling agenda needs to be adopted and mainstreamed into the operational practices of organizations that implement and fund development interventions.
- Experience (including in the discussions of the CoP) indicates that this presents difficult challenges.
  - The M&E Working Group has started considering some of these challenges.
- This topic will be explored in Plenary Session 2 on 10 November under two headings, with a view to guide future CoP work:
  - Institutionalizing scaling in governments
  - Mainstreaming scaling in donor organizations
- The Health, Education and M&E working groups will also explore this issue in its session on 15 November.

Scaling Principles

"Scaling Principles." By Richard Kohl and Johannes F. Linn.
Scaling Cop Draft Working Paper. November 2021

Principles can be helpful in guiding practice.

The draft working paper proposes a set of 8 principles and 20 lessons, based on a review of the literature, expert interviews and the authors' experience.

The principles will be presented and discussed in Plenary Session 3 on 23 November.

The paper will serve as an input into ExCom deliberations about whether to adopt what principles on behalf of the Scaling CoP.

Principles can be subject to testing and validation by the members of the CoP for further refinement and adaptation to particular contexts (including sectoral, thematic, country, etc.).

Questions to Consider

- Have we identified the most important cross-cutting issues for CoP exploration?
  - What are we missing?
  - Which should we focus on as a matter of priority

- Is the approach we are taking to address the priority crosscutting issues through commissioned knowledge work under the leadership of the ExCom and in consultation with the wider CoP membership appropriate?

- How do we organize and fund the knowledge work in the most effective way?

We will return to these questions in the closing segments of the Plenary Session 3 on 23 November and look forward to your input.