



Effective Civic Engagement

Effective civic engagement empowers people and organizations to help solve society's most pressing problems. When civic engagement works well, people have the knowledge and skills they need to advocate for change and mobilize their communities for progress; governments are accountable to their people; and the marginalized are given a voice.

VALUES

PARTICIPATION

TRUST

SOLIDARITY

PLURALISM

RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

ACCOUNTABILITY



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM

The operating environment encourages collaboration between a government and its people and respects the freedom of expression and association. Civil society collaborates with the private sector, public sector, and other stakeholders to advocate for common interests and hold government accountable.

CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

A diverse array of civil society organizations advocate for and implement solutions to society's problems at national, regional, and local levels. They connect with key stakeholders and are recognized as a trusted voice of the people.

GRASSROOTS

Youth, adults, and community-based organizations understand their civic rights and responsibilities and work with each other and local authorities to promote progress in their communities.

KEY ELEMENTS



ACTIVE CITIZENRY

POLITICAL WILL

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

MECHANISMS FOR CITIZEN-GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

RULE OF LAW



OUR TOOLS

- Systems, civil society sector, and inclusion analysis
- Institutional strengthening
- Advocacy, civic, and leadership training
- Building networks
- International exchanges
- Grant-making

OUR APPROACH

1. Build civic knowledge and understanding of rights and responsibilities
2. Strengthen leadership skills and organizational abilities
3. Connect stakeholders around common cause
4. Promote effective interactions between citizens and government

People are their own greatest champions. World Learning believes society is stronger when people can influence the life of their communities, stand up for their fundamental rights, and hold their government accountable.

Civic engagement is most effective when it takes place within a system that encourages collaboration between government and a country's people. Individuals understand their rights and responsibilities. Civil society mobilizes people, advocates for progress, and works with stakeholders to implement solutions. Stakeholders form coalitions and communicate with their government to promote change. Government is responsive to constituents, while laws and policies promote freedom and access to information. World Learning's approach to civic engagement strengthens each of these components. We:

Equip individuals with civic knowledge. We train people in the principles of democracy, human rights, and how government works so that they can engage with their communities, their government, and the broader world. Civic engagement sometimes requires generational or cultural change, so we work across all ages and levels of society, including high school and university students, adult activists, and democratic leaders.

Strengthen leadership skills and organizational abilities. We help people and organizations advocate for their communities by assessing their needs and helping them develop a plan to meet those needs. We work together to design organizational strategies, build constituencies, develop policy advocacy campaigns, and improve their legal and social environments.

Connect stakeholders around a common cause. When people and organizations work together, they can make an even greater difference—whether they come from civil society, government, media, academia, or the private sector. We help participants develop professional networks and coalitions to unite diverse stakeholders around common interests.

Promote effective interactions among people, organizations, and governments. We show people how to engage with government and create opportunities for them to do so. We provide technical assistance and grants for action projects, and we raise awareness of the tools—from public hearings to community scorecards—that keep governments accountable.

World Learning's core values and myriad tools make a difference. Our programs emphasize solidarity, accountability, respect for human dignity, and inclusion. We recruit from diverse communities, and we encourage participants to address the needs of disadvantaged groups. We listen to our local partners to tailor each program to their needs, and we draw on our expertise in experiential learning and cross-cultural exchange to design programs promoting collaboration, self-reflection, and ownership of the transformation process.

When civic engagement flourishes, people and organizations become impassioned advocates who are prepared to speak out and mobilize their communities to resolve society's most pressing needs. Their work gives voice to the marginalized, holds governments accountable, and spurs innovative local and global change.