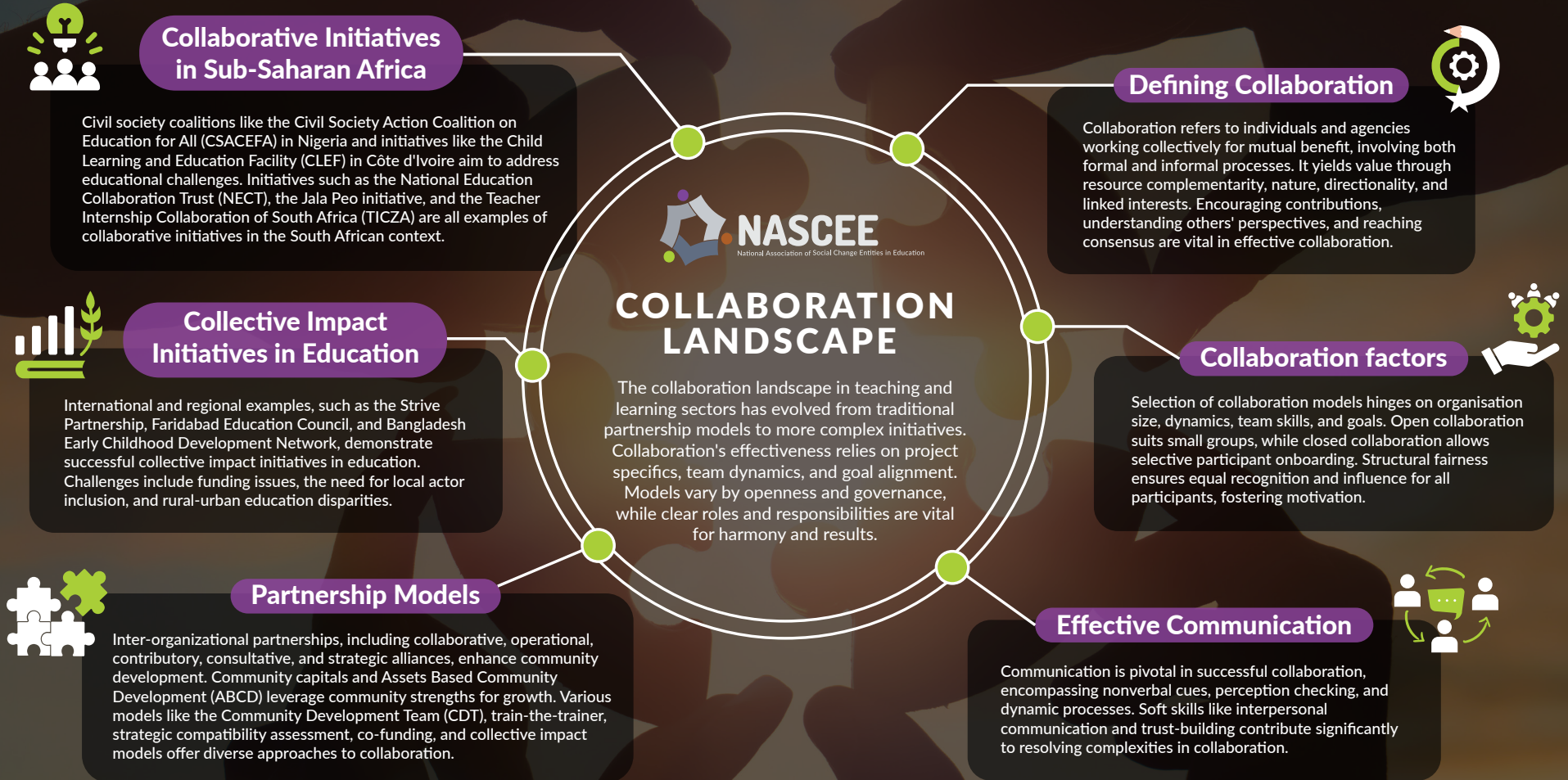# Collaborative partnerships for collective impact on education outcomes

JET Education Service was commissioned by the National Association of Social Change Entities in Education (NASCEE) to conduct and implement a pilot project in the John Taolo Gaetsewe district in the Northern Cape. The pilot aimed to test and refine a collaborative model focussing on the coordination and cohesion of identified funders, government entities and NGOs who have a vested interest in improving collective learner outcomes. This thought piece is the first of two publications sharing insights and lessons learnt from collaborative efforts.

Collaborative Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa

Civil society coalitions like the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA) in Nigeria and initiatives like the Child Learning and Education Facility (CLEF) in Côte d'Ivoire aim to address educational challenges. Initiatives such as the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), the Jala Peo initiative, and the Teacher Internship Collaboration of South Africa (TICZA) are all examples of collaborative initiatives in the South African context.

Collective Impact Initiatives in Education

International and regional examples, such as the Strive Partnership, Faridabad Education Council, and Bangladesh Early Childhood Development Network, demonstrate successful collective impact initiatives in education. Challenges include funding issues, the need for local actor inclusion, and rural-urban education disparities.

Partnership Models

Inter-organizational partnerships, including collaborative, operational, contributory, consultative, and strategic alliances, enhance community development. Community capitals and Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) leverage community strengths for growth. Various models like the Community Development Team (CDT), train-the-trainer, strategic compatibility assessment, co-funding, and collective impact models offer diverse approaches to collaboration.

NASCEE
National Association of Social Change Entities in Education

COLLABORATION LANDSCAPE

The collaboration landscape in teaching and learning sectors has evolved from traditional partnership models to more complex initiatives. Collaboration's effectiveness relies on project specifics, team dynamics, and goal alignment. Models vary by openness and governance, while clear roles and responsibilities are vital for harmony and results.

Defining Collaboration

Collaboration refers to individuals and agencies working collectively for mutual benefit, involving both formal and informal processes. It yields value through resource complementarity, nature, directionality, and linked interests. Encouraging contributions, understanding others' perspectives, and reaching consensus are vital in effective collaboration.

Collaboration factors

Selection of collaboration models hinges on organisation size, dynamics, team skills, and goals. Open collaboration suits small groups, while closed collaboration allows selective participant onboarding. Structural fairness ensures equal recognition and influence for all participants, fostering motivation.

Effective Communication

Communication is pivotal in successful collaboration, encompassing nonverbal cues, perception checking, and dynamic processes. Soft skills like interpersonal communication and trust-building contribute significantly to resolving complexities in collaboration.

Quantifiable progress tracking and stakeholder collaboration are common features of the collective impact framework as well other traditional models of collaboration. The backbone organization is a unique feature of the collective impact model. Successful initiatives within the collective impact model emphasise stakeholders' willingness to collaborate, quantifiable data, flexibility and value creation for stakeholders.

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