

# Participatory Development

# What is Participatory development?

- This is an approach to development where those most marginalized, poor and vulnerable are given an opportunity to be significantly involved.

# Why Participatory Development?

**Help with dignity:** does not only build the physical infrastructure in a community, it builds people as well. It builds the marginalized and poor's sense of worth and dignity

**Respect, Accountability and Trust:** ensure that development professionals and agencies are totally respectful of grassroots communities, there is absolute openness and this builds trust.

# Why Participatory Development?

**Efficiency:** Community will deploy own resources to address the problems because they are their priority ones.

**Sustainability:** results to projects that local communities continue with long after the donor funding is gone.

# Why aren't development organizations practicing participatory development?

**Power:** At the center of participatory development is power shift. Giving it to the poor and the marginalized. Development agencies and professionals are not ready for this.

**Project designs:** They still use project designs that do not accommodate the views of grassroots communities.

**Time:** Desire for quick results but participatory development takes time to give results.

# PHASES IN PD PROJECTS

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION:** ensure as many people as possible in that community are a part of the project right from the beginning. 2-3 months

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION, PRIORITIZATION AND RESOURCE**

**MATCHING:** Community identifies most pressing problems, and develops a plan of action to address them using their own resources. 2-3 months

**BUILDING COMMUNITY STRUCTURES AND CAPACITY:** Community leaders and trainers are trained to help implement community action plans. 2-3 months

**DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

Consolidating prioritized problems, community set objectives and plan of action into a proposal document. 2-3 months

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** Must keep community members intensively involved. 2-4 years.

# Resourcing community action plans: Community Banking

Villagers form small groups of 10-20 people through which they make small weekly savings.

The small weekly savings are deposited in the community bank managed by elected community members.

Community banks provide funds for some of the community action plans e.g. investment in agriculture or health insurance.

These generate or help save funds that the community saves into the community bank through village savings groups.

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