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Inclusive Development for Women and Youth: *Exploring different forms of participation*

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Participation in development



What is participation and why is it important for development?

- **Definition:** “Participation is the process through which stakeholders (civil society actors) can influence and share control over development initiatives, and over the decisions and resources that affect themselves“.
- **Intrinsic value:** A fundamental right.
- **Instrumental value:** sustainability, needs-based.
- Participation in development cooperation: **how? Of whom?**

The importance of an enabling environment

- **Definition:** “the conditions within which civil society operates: if civil society is an arena, the environment is made up of the forces that shape and influence the size, extent and functioning of that arena.“
- **Dimensions:** (i) governance/legal environment (e.g. NGO laws); (ii) socio-economic environment (e.g. access to information, financial capacity); (iii) socio-cultural environment (e.g. trust).



The current environment for civil society's participation in ID



At the international level

- Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2011);
- Foreign aid policies and procedures (ex: GAC's bureaucratic process) ;
Canada's Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance

At the national level

- Legal framework (NGO laws)
- Historical, local context → how do people engage in development

Volunteering organizations as micro environments

- Nature of the relationship with Southern partners
- Process of decision-making

The dominant model of participation in international development

- NGOs
- Projects-based



A short history of development cooperation in Uganda



1962-1986

- Few ID organizations
- Violence and strict control over development under the Amin regime

Since 1986

- Explosion of the number of international development organizations.
- Acholi sub-region of Uganda & the LRA conflict

Today

- Uganda as a paradise for NGOs - NGOs as the new business in town.
- Post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding initiatives
- Humanitarian needs in Karamoja



Case study n°1

CSOs & child marriage



Causes of child marriage and how it particularly affects girls

- Poverty
- Social norms (customary laws)
- Menstruation

Political environment

- National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy 2015-2020 → State as ally
- Many CSOs focusing on child marriage in different parts of the country
- Local organizations engaged with local leaders (religious leaders more open than cultural leaders)

World Vision and the partnership with local organizations

- Established a strong network. Other lead organization: Joy for Children (local organization)
- Implementation of the national strategy → sustainable approach

Case study n°2

Youth unemployment



Situation

- The world's youngest population: 78% below 30 years old.
- Youth unemployment estimated at 61%.



The Jobless Brotherhood movement (2014)

- Youth-led protest movement
- Fight against youth unemployment, exploitation and corruption

Method of participation

- Limited (perceived?) impact of international dev. organizations on development in the country
- Advantages of social movements over CSOs
- Reconfiguration of the role of CSOs: legal support, building networks, etc.



Case study n°3



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Informal participation & women's land rights

Armed conflict between the LRA and the Ugandan government

- Human rights violations committed by both sides
- The Internally Displaced Persons camps and the lack of protection
- Absence of neutrality: people seen as pro-rebels

Consequence: Political environment in Northern Uganda

- Lack of trust towards the State
- Lack of trust towards CSOs (left for Karamoja)

Method of participation

- Informal participation: dialogue, collaborative engagement, collective decision-making.
- Creation of informal groups to discuss women's land issues.

