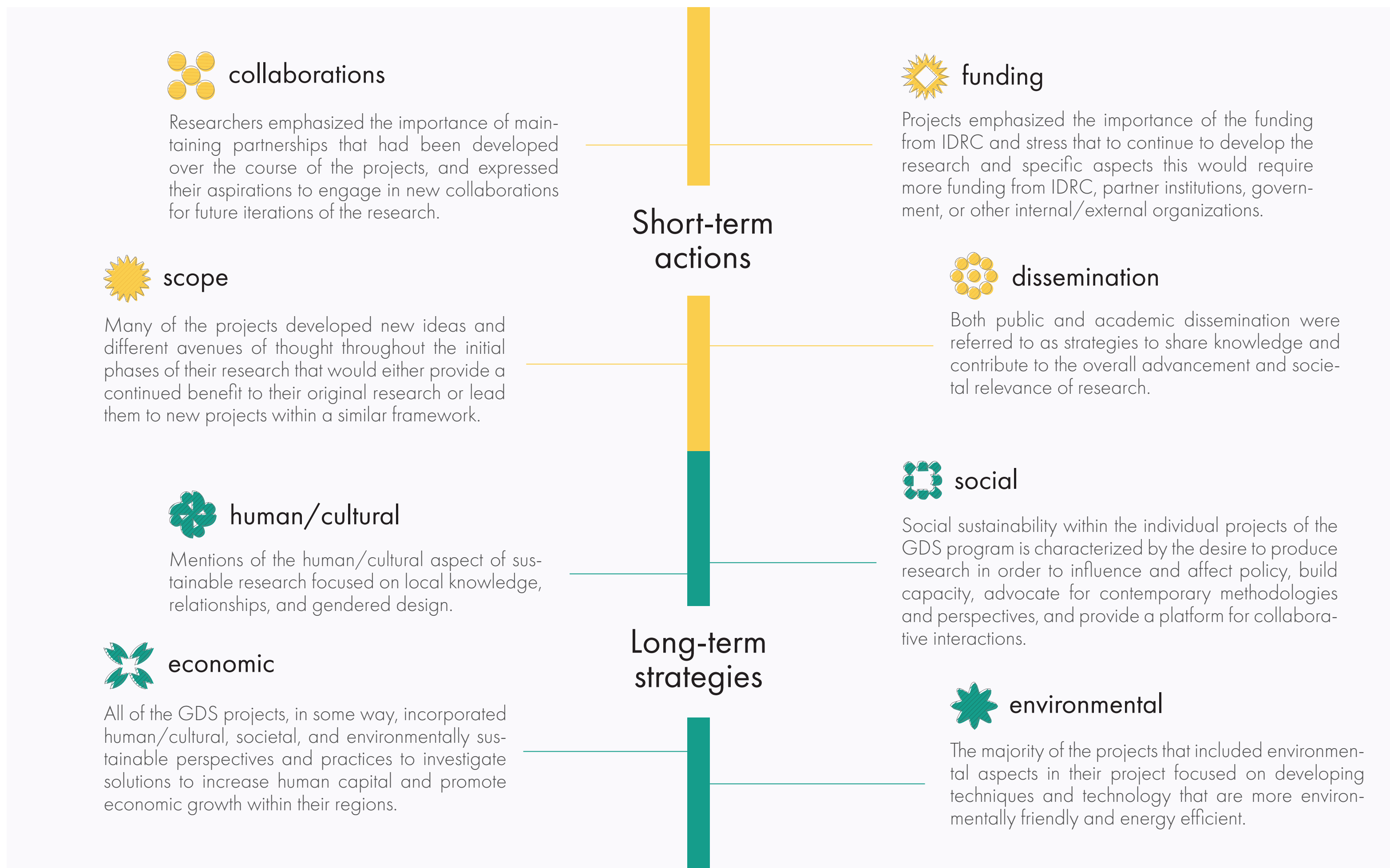


Gendered Design in STEAM Sustainable Research

This project analyzed the concept of **sustainable research** by investigating how the 20 awarded projects of the Gendered Design in STEAM (GDS) program incorporated sustainable research within their own frameworks. It is possible to identify aspects of sustainability within the 20 projects which had focused on maintaining and improving various systems, entities, and processes, while adapting to changing circumstances so as to benefit the current population, and enable long-term action for the future. Different elements of sustainable research were identified as core aspects to the 20 projects. These aspects were grouped into two major themes: **short-term actions** for the continuation of the projects and **long-term strategies** to develop sustainability in a broader sense.

Sustainability has become a crucial concept in many fields and has been utilized as a core theme and approach within many research ventures. The 1987 Brundtland Report *Our Common Future*, a pioneering report on guiding principles of sustainable development, defines sustainability as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This definition encompasses three main elements upon which researchers base definitions of sustainable research: continuation, orientation, and relationships.

Emerging Themes



Future Considerations

Drawing from the interview transcripts and reports of the 20 awarded projects, the data collected presented a few key considerations for short-term actions and long-term strategies. In all of the projects, there was an emphasis on sustaining collaborations between internal and external organizations, partners, and communities for funding and for further collaborative projects. Many projects stressed the importance of allocating more funds, and remaining flexible in the allocation of funding that allows the project researchers to have agency over how the funds will

be used and for what parts of the project. This would have benefitted many of the projects that were unable to complete components of their research, due in part because of the pandemic and having to shift their strategic approach, and would have allowed them more freedom to utilize their resources to explore alternative methods of research. Many of the projects also indicated that although helpful to receive external funding, having the funding available in the local currency or at a fixed exchange rate would have been helpful for budget planning. Lastly, there were many

discussions about incorporating local and traditional knowledge and culture into the research and process as a way to sustain regional values within each society. As such, there was a desire to have more collaborative opportunities amongst the projects to learn about the many contextual differences and challenges that different regions face, so as to provide support and develop strategies together that could be utilized across the regions.