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Welcome!

Participatory Assessment: A Methodology to Leave No One Behind

We will begin shortly

Launching Webinar Event

Wednesday November 23, 2022 / 10h30-12h30

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

Please keep **your micropohone** muted to avoid background noise interference; open it if/when it is your turn to speak.

Feel free to turn **your camera** on if connectivity allows for it; and if/when you are speaking.
Otherwise, you can turn it off.

If you experience **connectivity problems**, leave the meeting and join again.
You can also close all unecessary applications which are web based.

For the **Q&A Sessions**
- You can use the chat

or

- Raise your hand, and when called upon, open your mic to speak

Agnieszka Kroskowska

INTRODUCTIONS

FCHR NET
Fragility, Conflict and Human Rights

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Conflict-and-Human-Rights

governance
SDC NETWORK

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLGN/Pages/Welcome.aspx

SHAREWEB
GENDER

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender

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POVERTY – WELLBEING

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PGE
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swisspeace

https://www.swisspeace.ch/

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

https://baselgovernance.org/

ximpulse

https://www.ximpulse.ch/

institute of development studies

https://www.ids.ac.uk/

FONDATION HIRONDELLE
media for peace & human dignity

https://www.hirondelle.org/fr/

HELVETAS

https://www.helvetas.org/en/switzerland

INTRODUCTIONS

	#	WHO	NAME	ROLE
SDC	1		**Stephanie Guha**	Focal Point LNOB, Senior Policy Adviser Social Equality, Peace Governance Equality (PGE) section, SDC **Host and inputs**
	2		**Alex Sieber**	Academic Intern, Quality Assurance Section, PGE section SDC **Moderation**
BACKSTOPPERS	1		**Jo Howard**	Research Fellow, Lead of the Participation, Inclusion and Social Change Cluster, IDS **Inputs**
	2		**Erika Schläppi**	Lawyer, Governance and Human Rights Expert, Ximpulse **Inputs**
	3		**Agnieszka Kroskowska**	Gender and Social Equity Coordinator, Senior Advisor Voice, Inclusion & Cohesion, HELVETAS **Moderation**

AGENDA

	#	Timing +/-	Topic	Responsible
For All	0	10h30	Introductions, Overview and Guidance	Agnieszka Kroskowska
	1	10h40	Opening and framing within SDC	Stephanie Guha
	2	10h50	Power Shifting and LNOB in the broader development and humanitarian aid context	Jo Howard
	3	11h10	Interactive Q&A	Moderators: Agnieszka Kroskowska (Plenary) and Alex Sieber (Chat)
	4	11h20	Word Cloud	Alex Sieber
	5	11h25	Introduction of the Participatory Assessment methodology	Erika Schläppi
	6	11h35	Interactive Q&A	Moderators: Agnieszka Kroskowska (Plenary) and Alex Sieber (Chat)
For Practioners	Break 5’ min			
	7	11h45	Using the Participatory Assessment methodology	Erika Schläppi
	8	12h15	Interactive Q&A	Moderators: Agnieszka Kroskowska (Plenary) and Alex Sieber (Chat)
	9	12h25	Concluding remarks, and closing	Laurent Ruedin, Stephanie Guha

Agnieszka Kroskowska

Framing LNOB and Participatory Assessment in SDC

UN:
'…reaching the poorest of the poor, but also seeks to **combat discrimination** and **rising inequalities** within and amongst countries, and their **root causes**'.

LNOB is the central transformative **promise of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.**

- "As we embark on this collective journey, we **pledge that no one will be left behind**."
- "We will endeavour to **reach the furthest behind** first."
- "People who are **vulnerable must be empowered**."

Stephanie Guha

How is Switzerland Implementing the Pledge to LNOB

Meaning of LNOB for SDC:

*…individuals or groups who are **excluded from sustainable development** or who do not enjoy minimum standards of living.*

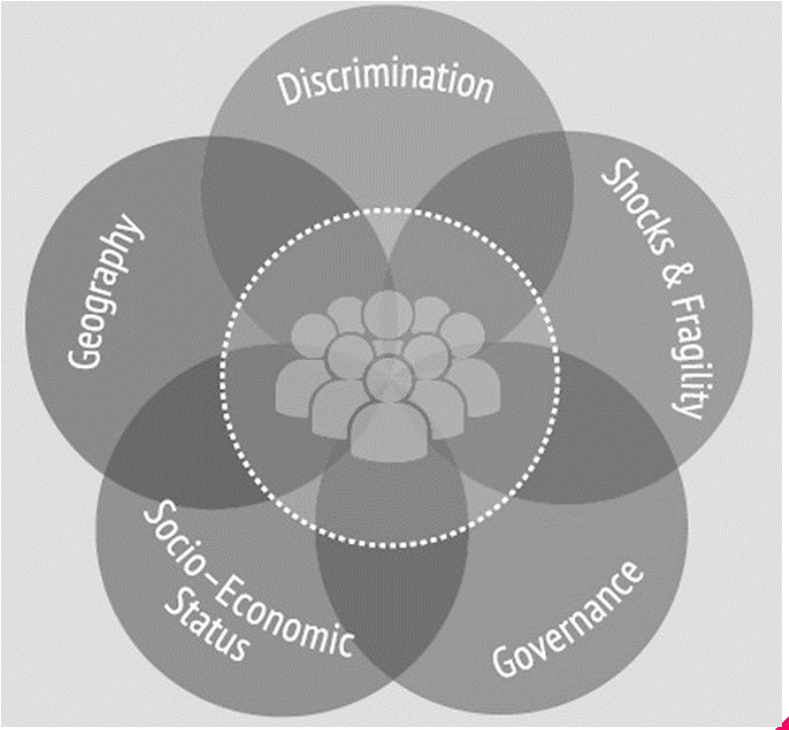
Stephanie Guha

There are 3 key questions to LNOB:

1. Who is excluded?

2. Why are they excluded?
(e.g. geography / finances / attitudes / lack of voice, deliberate de-prioritisation)

3. Who or **what** is excluding them?
(e.g. national government / their own community / local government / individual gatekeepers / laws / social norms)



Stephanie Guha

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From *'Passive and Sensitive'* Beneficiary Assessment to *'Active and Responsive'* Participatory Assessment: Leave No One Behind!

To effectively contribute to the LNOB 2030 Agenda promise, **"People who are vulnerable must be empowered**."

Those most vulnerable are also the best placed to answer those three key ***who, why, what questions***, and therefore need to be **actively and meaningfully involved as primary stakeholders**.

Hence applying the **Participatory Assessment methodology to LNOB is essential to address bias, discrimination, exclusion, and inequality** for more equality, equity, justice, and empowerment of the most vulnerable.

LNOB is among the 3 key principles in the SDGs

(others are HRBA and Gender)

Stephanie Guha

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Participatory Development and Participatory Assessment

Jo Howard

institute of development studies

Historical Perspective on Shifts in Participatory Development

1970s

Participation as emancipatory and transformative:

Freire, Fals Borda

Feminist theory

1980s

Participation as knowledge:

Chambers, Tandon

- RRA, PRA, and principles - triangulation, reduce biases and blindspots, plural perspectives

1990s

Participatory governance:

- Democratic innovations (e.g Participatory Budgeting, Barangays, Gram Sabhas)
- Participatory governance institutions
- PLA and principles (power aware)

2000s

Power and participation:

Cornwall, Gaventa 'from users and choosers to makers and shapers'

Critiques of PD

- Instrumentalism
- Cooption
- Analytical frameworks: e.g. power cube, power analysis

2010s

Citizen deliberation and advocacy:

- In formulating/ monitoring the SDGs (Beyond2015 coalition)
- World social forum
- Citizen assemblies

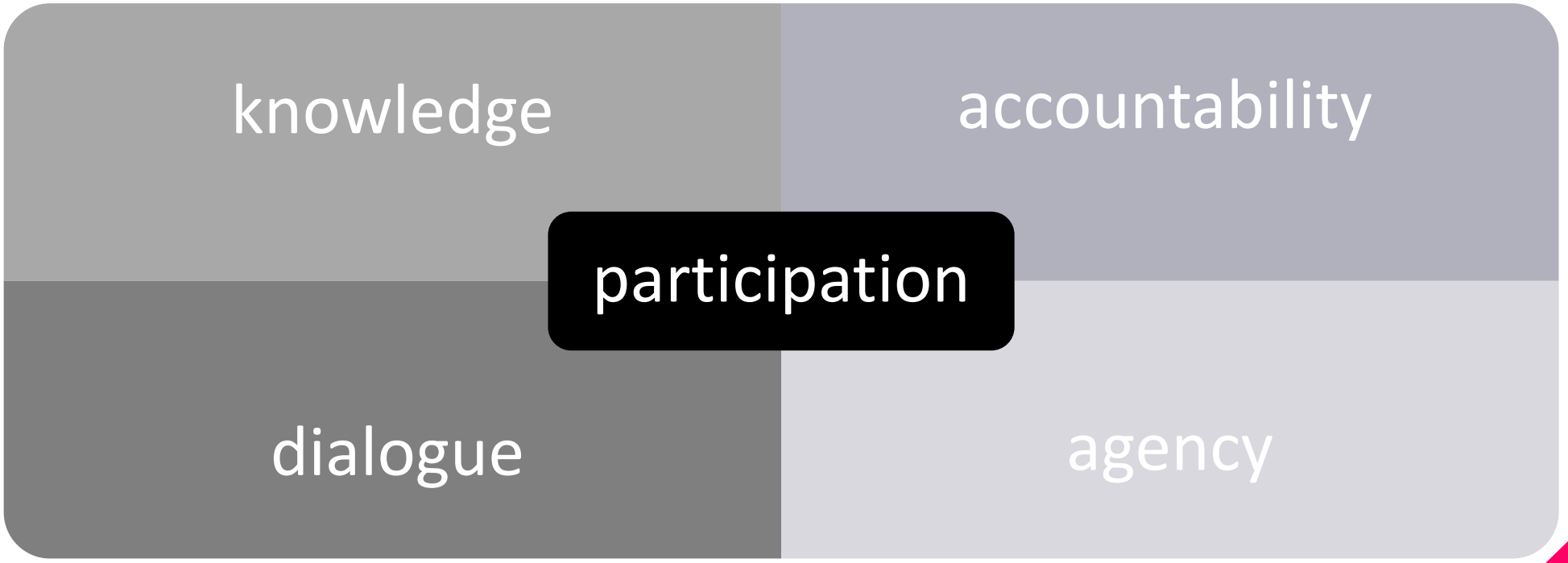
2020s

Revisiting power in participation:

- Challenge of decolonizing aid & development
- Closing civic space
- rise of intersectional thinking

Jo Howard

Conceptualising Participation in Aid and Development



Jo Howard

Global Goals and LNOB

✓ Commitment
✓ Targets
✓ Disaggregated data

BUT… participation is not just about reaching those ‘furthest behind’ to gather data

Shifting power in aid and development relationships:
- promote collaboration and mutual learning
- capacity strengthening
- accompanying processes

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLGN/topics/politicaleconomy/SitePages/Home.aspx

Jo Howard

Participatory processes are important for making progress towards the SDGs because they:

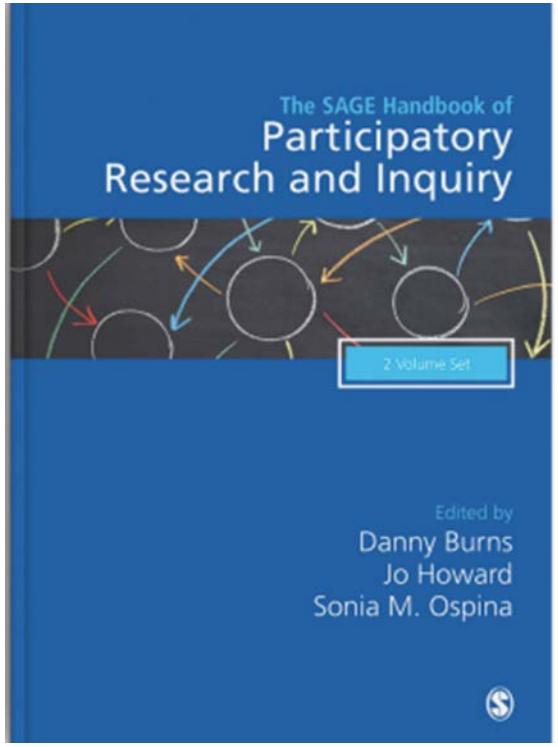
- Generate knowledge that most accurately reflects people's experiences
- Generate ownership and build capacities
- Contribute directly to finding sustainable solutions to complex issues

Jo Howard

Methods and Approaches, Levels of Participation

- Rich diversity of participatory method and toolkits available (Google 21m results)
- History, context and 'how to': see Handbook of PR&I and sections on
  - Participatory MEL (see also: https://evalparticipativa.net/en/resources/participatory-evaluation-guides-and-manuals/
  - Action-oriented methods e.g. PAR, SAR, Community-based and peer research
  - Visual and performative methods
  - Digital participatory methods
  - 'mixing and mashing' methods

To use these methods effectively, what are the principles that need to underpin all participatory work?



Jo Howard

Participatory Principles … Not Just a Tool Kit

Attitude (non-judgemental, respect, humility and patience)

Hand over the stick – be ready to learn from people

Enables group analysis and learning

Facilitator and catalyst more than data gatherer

Offset our own biases

Flexibility, let things emerge, encourage interaction

Action oriented

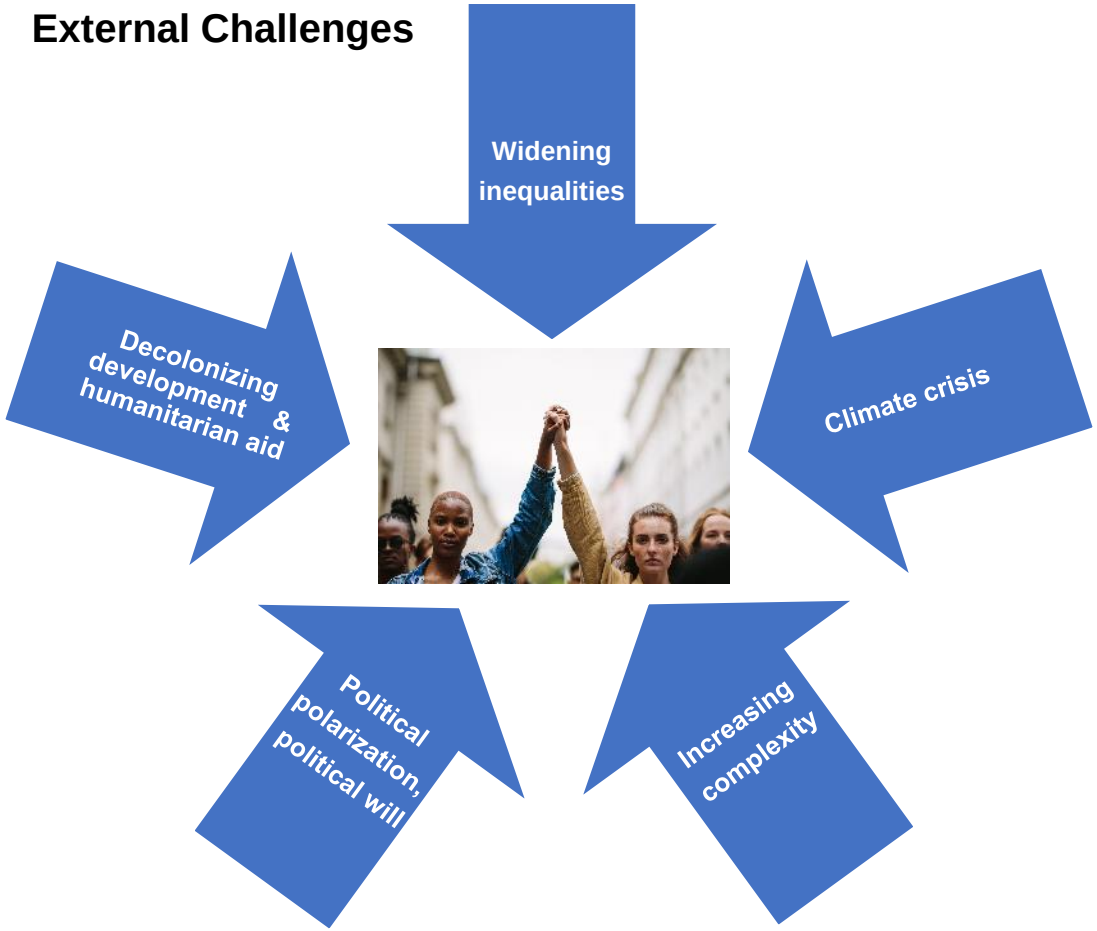
Gender, age and ability sensitive

Diversity, triangulation, allow for different views

Jo Howard

BUT … What are the Challenges for SDC and it's Partners to Put these into Practice?

External Challenges



Internal Challenges

Jo Howard

Opportunities for SDC

Building in participation enables SDC and its partners to:

- Be adaptive in fast-changing context
- Build trust and partnership working (ownership, sustainability)
- Target particular groups whose experiences and perspectives are less well known /taken into account
- PA and participatory principles contribute to shifting power

SDC brings:

- ✓Well placed
- ✓Track record
- ✓Leadership in development community
- ✓Investment in long-term partnerships
- ✓Experience
- ✓On the ground

Jo Howard

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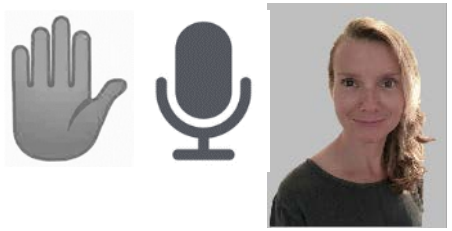
Jo:

Participatory Development and Participatory Assessment

Jo Howard

Plenary Moderation



Agnieszka Kroskowska

Q&A

10’min

Chat Moderation

Alex Sieber

Stephanie:

Framing Participatory Assessment and LNOB in SDC

Stephanie Guha

With special guest

Adrian Maître

Mentimeter

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Enter this code: 8775 4406

Alex Sieber

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Alex Sieber

Mentimeter

Results

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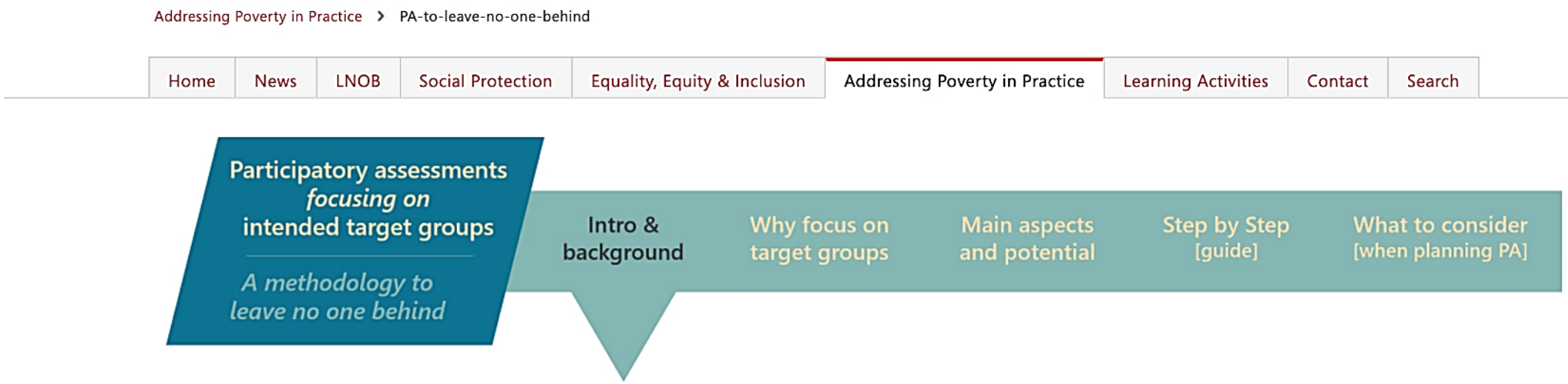
The New Shareweb Page on the PA Methodology "to Leave No-One Behind"

Overview of key elements, potentials and risks

ximpulse

Erika Schläppi

The Purpose of the Participatory Assessment Webpage



- Explaining the key elements of Participatory Assessments, supporting potentials and managing risks in practice, guiding in practice
- With comprehensive explanations, practical examples, references for further reading, additional information

Erika Schläppi

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Poverty-Wellbeing/pa-to-leave-no-one-behind

What does SDC expect from a Participatory Assessment?

To live up to SDC's principles	To be more systemic and responsive	To test the "logic of intervention"
• leaving no one behind • empowerment and participation • strengthening ownership • respecting diversity	• to take into account different perspectives, interests and needs • Target groups are seen as active contributors, not as passive "beneficiaries"	• further development or confirmation of the "theory of change" • thinking outside the "expert box".

Erika Schläppi

PA methodology: useful at various levels and moments

…for assessing overall context or a specific problem

…for designing and implementing interventions

…for defining and conveying messages for policy dialogue

…**for analysing results and learnings from interventions**

…for remote management and adaptive management

Erika Schläppi

Key Aspects of a PA: Managing Biases

Actively engaging target groups in producing insights and data

Focusing on the “view from within”, minimizing expert biases

Helping make biases more transparent, and dealing with them smartly

Erika Schläppi

Specific Roles and Actors in a PA

- Project funder, PA organizer
- Project implementer
- Facilitator (with his/her team)
- Targeted individuals and groups
- „Peers“ of the targeted groups

Erika Schläppi

Summing up: key potentials

Creating…	Revealing…	Making….	Identifying….
….a more differentiated understanding of the target groups, their needs and challenges	….blind spots and new dimensions of the context by listening to real stories	….future interventions more effective, sustainable and responsive. ….management processes more participatory and inclusive	…unexpected and unintended, positive and negative effects of an intervention.

Erika Schläppi

... and Key Risks

At management level	At participant level	At institutional level
• high costs with low benefits • misleading conclusions • doing harm to target groups	• participants may face negative consequences when expressing critical views • Inclusive process may raise unrealistic expectations	• Reputational risks

Erika Schläppi

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Q&A

10’min

Chat Moderation

Alex Sieber

Erika:

The New Shareweb Page on the PA methodology “to leave no-one behind”

Erika Schläppi

With special guest

Riff Fullen

BREAK TIME

5'min

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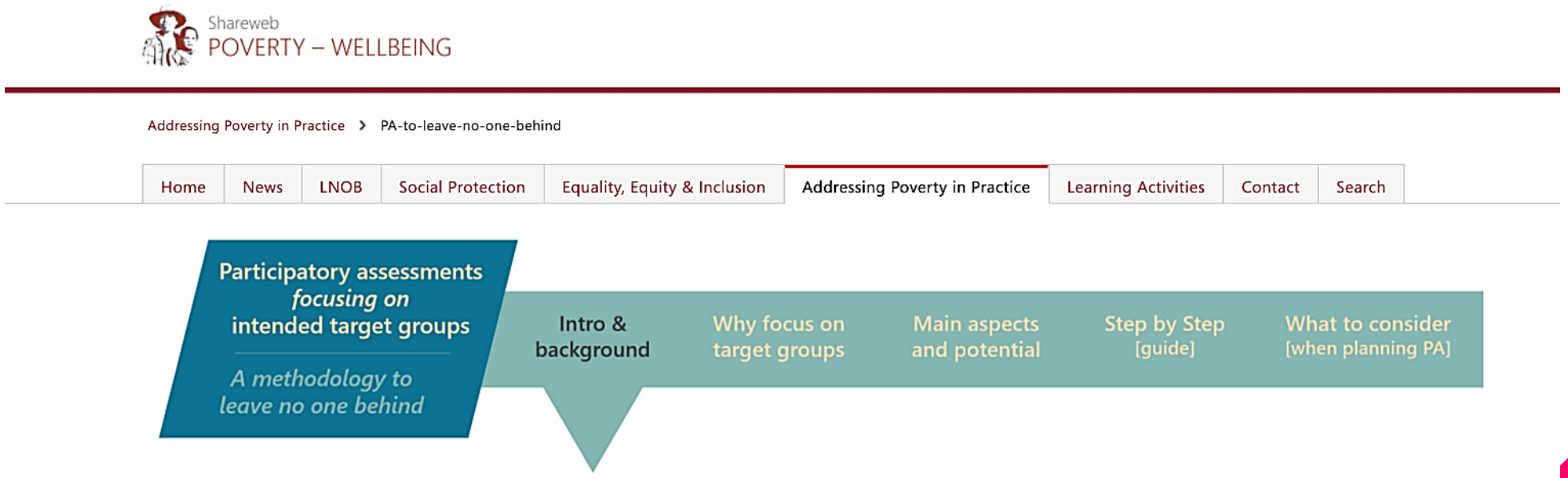
More practically: What is the PA all about?

Step by Step

ximpulse

Erika Schläppi

How does the webpage look like?



https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Poverty-Wellbeing/pa-to-leave-no-one-behind

Erika Schläppi

A step-by-step guide

- ...the approach is based on SDC's and its partners' experience.
- …no fixed blueprint!
- …needs to be tailormade! No templates shared.

Erika Schläppi

The seven steps of the PA methodology

1. Choosing PA and defining clear purpose and scope
2. Conceptual planning and kick-off
3. Training, piloting and validating methods and tools
4. Data collection
5. Analysis and validation
6. Documenting, systematizing and sharing results
7. Learning and implementing

Erika Schläppi

1

Choosing PA and defining clear purpose and scope

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of
Project Funder and/or Implementer

- Analysing context, log frame and programme conditions,
- Developing a general concept (scope, purpose, approach),
- Making resources available, budgeting the process,
- Recruiting a facilitator,
- Organizing a scoping workshop with key partners (and if needed, with a resource person that is familiar with PA).

Erika Schläppi

2

Conceptual planning and kick-off

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of
Organizers and Facilitators

- Recruiting the facilitator's team.
- Fine-tuning the roles of the process actors and methodology in terms of → who, when, where, what, how.
- Planning feed-back loops.
- Defining criteria for selecting interlocutors, recruiting peer assessors.
- Developing tools for communication, instruction and guides.

3

Training, piloting and validating methods and tools

Tasks and Outputs Main Responsibility of Facilitators, and Organizers

- Framing, organizing and programming the collection of data.
- Preparing and sharing information with local stakeholders.
- Holding capacity-building workshop with peer interviewers.
- Testing, refining and validating the approach in a pilot.
- Fine-tuning and validating the approach after piloting, together with organizers.

Erika Schläppi

4

Data collection

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of
Facilitators, with Support of Organizers

- Informing target groups and other stakeholders about process,
- Training peers in their role and the methodology,
- Organizing meeting places and logistics,
- Creating regular space for reflection on the process,
- Facilitating and supporting data collection and reporting.

Erika Schläppi

5

Analysis and validation

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of Facilitators

- Collecting reports from data collection,
- Triangulating data, analysing and synthesizing findings, drawing conclusions, taking to account influence of contextual factors,
- Discussing and validating findings,
- Refining the synthesis and conclusions.

Erika Schläppi

6

Documenting, systematizing and sharing results

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of Facilitator

- Documenting the collected and validated data,
- Analysing the process and (self-critically) identifying challenges that could influence the results,
- Producing a synthesis report,
- Sharing and discussing results.

Erika Schläppi

7

Learning and implementing

Tasks and Outputs
Main Responsibility of Organizers

- Understanding, integrating and interpreting results,
- Taking and implementing management decisions (management responses),
- Communicating decisions,
- Documenting learning and sharing experience,
- Sharing results with interlocutors.

Erika Schläppi

Summing Up: What to Consider when Planning and Implementing a PA

… the main questions for **quality assurance**:

- Is the PA **adequate** for the set purpose, in the current context?
- Does the **assessment process allow for reflection, is it designed** carefully and implemented with flexibility?
- Are the criteria for the selection of the **targeted individuals** clear and transparent?
- Are **identified peers** 'similar' to the targeted individuals – and capable of producing valuable insights?
- Does the **exchange** between target groups and their peers build on mutual trust, and is it organized properly?
- Are **expressed views** interpreted and analyzed considering motivations, interests, power relations and conflicts?
- Can the **data analysis** bring the «stories» into sound conclusions?
- Is **open communication** at all levels ensured?

Erika Schläppi

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Q&A

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the PA methodology “Step by Step”

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Wrap Up and Closing

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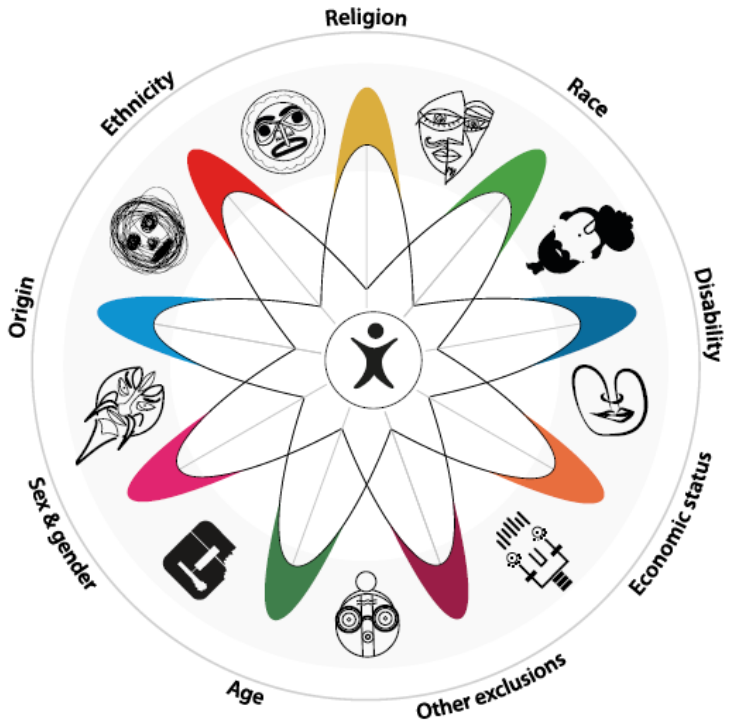

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Poverty-Wellbeing/leave-no-one-behind/Pages/LNOB.aspx

- Key Take Aways
- Reminder to visit and make use of the LNOB/PA Shareweb space
- Possible follow up LNOB/PA learning opportunities/events
- General thanks and appreciation

Stephanie Guha

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Participatory Assessment: A Methodology to Leave No One Behind

Stephanie

Alex

Jo

Erika

Agnieszka

THANK YOU!