# Participatory Approaches to Planning Community Interventions

# What is a participatory approach to planning?

- An approach in which everyone who has a stake in the intervention has a voice , either in person or by representation

# What are the advantages of a participatory planning approach?

- Participation carries with it feelings of ownership
- It ensures credibility of the intervention
- Bringing a broader range of people to the planning process.
- Avoiding pitfalls caused by ignorance of the realities
- It involves important players from the outset
- Providing an opportunity for groups to be heard
- It teaches skills which last far beyond the planning process
- Bringing together community members.
- A participatory planning process builds trust
- It generally reflects the mission and goals of organizations
- It implies respect for everyone in the community
- Logically, a participatory planning approach should be effective
- Finally, it does things the way they should be done

# What are the disadvantages of a participatory planning approach?

- A participatory process takes longer
- Members may not agree with the "experts "
- Lots of education may be needed, both for community members and the organization
- One determined individual can wreck the whole process
- Difficult to assure that all the right people get to the table
- A participatory planning process takes patience and commitment

# Levels of participatory planning

- Information
- Consultation
- Deciding together
- Acting together
- Supporting independent community initiatives

# Who should be involved in a participatory planning process?

- The "targets of change"
- Members of the target community
- People whom the target community sees as significant opinion makers
- The "agents of change
- Policy makers
- Influential people in the community
- Interested members of the community at large
- Members of the organization itself

# What do you need to get a participatory process up and running?

- Recruit stakeholders
- Convene the planning process
- Maintain the planning process