

## Analysing trends, spotting disruption and amplifying impact

Anticipating change, assessing implications and preparing responses are integral to strategic decision-making. **Horizon scanning and foresight** approaches do this systematically. Scanning helps detect emerging trends and potential disruption early on, and to assess the associated risks and opportunities. It can support organisational learning and agility, helping to embrace innovation and new opportunities, and shape preferred outcomes. Foresight and future intelligence-gathering is at its most powerful when it is action-oriented, open, participatory and multi-disciplinary. This is where the **Scanning the Horizon initiative** comes in, to **think, debate and shape the future of our sector**.



### A dynamic cross-sector scanning community

Scanning the Horizon is a **collaborative multi-stakeholder platform for horizon scanning** and strategic thinking, helping civil society organisations (CSOs) to **better prepare for disruption and benefit from change**.

With members including leading international ICSSOs, national CSO umbrella organisations, plus academic, multilateral organisations and private sector colleagues, this cross-sector community addresses the need for **collaborative trend analysis and peer exchange** on strategic positioning and organisational adaptiveness.

Futurists, strategists, trend analysts and organisational learning and research specialists meet both virtually and in person to **share insights, explore key trends and develop relevant strategies**. The platform also enables mutual learning and the pooling of resources.

***“Put simply, the Scanning the Horizon group acts as a centre of excellence for strategists and trend spotters for the not-for-profit sector, equipping us to help each other out effectively and efficiently.”*** A member of the *Scanning the Horizon* community

### What we do

The community helps members build capacity in spotting and prepare for trends and potential disruption. New insights are introduced both through peer discussion and networking, and by engaging with a variety of external experts from diverse sectors. Collaboration takes place through various formats and is driven by members' priorities:

**Annual meeting:** An annual in-person meeting allows the opportunity to collaboratively explore one particularly 'hot' futures topic in much greater depth. **For 2019**, the planned topic is the implications of China's rise on the future work of ICSOs, exploring the multi-faceted influences and impacts which the Chinese 'big development model' has for ICSO advocacy, policy and programming work around the world. The meeting will be in Asia in May/June 2019.

**Webinars:** Monthly webinars enable the members to meet online to learn from each others' work, as well as thought-provoking content from external contributors, on future scenarios and foresight. **2019 planning** is currently under way for an exciting new series of topics, including setting the scene for the annual meeting on China, but also potentially looking at the future of work/automation in ICSO operations, and urbanisation/future programming in megacities.

**Networking and news:** Members use the community to gather peer feedback and to engage with experienced colleagues in informal, *ad hoc* ways around trends or strategic processes. A monthly community newsletter is also produced, with support from the Direct Impact Group, to share information on planned collaborations, partner updates, events and resources.



## Active and open membership

The community was started in 2015 with seed funding by The Rockefeller Foundation but is currently self-sustained by its members. Membership is open at any time to any individuals and organisations working in this space and interested in these topics.

Current members are Accenture Development Partnerships, ADRA Germany, Amnesty International, Care International, Direct Impact Group, IFRC, InterAction, Mercy Corps, Oxfam International, Plan International, Save the Children International, Terre des Hommes, WaterAid and World Vision International. Other partners include: CISU – Civil Society in Development, Global Focus – Danish CSOs for Development Cooperation, Habitat for Humanity International, Partos, and Syracuse University.

### Find out more

Contact us to find out more and join the community by emailing Vicky Tongue, Programme Manager, at [vtongue@icscentre.org](mailto:vtongue@icscentre.org), or visit our website: <https://icscentre.org/our-work/scanning-the-horizon/>.