

---

## EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE FUNDING

### SHARING BEST PRACTICES

---

#### EGMONT TRUST

##### Project-to-project information exchange (Zambia and Zimbabwe)

One of the key problems with “traditional” monitoring and evaluation requirements is that they are essentially extractive: pulling out information for an external purpose (often for donors), with no resulting learning or programme improvement for the local organisations or their beneficiaries.

In the autumn of 2009, the Egmont Trust invited selected partners in Zambia and Zimbabwe to take part in an experimental project-to-project evaluation exercise, in which pairs of organisations assessed each other and wrote up their findings. Initial results have demonstrated how, with little or no added cost to their organisations, partners can join forces to share the best and most effective ways of achieving results. For example, Egmont partner HOSPAZ (Hospice Association of Zimbabwe) is the sector leader in provision of home-based and palliative care to both adults and children. Through peer assessment and constructive advice, HOSPAZ is now helping to raise the standard of care provided by Batsirai Group in the Zimbabwean town of Chinhoyi—a vital contribution in a country so heavily affected by HIV/AIDS. In turn, Batsirai’s successful microcredit work is now being adapted by HOSPAZ for its own clients, contributing to their economic as well as physical rehabilitation.

A number of Egmont Trust’s partners are now focusing on improving immunity and health through better nutrition. By linking together for mutual assessment and support, organisations such as AIDS Caring Trust in Harare and Sikhethimpilo Centre near Bulawayo (both in Zimbabwe) have shared knowledge about what nutritious crops are easiest and cheapest to grow, and what food production and preparation methods are most acceptable to local people.

In all of the pilot pairings so far, there have been insights and usable observations that had the credibility of coming from others engaged in similar activities in a similar context. This has led to increased learning by both parties—assessors as well as those being assessed. The power of this horizontal learning amongst peers is that it is more constructive and more valuable in practice than externally imposed processes. Furthermore, because it is internally driven and produces material of intrinsic value to the organisations and their beneficiaries, it stands a far greater chance of being sustained and thus continuing to raise quality and effectiveness over the long-term.



**Better nutrition for children is one result of Egmont partners sharing knowledge about food production and preparation.**