

2020 SEEP Annual Conference - Call for Learning Space Concepts

Response ID:180 Data

1.

1. Convener Profile: please enter your information below

First Name

Rachel

Last Name

Bass

Job Title/Position

Program Development Officer

Please select a position level that most closely matches your own:

Associate

Email Address

rbass@neareast.org

Gender

Female

Country where based

United States

2. Do you plan to have a co-convener?

Yes

3. Co-convener Profile: please enter their information below

First Name

Kayleigh

Last Name

Begley

Job Title/Position

Senior Communications Officer

Please select a position level that most closely matches your own:

Associate

Email Address

kbegley@neareast.org

Gender

Female

Country where based

United States

4. Please select your member organization

Near East Foundation

Newsletter Opt-In=TRUE

TRUE

Survey Title Capture

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2. Session Content

5. Learning Spaces for the 2020 SEEP Annual Conference will be organized into four (4) technical streams. Please rank, by order of relevance, the Technical Stream that most aligns with your submission.

1. Technical Stream 4: The Promise and Perils of Inclusion in a New World
2. Technical Stream 2: Financial Inclusion: COVID-19 & Risks to Four Decades of Progress
3. Technical Stream 1: The Nexus Imperative for Market-Based Programming
4. Technical Stream 3: Savings Groups at the Frontlines of COVID-19

6. Proposed Title (max 10 words)

Bridging the digital divide: designing inclusive programs amid COVID-19

7. Learning Space Concept description (200-500 words)

With the first global pandemic of the digital age comes immense opportunities to leverage new tools in response to shifting operating environments. To harness the true potential of these tools, however, we must ensure that access is inclusive and that vulnerable groups are not further marginalized.

The Near East Foundation (NEF) proposes a SEEP conference learning space that engages attendees in a lively conversation around adaptation and inclusion in light of COVID-19, with a focus on digitalization. Offering insights into our experiences adapting our programming to COVID-19 challenges in Armenia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, and Syria, we will facilitate a robust discussion. We envision sparking a conversation in a dedicated channel of the Discussion Garden each day of the conference with brief videos from NEF field staff and global leadership, which will provide diverse perspectives, share our learnings, and prompt the daily topics/questions.

For NEF, COVID-19 disruptions created immediate challenges for reaching vulnerable groups and necessitated the rapid uptake of customized digital tools that allowed us to continue our livelihoods programs without major disruption and help our participants adapt to a changing business environment. These tools have also uncovered the potential to expand our reach without necessarily expanding our geographic footprint.

Our recent and ongoing assessments show incredible resilience among NEF-supported entrepreneurs as they respond to pandemic-related disruptions. Our locally led teams have been equally adaptive in their efforts to continue delivering high-quality services to address immediate and longer-term needs.

As we support participants to adopt digital platforms, inclusion and safeguarding are paramount. NEF's policies, programs, and evaluation tools are designed with inclusivity and multi-dimensional vulnerabilities in mind. However, amid this unique crisis, there is still much to learn about how these vulnerabilities might shift or be compounded in new ways.

Shared insights from attendees will give all discussion participants a more holistic view of emerging COVID-19 best practices for inclusion in the digital age and how they might vary by geography, political climate, and intersecting forms of marginalization. For example, how does inclusive COVID programming vary if you are serving refugee youth in MENA versus LGBTQIA+ individuals in Latin America?

We hope participants will walk away with new ideas for inclusive digital programming, a deeper understanding of how complementary humanitarian assistance can preserve existing development gains and protect the most vulnerable, and real-time examples of how digital tools and community-led solutions are helping entrepreneurs thrive.

8. Which delivery format(s) are you interested in using?

Discussion Garden (ongoing, propose and lead a channel)

Voices from the Field (collection of 2-3 minute videos)

Other - Write In: We would like to use a hybrid format inspired by the Discussion Garden and Voices from the Field: prompting discussion in a dedicated channel of the "garden" by presenting perspectives from our team members around the globe via short videos.

9. Looking for individuals or organizations from the SEEP community to contribute to your Learning Space? Give us an idea of what and who you are looking for and we will try to pair you up (50-100 words).

10. Do you intend to include additional contributors to your Learning Space?

Unsure

11. Please use the space below to share any additional information regarding your proposed Learning Space concept.

To promote diversity in perspectives, we plan to have additional individuals from our organization (particularly our local program staff, and potentially local partners and beneficiaries, if appropriate) contribute to this learning space through the videos that we will prepare and share in conjunction with the discussion topics. The exact number and names of these contributors have not been determined at this stage, but we look forward to the opportunity to work with SEEP to prepare the most compelling learning space possible for the 2020 conference.

Stay updated

You can opt-out of receiving mailings at any time.

I agree to hear about jobs & opportunities, new resources, and upcoming learning events in the network through SEEP newsletters.
