

Module 8. Meaningful Participation

Tools to identify barriers, and foster meaningful participation

A Checklist of Local Politics

Key things addressed when developing participatory approaches with refugee communities:

Questions to be addressed	Answers	What if anything can be done to address this
Is the host government supportive or hostile?		
Local politics – is the host community supportive or hostile?		
Are authorities supportive or hostile?		
What is the level of commitment to participation by the most powerful stakeholders?		
Do the values, attitudes, capacity and resources of the local staff support participatory approaches?		
What role does ideology and culture, of refugees, hosts and service providers play in particular in sensitive issues such as human rights, including gender equality, and SGBV.		
Are international agencies willing to co-operate together and work with local NGOs and refugee led groups as equal partners or does funding competition get in the way?		
What is the level of trust between refugee communities, UN agencies and other service providers.		
Is there fear that refugee-led groups are ‘too political’ and/or failure to accept that they can be both political advocates and rights-based service providers?		
What political constraints are faced by local academic partners?		
Are Donors willing to provide flexible funding?		
Others?		