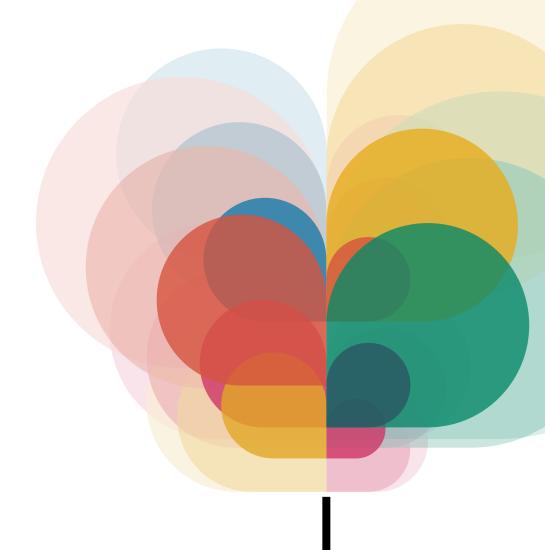
Summary of Field Consultation Input and Strategy Improvements

DECEMBER 2023



IGNITE PHILANTHROPY

inspiring the end to violence against girls and boys

Ignite Philanthropy, in collaboration with The Social Investment Consultancy, held a field consultation process on its draft strategy from September to December 2023. This process was designed to test the strategy and provide a space for feedback, assessing the relevance of the strategy as well as what we need to implement in order to achieve our new vision. Sixty colleagues participated in online Town Hall conversations, over one hundred comments were posted on an online platform, and hundreds of invaluable feedback points resulted from this stunning response. Following wide-ranging revisions on that basis, we held a final sense-making session with eight colleagues, invited to ensure diverse stakeholder perspectives. Their suggestions led to a last round of additions, amendments, and the final version. This document summarises field consultation input overall and the strategy improvements made thanks to this vital feedback, for which Ignite is incredibly grateful.

Overall, the field consultation process engaged diverse stakeholders including representatives from networks, civil society organisations, non-profits, academia, funders, donor affinity groups, philanthropic regranting organisations, and independent consultants. They represented a mix of existing or potentially new partners. Participants enthusiastically embraced the new Ignite strategy, describing it as brave, bold, inclusive, and radical, not just a refresh or retweak. The strategy was recognised as trying to challenge power dynamics, and as an opportunity for a sea change in how violence against children is addressed. The consultation process itself, which was designed to model the strategy and Ignite's ways of working, strived to be an example of integrity, participation, inclusivity, transparency, humility, and honesty.



This document focuses on substantive feedback from the field consultation process and corresponding changes that were made, and is structured around the following three parts:

- I. High-level overview of field consultation suggestions and changes made:
- II. Detailed accounting of identified areas for improvement and changes made; and
- III. Detailed accounting of field consultation feedback.

High-level overview of field consultation suggestions and changes made



What We've Done (10)



About Ignite and this strategy

- ☑ There needs to be more insight into Ignite's evolving identity.
- ☑ Provide more clarity on Ignite's current positioning and intent to be more visible moving forward.
- Include clarification on Ignite's position as a philanthropic actor.
- ∠ Addressed primarily in the new "About Ignite and this strategy" subsection and in other parts.

What We've Done (🔯

Changes to Learning for Impact work strand

- ☑ Concerns over how this sits as a separate strand of work.
- ☑ Need to clarify that Ignite does not see its role as leading knowledge production in the sector.
- Reframed the Learning for Impact strand as a cross-cutting strand of work and a component of each of the three other strands.
- ☑ Clarified that Ignite's role is to offer sensemaking spaces to understand how change happens on the ground (organising) and power building.

Clarifying Ignite's ownership of work strands

- Questions around what it would look like in practice for Ignite to own the different strands of work.
- Provided more detail on how Ignite will 'hold' and prioritise the strands of work.

Operationalisation of work strands

- ☑ Provide more clarity on the operationalisation of the strands of work.
- ☑ Shared a detailed Implementation plan to accompany the strategy document. This includes the clarification of which activities are pending resource mobilisation, versus which are existing commitments.

More transparency on ongoing programming support

- More information about the existing foundation for the implementation of the strands of work is needed.
- ☑ Clarify and build trust on Ignite's relevance to conduct this work.
- Added sidebar illustrations for each of the four work strands, making the connection between ongoing programming and the strands of work.



What We've Done (

Connecting Guiding Principles with strands of work

- ☑ Concerns over principles translation into practice.
- ☑ Questions over how Ignite intends to implement its contribution to the Theory of Change.
- ☑ Participants shared the ways of working and ways of thinking necessary for the successful implementation of each strand.

Added to the description of the principles, including practical implications, in Annex 1.



Detailed accounting of identified areas for improvement and changes made

This section includes areas for improvement identified through internal sense-making sessions on the original Town Hall sessions and online feedback. This section also covers areas for improvement identified through a final external sense-making session. Each area is annotated with the corresponding changes made. Some areas are identified for future consideration since they require further thinking or might be too specific for a high-level strategy and plan.



Identified areas for improvement

Edits made to the strategy documents



About our Strategy Consultation process

- △ Add the background on the strategy development process and participation.
- ☑ Explain the purpose of the strategy field consultations.
- ☑ Explain the key components of the process.
- Provide an overview of the level of engagement and contributions from Ignite's stakeholders during the field consultations.

△ Addressed all points in the new "About Ignite and this strategy" subsection in the strategy.

Key changes to strategy wording

- Provide an account of Ignite's evolving identity, clarifying its current positioning and intent to be more visible moving forward. Include clarification of Ignite's position as a philanthropic actor.
- △ Addressed in the new "About Ignite and this strategy" subsection in the strategy.



Edits made to the strategy documents



- ☑ Reframe the Learning for Impact strand as a cross-cutting strand of work:
 - Keep as a separate strand to emphasise its importance but explain it will be a component of all the work conducted through the three other strands. This does not imply the creation of siloed learning spaces but rather furthers the work of Resourcing for Change, Strengthening for Agency and Partnering for Action.
 - This strand of work is not focused on leading knowledge production in the sector.
 - Clearly explain its purpose to offer sense-making spaces to understand how change happens on the ground (organising) and power building.
 - ¬ Address the emphasis of Ignite's relevance to facilitate learning surrounding the funding landscape.

in the strategy.

Integrated all points into the relevant text

- ☑ Added sidebar definition in the strategy for organising and power building.
- ☐ The Strengthening for Agency section in the strategy now includes learning on the funding landscape as a specific example.

- Provide more detail on how Ignite will 'hold' and prioritise the strands of work.
 - This includes providing nuance on the different components of the strand (e.g. for Resourcing for Change, this could include sourcing the funds, defining grant-making processes, decision-making on grants) and the different levels of ownership or engagement (e.g. in decision-making, design, facilitation etc).
- Added context to the strategy document on Ignite's primary role as a philanthropic entity and its main roles in 'holding' the work strands.
- Added nuance to the Resourcing for Change work strand description in particular (decisions on resources via participatory mechanisms, etc.).



Edits made to the strategy documents



- ☑ Provide more clarity on the operationalisation of the Strands of Work through the implementation plan.
- ☑ Connect the different milestones to the strands of work (and if internal, identify it as so).
- ☑ Map the assets or resources that will be leveraged (especially for the first milestones).
- ☑ Include 'side bars' making the connection between ongoing programming and the strands of work.
 - This aims to show there is an existing foundation for the implementation of the strands of work.
 - ¬ We hope this will clarify and build trust on Ignite's relevance to conduct this work.
 - This includes existing networks or partnerships that will be leveraged.
- ☑ Connecting the Guiding Principles (particularly their translation into practice) with the strands of work.
 - This aims to clarify how Ignite intents to implement its contribution to the Theory of Change (the strands of work).

- ☑ The implementation plan that accompanies the strategy denotes the relationship between each milestone and respective work strands or internal operationalisation.
- The implementation plan begins with a full account of continuing activities and notes the resource commitment timeframe for these. The implementation plan charts out which activities are pending further resource mobilisation.
- ☑ The strategy document now includes sidebar illustrations for each of the four work strands

Select revisions made accordingly in the strategy document, including significant revisions in the Annex dedicated to the Guiding Principles.



Edits made to the strategy documents



■ During the consultations, participants shared the ways of working and ways of thinking necessary for the successful implementation of each strand. We have reviewed the alignment of the principles with these recommendations. (see Point 4 below).

Additional Notes on the Guiding Principles

Much of the feedback from the Town Hall Sessions came under a thematic area of "ways of doing/ways of thinking," many of which align well to the fuller description of the Guiding Principles in Annex 1. However, the following points were either not explicitly made or could be made clearer in Annex 1:

- 1. Trust and confidence from partner to donor.
- 2. Listening this is mentioned in the description of Uncompromising Equity but how this will be done is not explained in the practice.
- 3. Long term funding
- Time to build relationships
- 5. Non-tokenistic engagement this is implied but could be explicit
- 6. Leadership there is some acknowledgement in other parts of the strategy (e.g., Partners) that there will have to be some leadership by Ignite to influence donors, and that Ignite intends for this strategy to create and support leaders (covered in Constructive Disruption).

- Added relevant language to Partners/ Funders section and to Partnering for Action work strand in strategy.
- 2. Added emphasis to openness, reflection, and relationships in various points in strategy to bolster listening approach.
- 3. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 4. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 5. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 6. For further, future consideration. The full Ignite team hasn't had the time/ opportunity to debate since this suggestion was raised, and full debate would be necessary for such a statement and institutional commitment. We also need to further weigh the concern that using this



Edits made to the strategy documents



However, there is unacknowledged leadership in creating this strategy and in any other future role Ignite might play, it was suggested that this be characterised and lived as feminist leadership.

- label, with a current field majority that may not be familiar or possibly comfortable with it, raises more distracting questions and confusion than the current full accounting of our principles does.
- Understanding of the organisational realities of this work (competition for resources, personal stake in organisations).
- 8. Respectful funding/ethical funding this is similar to the long-term funding but includes other practices such as early notification of success/failure, transparency over donor decisions, not funding VAC while also being involved in industries that are unethical regarding children.
 - 0 Added relevant language to etrategy
- 9. Evidence based approaches.
- 10. Clarity of approach and communication.
- 11. Non-siloed approach.
- 12. Suggested changes:
 - In the summary on page 4, include more deliberate use of clear wording, some of which can be taken from the longer descriptions in Annex 1.
 - There could be value in acknowledging Ignite's position as a donor and the inherent power dynamic of that in the principles on page 4, rather than later on in the piece about the journey.
 - In the revision, check all Guiding Principles to ensure that their "practice" sections more clearly address the description.

- For further, future consideration needs further unpacking in the context of Guiding Principles before useful revisions can be considered.
- 8. Added relevant text to the Resourcing for Change section in the strategy.

- 9. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 10. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 11. Added relevant language to strategy.
- 12. Added relevant language to strategy per all suggested changes.

Areas for Improvement Identified through a Final External Sense-Making Session



What We've Done

About Ignite and this strategy

Positive feedback on the About Ignite and this strategy subsection – felt it added clarity and was a helpful addition. Some comments on what could be added:

- ☑ More details on the Out of the Shadows Index (legacy effort) and continuous funding.
- ☑ What is new in this strategy compared to the old one.
- △ Added detail in a dedicated section within Annex 4.
- Added detail on the nature/practice of the original Ignite model/approach to better differentiate it from the new strategy.

Changes to Learning for Impact:

- ☑ Cross-cutting strand description fits better.
- ☑ Remaining questions around Ignite's role who sets the agenda for learning? How will they build this community?
- Clarity around building power who is this referring to? Be explicit around the need to address power dynamics to build power and the importance of community movement building.
- Added new "Ignite's role" bullet points for each of the 4 work strands, including for Learning for Impact addressing the questions noted.
- ☑ Clarified the sidebar definition of organising / power building to address these points. Did not address movement building because it is conceptually distinct, and arguably it is premature to describe current efforts on violence against children as a movement, or as even aspiring to build an authentic movement.

What We've Done



Description of the principles in Annex 1 was really appreciated, described as useful and well formulated, some partners felt this could be a chapter within the strategy.

- ☑ Children's and young people's rights should serve as the main guiding principle of the strategic plan, should help partners and actors respect the voice and leadership of children and young people.
- Children/youth rights are part of vision, and are better specified as central to a rights-based approach (central and crosscutting approach in theory of change).
- Multiple references are included to intergenerational organising, youth now more prominent within these, with youth organising being a central avenue in context of the strategy for youth voice/leadership/participation.

Additional definitions and statistics:

- "people with lived experiences" what does this include? E.g. people in close connection to people with physical experiences of violence.
- □ "increased political rights" in impact's description – does not currently include social/economic elements, should it refer to access to human rights instead?
- □ "partners", "allies" do these have different meanings? Can we be more explicit?
- △ Add illustrative statistics to demonstrate the intersectionality of VAC.

- ☑ Added sidebar definition.
- Language revised.
- Clarified several ambiguous references.
- △ Added several key statistics (e.g., rates of violence experienced by LGBTQ youth, children with disabilities, etc.).

What We've Done (



Further emphasis/inclusion on various topics:

- ✓ Including root causes of VAC/preventative measures – specifically the patriarchal power structures and majority male perpetrators. It is important to include actors that can add these perspectives and work on violence prevention through norms and power structures. Include a deeper analysis of preventative violence and engaging with masculinity norms. Focus on learning activities and approaches.
- △ Added references in relevant passages to patriarchy and patriarchal cultural and social norms.
- Ofiven our strategy's deference to local organisers to understand and address the structural causes that are most relevant in respective contexts, and to adopt the strategies that are most effective for them in those contexts, we do not emphasise any one specific analysis or structural cause so as to not influence or omit relevant work on the ground.

Implementation Plan

- Donor Community Strengthening and Strategic Networks identified as two particularly important areas within the implementation plan, as well as recognition that moving beyond existing donors is a long running-challenge.
- ☑ Importance of investing in the leadership of community organisations - they have closer proximity, adaptability, trust with communities, efficiency, and can contextualise interventions. This will help to develop effective communitydriven change with the aim of community movement building.
- ☑ Importance of connecting the strategy with the plan – show how specific actions link to strands of work. For most people, strategies are too vague, and they will focus on the implementation plan.

- Points integrated in the sidebar illustration of Thrive Together.
- ☑ Each implementation plan milestone will be annotated with the strategy work strands that relate to it.
- We fully agree and have incrementally increased communications over recent months, and are in the process of adding a website section about the Ignite team members. Additional materials will be posted to the website and publicised, and we have plans to hire a Communications Head in early 2024 to develop and implement a comprehensive communications plan, including regular communications about our on-going work and especially our partners.

What We've Done (🔯



- Communication on on-going work is critical to build trust. Actions clearly orientated to secure transparency are needed, even actions as simple as posting on the website.
- ☑ Further clarity over how priorities in terms of countries, regions, etc. will be set.
- Although priorities will vary depending on the initiative at hand, clarification has been added to the Resourcing for Change work strand in particular, noting that within the overall context of the strategy 'Funders' requirements and participatory decision-makers' prioritisation will determine where and how we deploy funding.'



Detailed account of field consultation feedback

This section outlines the key insights that emerged through the primary components of Ignite's field consultation process (four Virtual Town Hall sessions, an <u>online platform</u>, as well as two 1:1 interviews). It aims to provide a concise overview of the themes that emerged. This overview was used for the final internal and external sense-making sessions noted above, leading to the changes made in the strategy.

As much as possible, colleagues from The Social Investment Consultancy (TSIC) have aimed to identify the volume of data points informing these insights (marked as n=X). In some cases, this might not be marked because of the overlap of categories and the challenge of calculating a precise appearance number.

There was significant engagement from partners (roughly 60 participants) through the Virtual Town Hall sessions, online platform (115 posts), 1:1 interviews and direct feedback to the Ignite team.

1. General feedback on the strategy

- a. Overall, lots of positive feedback (n=38) Strategy is brave, bold, inclusive radical, not just a refresh or re-tweak. Trying to challenge power dynamics.
- b. Lack of clarity around complexity and systemic change (n=7) not carefully defined or concretely addressed. What would this look like in practice? Is systems change just a buzzword? Do we all understand it in the same way?
- c. What are the structural drivers and which ones will the strategy aim to impact? (n= 7) Light on details. Do we have a clear idea of what 'good' looks like when it comes to addressing structural drivers? Risk of becoming a very wide approach when focusing on structural drivers.
- d. Additional clarity around the Theory of Change (n=7) needs to be more realistic, detailed pre-conditions required, too much like a statement of principles currently, vagueness of language.

- e. Specific areas that might have been missed/need more focus on:
 - Meaningful child participation including children's voice (n=5)
 - Strategies to tackle chronic underfunding in this area (n=3), ii. lack of funding more critical than another learning community, [see 4.d.i Learning for Impact]
 - iii. Online sexual exploitation environment, for example in the Philippines – mentioned as the epicentre of online child abuse. (n=3)
 - iv. Purposeful inclusion of transgender children and children with disabilities.(n=2)
 - v. Partnering with local and national governments as important stakeholders for structural change.(n=2)
 - vi. Precautionary measures of VAC, including parenting as a factor in precipitating violence.(n=3)
 - vii. Aligning strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? (n=2)
 - viii. Intersectionality not fully covered (n=2)
 - ix. Communications approaches for advocacy (n=6) and refining narratives (n=5)
 - Need to increase awareness of children at risk of violence (n=1)

2. Feedback specific to the strands of work



Learning for Impact

Relevance overall positive, but learning is not the main impediment to progress in VAC, funding and lack of alignment on approach are higher priorities

consider

Approaches to a. Learning that is needed in the space:

- Funding: how are other 'issue areas' gaining funding (n=3), what are the constraints to funding
- ii. Research (n=15): knowledge gaps that need to be discovered, knowledge gaps that already exist - on networks, effectiveness, accountability, evidence.
- iii. Reflexive learning (n=5): self-reflection skills and processes
- iv. Skills areas: monitoring, evaluation, research & learning; communications

b. Ways of doing:

- Inclusive, open, accountable co-creation
- ii. Long-term resource mobilisation
- iii. Cultural sensitivity, respect and empathy
- **c.** What is needed from donors: networks, convening, long-term funding, amplification
- d. What is genuine learning? Co-created, non-siloed (n=2), redefining 'knowledge' and its hierarchies (n=2)

Why could Ignite be well-placed to hold this strand?

- a. Staff: good partners (n=3), respectful (n=2)
- b. Organisationally: bring networks, convening power, donor insight

be well-placed to hold

- Why might Ignite not a. Positionality: Is a donor right to manage sectoral learning? Would Ignite be better to work on changing the landscape?
 - **this strand?** b. Experience: limitations of direct, on-the-ground experience

Questions

- a. Does Ignite have the capacity to lead this?
- b. What funding is available?
- c. Learning for what? And for whom?



Resourcing for Change

Relevance request for detail, specificity and path forward; "does reflect some of the realities of local civil society organisations"

Approaches to consider

- a. Differences across local, national and international spaces (n=9)
 - b. Need trust and confidence in both directions (n=8)
 - c. Flexibility (n=7)
 - d. Joint risk-taking (n=5), funders showing a willingness to take risks with grantees, investing in nascent organisations or complex contexts (e.g., conflict)
 - e. Accountability and power shifting (n=5)
 - f. Support for monitoring and evaluation (n=4)
 - g. Convening and collaborating: movement building (n=3), time, listening, alignment
 - h. Leadership: including feminist leadership (n=2), need to have enough capacity and ability to scale up work.
 - i. Improved grant-making processes: participatory approaches
 - j. Ways of thinking: early intervention/prevention, building on existing knowledge
 - k. Ignite's role: facilitator, convenor, influencer
 - Multi-year funding: but what does that mean? "This is where philanthropy plays the most important role"
 - m. Communications: activism from donors, clear principles.

Why could Ignite be well-placed to hold b. Flexible and innovative this strand?

- a. Influencing ability and wide networks
- c. Self-reflective (n=3): Ignite is willing to create democratic space, recognise its power, candidness about learning.
- d. Staff attributes: trust building/trusted (n=2), adaptable to local challenges, acknowledgement of what is known and unknown

Why might Ignite not be well-placed to hold this strand?

- a. Transparency deficit: not always enough information about decisions and direction
- b. Should sit with an organisation more representative of grassroots organisations

Questions

- a. "The devil's in the details": How will this be organised and implemented? How much space will grantees have in setting the agenda? How will this be resourced?
- b. What funding mechanism will be used?
- c. Is there a way for partners to raise "red flags" about other groups?
- d. Overall question: how will this address poverty, "the massive thing that drives exploitation"? [see 1c: which structural drivers]



Strengthening for Agency

Relevance

"as a key focus, Strengthening for Agency is uncontroversial"

Approaches to consider

- a. Local and survivor-led approaches (n=9): meaningful engagement
- b. Capacity building (n=8): actors, donors, new ways of learning, vertical within power structures; on resilience, technical skills
- c. Need shared understanding: what is "agency"? (n=4); resilience? co-creation?
- d. Convening and managing power imbalance: accountability, creating equal spaces
- e. What is needed from donors: long-term (n=3), agreement on values
- f. Networks: networks often duplicate (n=3), are consuming, do not always add value, and members struggle to engage meaningfully. They need to be sustainable, and build on existing knowledge, interventions and structures. Focus on "decluttering".
- g. Understanding: need for openness, power, competition for resources
- h. Focusing: need to identify priorities, look for opportunities

Why could Ignite be well-placed to hold this strand?

- Why could Ignite be a. 1. Connector and convenor (n=3)
- well-placed to hold b. 2. Thoughtful and intentional

Why might Ignite not be well-placed to hold this strand?

- a. Background role to date: not as visible/transparent (n=3)
- b. Not representative: of people they are trying to serve, or experts

Risks and challenges

- a. Not enough money and time (n=9)
- b. Within organisations: no consensus (n=7), human experience
- c. Disconnects: between policy and reality, words and accountability
- d. Challenge of large donors engaging well at grassroots level: e.g., other global initiatives have struggled to connect with grassroots level actors, but for smaller organisations there is trust already there.



Partnering for Action

Relevance

The high level of engagement on this strand suggests that there is a strong appetite for strategic engagement in partnering and it is very relevant.

Note: there were 188 contributions on this strand, the most by about 50 contributions.

Approaches to consider

- a. Barriers by donors (n=12): onerous, short grants, dictatorial, lack of trust in partners, cultural
- b. Ignite's role as convenor (n=10): bringing donors along, influencing, power of the collective.
- c. Engaging with stakeholders: listening (n=5), avoiding tokenism (n=2), genuine, building confidence, power shifting.
- d. Funding respectfully: ethics (n=5), honesty, long-term, public
- e. Collaborative planning: convening, co-creation, evidence-based, clarity
- f. Values: humility (n=3), valuing different knowledge and groundwork
- g. How to lead this strand: understanding organisations, staff skills, co-leadership with beneficiaries, network management, facilitation skills (n=3)
- h. Addressing power dynamics: in how projects are funded and supported (n=4), and with local knowledge
- i. Ways of thinking: acceptance of other forms of knowledge (n=3), as a long-term struggle (n=3), clarity of learning agenda,

- j. Donor learning agenda: co-creation, effectiveness, are staff traumainformed?
- k. Communication: need common objectives and common terms e.g. between researchers, grassroots organisations, and funders (n=3)

Why could Ignite be well-placed to hold this strand?

- a. Staff: humility, approachability, participatory
- b. Organisationally: opened doors to smaller organisations, role as an intermediary, credible, place in the ecosystem

be well-placed to hold

- Why might Ignite not a. Power differential (n=3)
 - b. Outside the communities being served (n=2)
 - **this strand?** c. Do they have the experience?

3. Feedback relevant to the implementation plan

a. Requests or comments from participants

- ii. Need for clarity on the budget and prioritisation between the four strands. (n=2)
- iii. What are the phases, activities and budgets in each phase?How will momentum be built? Short and long-term outcomes. (n=1)
- iv. Is the timeline too short? The first 5 years will be a time of consensus building and unlikely to see much further impact. (n=1)
- v. Will Ignite be setting clear objectives and metrics to measure outcomes? Movement building needs different indicators and metrics. (n=1)
- vi. How will the vulnerability and woundedness of survivors be addressed without compromising their agency? (n=1)

b. Reflections from TSIC's review

- i. For the implementation plan to respond to partners' concerns and questions, it will be essential to identify how the milestones respond to the Theory of Change (more specifically the desired changes) and how this is reflected in the actions to implement each strand of work (can be guided by the interventions identified in Annexes 1 and 2).
- ii. It would be helpful to have more **clarity on the timeframes** for these milestones.
- iii. Structuring the list of milestones based on these aspects will provide a **clearer sense of the practical implementation** of the principles and higher-level.
- iv. A Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework at the organisation level (which can be built on the foundation of the Impact Accountability Matrix) will be essential to show progress on these milestones and build trust with partners.
- v. A mapping or references of Ignite's existing and future assets, interventions and resources would help clarify how this strategy sits in Ignite's current situation and the capacity it has to implement its vision.