



Participate

Knowledge from the margins for post-2015

Citizens in the global partnership

Recommendations and key research findings for the post-2015 agenda

People living in greatest poverty and those most marginalised should be central to partnerships in the new framework, at all stages because they have shared responsibility for their own development.

According to the poorest and most marginalised groups in over 100 countries, a global framework must guarantee development that leaves no one behind; which does not demand impossible choices of the poorest and most vulnerable; which provides hope; and which recognises and strengthens the networks that hold people together. How this process is supported – by government at all levels, by business, by civil society, and by citizens themselves, is fundamentally important.

Key recommendations for global partnerships

A global framework should:

1 Include citizens in global partnerships

- Ensure mechanisms are established for citizen participation in multilateral decision making within the new framework, including strengthening networks to promote global partnerships with citizens.
- Build participation into every stage of the development process from conception; to design; to implementation; to learning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Include citizen-led regulation and monitoring of the implementation of the global framework.
- Include a measurement that assesses how meaningful and influential citizen participation has been in formal decision making processes.

This builds on an overarching recommendation that participation should be prioritised throughout the post-2015 framework.



2 Prioritise investment that builds the capacity of citizens to understand and engage in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the global framework.

This means strengthening the:

- Capacities of citizens to access resources and to contribute to their own development.
- Capacities of citizens and collectives to represent issues that matter to the poorest; and support collective responses to problems.
- Capacities of government institutions to respond effectively to the needs and interests of citizens. Emphasis should be given to those poorest and most marginalised.

This builds on an overarching recommendation that the post-2015 framework should strengthen the individual and collective capacity of people living in greatest poverty and marginalisation.

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Key findings from research with people living in greatest poverty and those who are most marginalised:

Citizens are key partners for development because their involvement can lead to:

- a deeper understanding of the dynamics of local contexts, avoiding unintended and perverse effects that create dependencies which make exclusion and poverty worse;
- better formulated and implemented policies;
- increased state capacity to respond to citizens; and,
- greater recognition and empowerment for the most marginalised and poorest groups.

People living in poverty should have a role in shaping the policies that affect them. Partnerships with citizens imply recognising that sustainable development is a learning process between citizens, professionals and policy makers.

If citizens are genuine partners in the new global framework, it will increase the legitimacy of the framework and help to sustain global consensus throughout implementation.

Evidence base

 *Participate* synthesised findings from 84 participatory studies with people living in greatest poverty and marginalisation in over 100 countries between 1993 and 2013. In some cases research is ongoing and expanding into additional countries.

 Recommendations are based on *Participate's* interpretation of the findings of this research.

Participate is co-convened by the Institute of Development Studies and Beyond 2015, but the initiative is only possible because of the energy, expertise and vision of numerous organisations committed to participatory research. *Participate* is funded by the UK Government.

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