



Democracy Watchdogs: Youth partners driving development in a Post 2015 world

Panel discussion and workshop

Date: Saturday, March 28 2015

Time: 8.30 am – 11 am

Room: TD 13

Learning from each other: How to ensure that young people continue to engage in their respective communities and countries in driving participatory monitoring & accountability and are collectively awarded the space to engage in social movements with targeted support from civil society organisations?

Description:

The current year, 2015, provides a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to engage with communities, especially with youth-driven change. Through consultations, both at the national and international levels, as well as, use of crowdsourcing tools¹ to enabled the capture of voices, priorities and views of young people to inform global and national leaders on the importance of including them in the planning and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The success of the post-2015 development agenda will not only depend on sufficient funding, it will also depend on whether diverse youth are included in participatory monitoring and social accountability processes at both national and community levels. This will require specific investments and targets to be made explicitly for youth, including those from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. Without a collaborative partnership that engaged youth, it is likely that social injustices and systemic poverty will become further entrenched, and exacerbate inequalities.

Over the recent past, the world has seen increasing social movements globally which serve as a catalyst for change in countries and communities. Ranging from the wave of uprisings in the Arab region to recent social movements in Brazil, USA, Turkey, Myanmar and other countries, these movements have shared a common theme of youth seeking change. The transient nature of youth engagement in social movements does create challenges in the continuous engagement of multiple groups for future momentum. However, this creates the opportunity for civil society organisations (CSOs), such as ActionAid, to learn and develop its understanding and engagement with youth.

This session will focus on partnering with youth in an effort to ensure participatory accountability and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda. As such, the African Solidarity Caravan case study, which looks as the engagement of young people in conflict and post-conflict situations. Following this,

¹ MyWorld survey: <http://vote.myworld2015.org/>



act:onaid

experiences of emerging issues for young people in social movements will be presented for Egypt and Myanmar. We are particularly keen for collectively learning and sharing, while exploring youth-led participatory monitoring and accountability and government interactions through breakout sessions; the role of civil society organisations, in supporting youth social movements; and emerging issues for young people which require engagement from different stakeholders.

Panelists

Regina Mwanza, Zambia Social Forum

Dr. Hala Shukrallah, Development Support Centre for Consultancy and Training

Thinzar Shunlei Yi, ActionAid

Facilitators: Gershom Kabaso, Zambia Social Forum & Sesheeni Joud Selvaratnam, ActionAid

For Further Information, please contact: Sesheeni Joud Selvaratnam, Email:
sesheeni.selvaratnam@actionaid.org