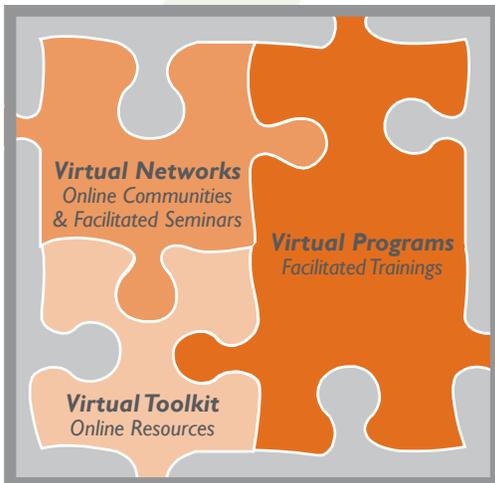




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# Virtual CSO Board Governance Program



**MSH's Collection of Virtual Approaches**

## MSH Virtual Approaches Build Capacity In:

- Leadership Development
- Business and Strategic Planning
- Human Resource Management
- Board Governance
- Expanding Proven Health Practices

*The Virtual Civil Society Organization (CSO) Board Governance Program (VCGP) is an eight-week program that helps board members and management teams of CSOs to understand board roles and responsibilities. The program provides topics to ensure accountability, transparency, and prevent conflict-of-interest situations.*

### CSOs Need Effective Governance Systems

Global awareness of the health problems faced by developing countries has increased, resulting in a widespread desire to address these issues through a combined public and private sector approach. The need is more urgent than ever for CSOs to have high-functioning governance systems, to ensure that they fulfill their stated mission and use the resources in an effective and transparent manner. For many CSOs a common form of governance is to assign responsibility to a Board of Directors, a group of people who are elected or designated to oversee the work of the organization. The VCGP is designed to strengthen the capacity of these board members.

### VCGP at Work

*“What I appreciated about the VCGP, and why I would recommend it to other organizations, is that the module work and regular structured team meetings over a period of eight weeks helps establish a pattern and culture of focus and commitment. The standard 2 to 3 day workshops and ‘one-offs’ don’t demand the same commitment and it is too easy for people to revert back to old patterns. The VCGP has helped us build the momentum that we needed in order to move forward...each [board member] is now better able to see how and in what way they can become more active and better custodians in the drive for good governance.”*

—Michele Ostertag, Executive Director, Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust, Kenya



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**VCGP**

### VCGP Objectives

At the end of the eight-week program, board members will be able to:

- Develop a board governance improvement plan based on the respective roles and responsibilities of the board of directors and executive management
- Incorporate actions to modify or add policies to ensure accountability and transparency
- Define the structure of the board
- Identify key actions for the board's annual plan

### VCGP Content

The VCGP uses a learning model that combines multiple types of learning. This program is organized in five modules. Each contains practical frameworks, readings, group work, and exchanges among participants and the facilitators through the Café on the website and via email. During the course facilitators provide support and feedback to teams while they develop their improvement plan.

### MSH's Other Virtual Programs

MSH's virtual learning programs are facilitated by organizational development specialists and experts in key health and technical areas. Programs enroll up to 12 organizational teams that consist of 4 to 10 people who work together on a regular basis. MSH's virtual programs require that participating teams develop and implement an action plan, a strategic plan, or a business plan during the 8-to-20-week program period. Facilitators follow-up with teams six-months post-program to check in on their progress.

The six programs are available in at least two languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, or Russian.

### Program Eligibility

- Teams that works regularly as board members or as part of a management team

### Technology Requirements

- Reliable access to a computer and the Internet
- Minimum 56.6Kb/s modem connection speed
- Internet Explorer 5.1 or higher
- Microsoft Word and Adobe

### Team Commitments

- Four to ten active team members
- Participants located in the same office/area
- Participants work together on a regular basis on a common objective or goal
- Individual participation of 4 to 6 hours per week during 8-week online program
- Attendance at regular team meetings during the program
- Implementation of a board of governance improvement plan
- Reports on team achievements to date six months after the end of the program

*For additional information, go to <http://programs.msh.org/clm>, or contact us at [virtualprograms@msh.org](mailto:virtualprograms@msh.org)*