Clear Horizon

Evaluating contribution

One day

This course is part of our "Evaluating social innovation series".

About the training

In many situations it is not possible, or even necessary, to prove that your program (on its own) caused an outcome. In these situations, you may need to determine contribution, rather than attribution. This is especially important when working in a situation where there are multiple factors, in addition to your own work, likely to have caused the observed change. Examples include when you are working as one part of a coalition for change, or are but one partner in a collective impact process. Or perhaps you are simply working in a crowded space with many actors contributing to the same outcome. In these cases we recommend you seek to *understand the contribution* your work had in achieving the change.

In this training we will explore several different approaches to evaluating contribution, starting with basic tools such as the "what else test" and looking at more in-depth approaches such as process tracing and John Mayne's contribution analysis. We'll look at the cutting edge in this field including how it may be combined with return on investment calculations.

Training process

The day will include seminars, small group work and plenty of opportunities to ask questions and explore how these approaches may work in your context. It will be led by Clear Horizon's Founder, Dr Jess Dart.

Learning objectives

- To understand how contribution analysis differs from attribution analysis
- To explore several different methods of evaluating contribution, including the strengths and weaknesses of each approach
- To examine some case studies of evaluating contribution in practice.

For more details on the other "Evaluating social innovation series" courses click here:

- **Evaluating place-based approaches**

- **Engagement evaluation**

- **Evaluation across the design cycle**