

Latin America and Caribbean PARAGUAY

GIVE A FACE TO THE NUMBERS

Construyendo Sociedad shares its success recipe for CBDRM, where inclusion plays a key role in the definition of this dish.

KEY INGREDIENTS



SUSTAINABILITY



Permanence

- Frame the CBDRM initiative as part of risk-informed development plans, by, for example, aligning activities and targets with other local initiatives including development plans



Effectiveness

- Perform a stakeholder analysis to understand existing groups, consult all stakeholders from the design stage, especially vulnerable groups



Ownership

- Map and utilise local capacities (including resources, materials, knowledge)



Adaptiveness

- Designate role of monitoring and reporting lessons learnt from the process and have a structure that ensures feeding of lessons learnt into future planning



Inclusion

- Identify marginalised groups before the project starts so they can participate from onset
- Lobby local leaders for their plans and budgets to be inclusive



INSTITUTIONALISATION



Policy environment

- Promote synergies (including joint targets) between different policies including those for sustainable development, poverty reduction, CCA, food security, etc.



Capacities

- Increase access and use of communication tools by community members



Accountability

- Create transparent systems for allocating budget for CBDRM activities
- Create local bodies (watchdogs) to monitor government policies, planning and budgeting around CBDRM

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This recipe from the Paraguayan capital Asuncion is based mainly on the ingredients of inclusion and participation, to contrast marginalisation issues that are still present within the country. It was highlighted that one of the key problems was the scarcity and low quality of social data used to develop policies.

The NGO Construyendo Sociedad collaborated with the local government and the national university to develop an innovative methodology for data collection that involves all citizens, with the assumption that everybody who has a smartphone can contribute to the data collection. The project was tested in the municipality of Asuncion and as a result provided the local government with a more realistic map of the social situation in the municipality.

The decision to reach out to the community for the data collection was instrumental to ensure that all actions planned by the local government afterwards were based on a thorough understanding of the social context and the community's most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Citizens, community leaders and community-based organisations were working from the

start to support the local government in the identification of priority groups through this data collection tool.

Moreover, the advantage of having near-real time data, which can be updated weekly (according to the methodology developed) allows for government-led projects to adjust and adapt to changing conditions. It also led to the realisation that the same set of data could be used to inform decision-making in various sectors, from health to emergency response to economic development: this crowd-sourced information has now become a cross-cutting dataset used by different teams in the Municipality.

It has also been used as a tool for social messages and evidence-based advocacy to increase the visibility of previously invisible communities.

Thanks to its early involvement and interest, the municipality has now absorbed the project, which has been turned into a social information management tool serving a series of department and institutions working in different areas of local development.



Photo credit: Habitat para la Humanidad Argentina