

The Collaboration on Poverty, Politics and Participatory Methodologies

A unique programme organised by SDC's Quality Assurance and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)



- Are you interested in the political and power-related dimensions of poverty?
- Have you heard a phrase like 'thinking and working more politically' as a donor agency?
- Do you know how to integrate power analysis in your funding strategies, country programmes, monitoring frameworks and so on?
- Perhaps, you mostly want to learn and understand more about how the work in your domain/country office is contributing to tackling poverty in its many dimensions?

Through the SDC QA Collaboration on Poverty, Politics and Participatory Methodologies with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), you can explore these and other issues, assisted by people with the right expertise.

SDC QA Collaboration on Poverty, Politics and Participatory Methodologies: what you can ask for

SDC field offices and operational units can request exclusive support from experts at IDS on a number of activities, described in the table below.

Strand	Activities	IDS support
<p>1. Accompaniment of SDC operations</p> <p>Integrating poverty analysis, power sensitivity and bottom-up perspectives into SDC operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and integrating poverty and vulnerability analysis, and/or power analysis into country and/or regional strategies, and in the design of new programmes. Reporting on results and at stages of the programme management cycle: entry proposal, credit proposal, mid-term review and M&E. Stakeholder workshops with specific attention for the equal inclusion of marginalised groups. 	<p>IDS researchers will bring in expertise and practical methodologies to assist you and your SDC colleagues with carrying out SDC operations and tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They bring in the newest insights on poverty, exclusion and vulnerability from research and policy trends. They help with systematically measuring, analysing and documenting changes in power relations that reduce poverty. They assist with programme design, learning activities, and M&E frameworks by bringing participatory methodologies and power analysis. In conversation with you and SDC QA they produce reports and visual outputs with clear recommendations for you to use in your work. They maintain a community of practice on Shareweb.
<p>2. Learning trajectories on poverty and practice</p> <p>Making better connections between thinking, practice and realities on the ground</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of face-to-face and online interactions with other SDC colleagues, focused on a theme, for instance ‘global inequality’ or ‘inclusion of indigenous communities in health’. Learning through practical methodologies and critical analysis, to learn about a focus theme: such as reflective practice, learning by doing, immersions and community visits with local experts. Groups of 6- 10 SDC colleagues. A trajectory runs over the period of 1 to 1.5 years. 	<p>IDS researchers act as facilitators and mentors of a learning trajectory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They organise the ‘peer-groups’ of SDC staff from one region/ group of countries that undertake this collective learning process. They design and plan the learning activities, and adapt these to your workload and portfolio. They offer advice and support remotely, in between face to face meetings. They ensure that participants will take away practical knowledge that they can apply to their everyday work.



About the Collaboration on Poverty, Power and Participatory Methodologies

Organised by SDC's Quality Assurance and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the Collaboration aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of SDC processes and operations focused on poverty.

IDS will work with you and SDC colleagues at headquarters and in country offices to keep you up to speed with evolving understandings of the nature and dynamics of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion. It will assist you in gaining a better understanding of poverty and vulnerability, and make the role of politics and power in the context of poverty more transparent.

Support and expert knowledge from IDS researchers

Through the Collaboration IDS researchers will support SDC staff in their everyday work, for instance in the formulation of country strategies, credit proposals, the design of participatory stakeholder workshops, the design of new programmes, and poverty and vulnerability analysis.



IDS researchers will bring in expert knowledge from state-of-the-art research, as well as practical methods and tools. It is a demand-driven programme, which means that SDC staff can ask for assistance, after which the query is 'matched' with an IDS researcher.

How you can benefit from this

The programme can support anyone working at SDC headquarters or in country offices on issues to do with poverty, exclusion and vulnerability, power and political analysis, and participatory methodologies. You may have a task or activity for which you would like to have support, but you are not sure exactly what kind of support you need. SDC QA and IDS will assist you with getting a clear sense of what it is you need. They will help you articulate your questions and what kind of support would be most useful. IDS will match your query with the right researcher in terms of thematic and country expertise. The researcher will then develop an action plan and timeline with you, and agree on the most suitable methodology and outputs. Funding for IDS support is available throughout the collaboration which runs until December 2017.

It is best to get in touch as early as possible in order to secure support.

Find out more

The Collaboration has a dedicated site on Shareweb. For more information, contact Anne Moulin, anne.moulin@eda.admin.ch at SDC-QA or visit: www.shareweb.ch/site/Poverty-Wellbeing



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