Listening and Learning

A case study on engaging active participation by grassroots practitioners at an international conference
Climate Justice

• Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly.

• The work of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice is informed by the Principles of Climate Justice:
  – Respect and Protect Human Rights
  – Support the Right to Development
  – Share Benefits and Burdens Equitably
  – Ensure that Decisions on Climate Change are Participatory, Transparent and Accountable
  – Highlight Gender Equality and Equity
  – Harness the Transformative Power of Education for Climate Stewardship
  – Use Effective Partnerships to Secure Climate Justice
Participation – the Climate Justice Approach

• Principle of Climate Justice: Ensure that Decisions on Climate Change are Participatory, Transparent and Accountable.

• The opportunity to participate in decision-making processes which are fair, accountable, open and corruption-free is essential to climate justice.

• The voices of the most vulnerable to climate change must be heard and acted upon.

TARA SHINE
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice
Why Participation?

• Full participation allows all voices to be heard – from key global decision makers to marginalised community members.

• Improving awareness and understanding of climate change is key to winning public support for climate related policies.

• The UNFCCC, through Article 6, calls on governments to educate, empower and engage all stakeholders and major groups on policies relating to climate change.

• Grassroots practitioners and vulnerable communities cannot engage in the global climate negotiations if they don’t know about them.

• Widespread participation also allows these policy makers to learn from the people their decisions affect the most.

TARA SHINE
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice
Hunger • Nutrition • Climate Justice

- Held in April 2013, and co-hosted by the Foundation and the Irish Government
- Participation in action
- 300 delegates, 100 of which represented grassroots communities across the world
- The conference sought to amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change – voices which are all too often ignored by global policy makers.
Lessons Learned

• Bringing grassroots practitioners and policy makers together works
  ➢ Grassroots representatives have the knowledge and ability to solve problems relating to climate change in their own areas
  ➢ Bridging between these groups can inform effective climate solutions.
Lessons Learned

- The capacity of grassroots representatives needs to strengthened to enable them to engage.
  - Policy makers need to take the time to ensure grassroots communities are engaged and aware of the processes in train in climate and development negotiations.
  - Grassroots practitioners have knowledge and skills to share.
  - High level policy makers have a responsibility to amplify their voices and empower them to tell their stories.
Lessons Learned

• Strengthening institutions and establishing platforms for real dialogue among all stakeholders is necessary to catalyse change.
  ➢ Real dialogue achieved using accessible language and innovative means of communication.

• Women are at the heart of effective solutions – there can be no real solutions without women’s involvement.
  ➢ Women made up 46% of conference delegates
  ➢ Equal rights are essential for women’s inclusion in these solutions

TARA SHINE
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice
Lessons Learned

• The negative impact of climate change on the food and nutrition security of vulnerable households is an injustice, as they have done least to cause climate change.

• We should not be afraid to empower people and protect rights. Giving power to another can lead to positive change.

• By placing people at the centre, the clearest picture of the crisis facing the world’s most vulnerable emerges.