



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Institute
for Educational Planning



Promoting Participation

Community
contributions
to education
in conflict
situations



What is community participation?

Communities are involved in:

- decision-making
- identifying issues and strategies
- identifying and mobilising local resources
- building consensus and support for education programmes



Heard

Empowered

Enabled



Factors that promote meaningful participation

1. Restoration of trust
 - Rebuilding and restoring social structures
2. Tailoring engagement to the local context
 - Move away from “one-size fits all” approach
3. Planning for the long term
 - Prolonged support
 - Incremental development of projects

Factors that promote meaningful participation

4. Keeping expectations realistic
 - Shared ownership rather than dependency
 - Avoid participation fatigue
5. Building partnerships
 - Recognising different contributions, what works and why
 - Shifts in roles over time





Recommendations

1. Promote use of existing positive community structures
 - Identify positive community mechanisms to engage with and work through
 - Use education opportunities to build informal community support networks
 - Consultation with communities



Recommendations

2. Work within existing community capacity and needs
 - Ensure education programmes are adapted to meet the specific needs of communities.
 - Build on local capacity to strengthen education programming.
 - Recognise that financial engagement affects partnership dynamics and expectations.

Recommendations

3. Integrate capacity development and training for communities



- Training and guidance is needed to support new roles.
- Needs may shift over time to support sustained community involvement



Recommendations

4. Integrate education responses with broader community initiatives
 - Adopt a holistic approach
 - Avoid multiple committees and participation fatigue
 - Build upon positive community initiatives to develop ownership and build partnerships



Recommendations

5. Plan for the long term and utilise examples of good practice
 - Keep communities engaged and empowered as situations stabilise, promoting sustained community involvement
 - Support change in roles and communities' partnership with the state
 - Use available resources – INEE Minimum Standards, existing guidance