Findings: Four broad themes emerged:

1) Cooperation is beneficial
2) Cooperation is difficult
3) There is a need to cooperate in Haiti
4) There are consequences to not cooperating

All participants agreed that there was a strong need to cooperate in Haiti, but the majority felt that cooperation was not occurring due to resource constraints, competition/egos, and infrastructural issues. The majority of participants felt that cooperation should be required by donor agencies or by the Haitian government. Consequences to not cooperating included fragmentation, incomplete information, resource misallocation and inefficiencies and duplication of services. One broad, potentially transformative collective action network emerged that could have positive impacts on maternal and child health throughout Haiti.

Interpretation: Broader implications of this research point to the need to design effective incentives to entice organizations to work together. Donors perhaps need to require collective action as a funding contingency. The need for collective action in global health is only becoming more urgent, and this research helps to outline some of the problems inherent in collective action among NGOs, as well as sheds light on policy considerations that should be addressed.

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An Approach to Partnership Assessment for Global Health in Resource-limited Settings

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Program/Project Purpose:
Designing global health programs and determining the appropriate partners to engage can be difficult. Program/project implementers often have limited time, funding and human resources to implement their project, making it necessary and convenient to partner with local, in-country or external partners to leverage resources.

While partnerships can be mutually beneficial, if not properly assessed they can cause financial, reputational or legal risks that could be detrimental to the implementation of a project/program. To mitigate these risks, a U.S. Academic Medical Center (USAMC) designed a partnership assessment tool to evaluate potential partnership strengths and weaknesses.

Structure/Method/Design:
To determine partnership feasibility, areas of assessment include: organizational alignment, existing partner program capacity and needs, USAMC resources and capabilities, and logistical complexity for implementation. Partners self-select by reaching out to the USAMC and via USAMC’s existing in-country programs. USAMC staff with necessary expertise and experience conduct the partnership assessment.

Partnership assessments are carried out via desktop review of the potential partner and meetings with potential partners both in the U.S. and in-country. To collaboratively test program feasibility, USAMC faculty, trainees and staff also work shoulder-to-shoulder with the potential partner team to determine gaps and opportunities.