

Small and Medium Organizations Impact Journey

Collaboration for greater impact

About the SMO Impact Journey series

Over the next few months, Spur Change is convening the sector for international cooperation to learn from small and medium organizations (SMOs) supported through the three windows of Global Affairs Canada's [SMOs for impact and innovation initiative \(the Development Impact Window \(DIW\), the Fund for Innovation and Transformation \(FIT\), and the Spur Change program\)](#).

This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the unique value and contribution of SMO's work in Canada and abroad. [Learn more about the series here.](#)

The fourth session will be focused on the collaboration and engagement efforts between SMOs who have participated in the Spur Change program and share how they have been able to establish strong relations and create a space for learning, sharing resources and ultimately contribute to their project and program impacts.



About the speakers

Yenny Lozano is responsible for international projects at ÉEQ. She has over 25 years' experience in marketing, international purchasing and as an entrepreneur. Yenny has project management experience as well as strong analytical and interpersonal skills, and holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and a certificate in international business from HEC Montréal. Her experience as a consultant in her own company and as a trainer for ÉEQ has enabled her to support numerous companies in Canada and abroad.

Nina Bianchi works as a Project Manager at the International Secretariat for Water, where she specializes in youth empowerment and sustainable water initiatives. She supports the World Youth Parliament for Water and coordinates several climate change adaptation projects in West Africa. She holds a master's degree in international development and a bachelor's degree in political economy.

About the organizations

The [École des entrepreneurs du Québec \(ÉEQ\)](#) is a non-profit organization with 8 campuses and 65 employees covering the entire province of Quebec. ÉEQ's mission is to develop people's skills by helping them acquire competencies in business start-up or growth management, through training and coaching based on experience and the resolution of concrete business problems. Its know-how is based on 38 years' experience, which has enabled it to develop projects in 22 countries (Africa, France, the Caribbean and Latin America), contributing to local capacity building by working hand in hand with organizations in the economic development ecosystem in the regions where it develops projects.

The [International Secretariat for Water \(ISW\)](#) is an NGO based in Montreal, bringing together citizens and organizations committed to and active in the cause of water. Relying on the evolution of knowledge, the development of innovative partnerships and creativity, the ISW develops initiatives that guarantee the right to water and therefore universal access to water and sanitation, while preserving the resource.

About the project

The project Jeunes Entrepreneurs Verts for a Prosperous and Resilient Senegalese Community is funded by the Government of Quebec (Ministry of the Environment), as part of the International Climate Cooperation Program. It will be carried out by the ISW in partnership with the Senegalese think tank Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR) and ÉEQ.

The 3-year project aims to reconcile local economic development with an integrated water resource management approach in the department of Podor, and puts Quebec and Senegalese expertise in youth mobilization, water resource management and entrepreneurial development at the service of vulnerable populations. [Learn more.](#)



Louise Loten
Wellspring Foundation



Janelle Martin
Learning for Humanity

About the speakers

Louise is a 30-year educator with experience leading and learning in Canada, Malawi and Rwanda. In 2019, she left the classroom to rejoin the international cooperation sector with the Wellspring Foundation for Education. At Wellspring, Louise serves as the Grants Director and Program Liaison, where she champions their Rwanda team in the design, monitoring and delivery of Wellspring's impactful programs with donors and partners.

Janelle spent 25 years in fundraising, program management and leadership roles in Canadian and International non-profit organizations. In 2016, Janelle brought her passion for learning and social change to Learning for Humanity. As the Director, Content Development, she leads her team in the curation and alignment of educational resources (to each national curriculum), enabling student success and strengthening teacher competencies to provide meaningful learning.

About the organization

[Wellspring](#) is a Canadian NGO founded in and for Rwanda that seeks to be a catalyst for transforming education and fostering vibrant communities that address poverty in all its forms. Our work improves teaching and learning by training and coaching teachers and school leaders, improves holistic growth and learning at home by nurturing healthy family relationships and builds well-being and resilience for life and learning by equipping adolescent girls and boys with skills and knowledge for resilience and psycho-social health.

[Learning for Humanity \(L4H\)](#) is a global social enterprise with operations in Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, and Canada. L4H's global mission is to provide leading-edge eLearning solutions and disrupt poverty through education.

About the projects

Both organizations have implemented projects funded by the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT). Learning for Humanity and Wellspring initially met through a mutual donor and then again through the FIT COPs and their shared FIT project officer. They gathered their teams in Rwanda to share what they've learned from their FIT-funded projects, and they have each applied for separate IDRC grants with the intention of partnering on project implementation when funded.

Read more about their respective FIT-funded projects below.

Wellspring's FIT-funded project creates knowledge about the effectiveness of a blended digital approach to teacher professional development. The project targeted primary teachers, particularly rural women in low-resource and crisis contexts, with the goal of building confidence and capacity to use digital tools for professional development in order to plan and deliver more inclusive, learner-centred, and gender-responsive lessons.



In partnership with

About the projects *(continued)*

This innovative approach uses existing technology infrastructure to reach a greater number of teachers than traditional methods. It includes high-quality digital learning resources/videos delivered offline to classroom teachers within school-based communities of practice and pairs theoretical learning with classroom-based support from Wellspring trainers and fellow teachers. [Learn more about Wellspring's FIT-funded project.](#)



Learning for Humanity partnered with Communauté Baptiste Au Centre de l'Afrique (CBCA) in DRC for our FIT-funded project, creating knowledge on the effectiveness of gender-responsive, technology-enabled blended learning training for teachers and the ability of students to study remotely increasing the engagement and self-efficacy for female students, leading to more of the women and girls completing their education. The pilot engaged teachers and students (those returning to their studies after leaving school for a variety of reasons) at Recuperation Centres operated by CBCA in Goma, DRC. Laptops for female students in the top form (at both primary and secondary recuperation centres) combined with digital learning resources and personalized learning plans provided support to enable educational success. [Learn more about Learning for Humanity's FIT-funded project.](#)

