WORKSHEET:
DEVELOPING YOUR STORY OF US

The purpose of the story of us is to create a sense of community among individuals who may or may not yet see themselves as a community and to give them hope that they can make a difference. It builds on shared experiences and outcomes of previous actions to establish the context in which to take future action. Your goal here is to tell a story that evokes our shared values as your audience, and shows why we in particular are called to take responsibility for action now.

Your story of us may be a story of what we've already done together (common experiences), challenges we've already faced and outcomes we've achieved. Or it may be a story of some of our shared heroes, challenges they faced and outcomes they've achieved. Hearing how we've met challenges in the past gives us hope that we can face new challenges together.

*Brainstorm all the stories you know about your **audience** and your collective story and experience. Your story of us may change each time you are talking to a different group of people as you create a new community with them.*

Now for the purpose of this exercise, think of your people, it can the fellows you had trainings with. If you imagine going into a room filled with **your** people, who are they, what are their characteristics? Now, in order to craft your story of us, brainstorm through the following questions **(5 min)**:

Think back to the stories of self. Around which shared values do you hope to build a public narrative?
Which specific shared experiences of this community express those values? These should be events (not characteristics) that your group feels connected around, whether they occurred before or during this workshop.
What were the challenges in these stories?
What were the sources of hope in these stories?

Now choose among the stories you brainstormed above to flesh some out in vivid detail. Remember, you can use this space to draw pictures instead of writing words, to help you think about where to add detail and nuance in your story **(5 min.)**.

CHALLENGE	**CHOICE**	**OUTCOME**
What was the challenge we faced? What's the root of that challenge?	*What specific choice did we make? What action did we take?*	*What happened as a result of our choice? What hope can it give us?*

EACH STORY TELLER SHOULD:

- SELF – Start your story in a couple of sentences (Examples of sentences that could create the space for an US- I care about _____ because of my own lived experience, before I came here, I thought I was alone)

- US – TAKE TWO MINUTES to tell your story of US as it relates to the people you are talking with and that connects to your shared values. Create the space for an ASK by evoking a shared value, experience, urgency