

Bayoom hub works with communities and global agencies to support sustainable development

Bayoom Hub (BOH) is an incorporated social enterprise that builds learning systems to help communities stabilize and thrive. We are a collective of academics, researchers and field project people who have been brought together over many years. Our learning frameworks combine the wisdom of communities, knowledge of outside pressures and forces, collaborative inputs from the global world, the latest technology, and digital analysis.

Our team research extends over a decade. We pilot tested our learning system in Zambia with substantial success. See some video excerpts from our Zambians participants [here](#). In 2019, **BOH** joined a grant with the University of Johannesburg which will move us into under-resourced communities in South Africa. We will increase the capacity of teachers to be catalysts of sustainable change at school, community and global levels.

The challenge

A global system of knowledge is beneficial to those who have access to networks – human, organizational and cyber. The same system also sidelines communities that are marginalized, have poor quality education and are losing their youngest, most promising members. Increasing levels of poverty, unemployment, ill health and loss of working age populations create a cycle of deteriorating resilience and adaptation.

Communities, however, have inherent strengths that are underutilized. They understand the local impact of global forces such as climate change, disease, population shifts, social and economic dynamics. They have existing social, political and economic systems that have adapted to modern challenges. They have young populations who are eager to learn and take advantage of new opportunities. Our community-based learning system takes advantage of their strengths and is aimed specifically at increasing resilience. It is built around learning incentives that aim to increase sustainability, and have positive returns to the global community.

The design

Bayoom Hub is a learning system that works as a teaching, facilitation, and partnership tool that guides communities to find solutions that work within local environments of culture, traditional knowledge and relationships.

In our approach the community identifies a problem and a group to work on the problem. **BOH** works with the community to define the problem and initial approach to sustainable change. **BOH** then expands the learning network to include specialists who collaborate to develop a learning/investigation strategy. These **BOH** specialized teams move back and forth between our global hub (largely virtual) and the local community.

Philosophy

Making sustainable and meaningful change means incorporating local context and empowering communities to value their participation in building connections to larger contexts: regionally, nationally and globally. Local stability in education, governance, health, economies, and civic participation builds the framework for global stability.

Project goals

Bayoom Hub builds projects that:

- Link partners throughout the world;
- construct environments where new knowledge integrates communities and global resources;
- use global knowledge-sourcing to link global/local knowledge construction;
- create environments where “top-down expertise” is on par with local contextual input; and,
- facilitate the personal growth of all participants - community members, BOH members and members of partner organizations.

Projects that incorporate communities and are engaged in building and sustaining their own development contribute to global stability. We move beyond top-down project designs where solutions are imported into communities. As such, the projects we design or engage with have particular characteristics:

Within communities, we view community building as central to the framework and design of the project. We build knowledge networks which are centered around community knowledge and collaborative learning. Such knowledge is not limited to traditional knowledge but extends to new data, understandings and applications that help communities adapt to dynamic circumstances. The networks extend community resources, influence and participation beyond the community.

At a global level, we help bring community-based knowledge to bear on global issues. This knowledge is a continuing resource for the world at large. Helping communities produce, organize and spread their knowledge is also a resource for their own sustainability. In doing so, we increase both global and community repositories of knowledge.