



“BUILDING THE COMMON GROUND AND COLLECTIVE STRENGTH”

THE APPLICATION OF THE FEMINIST PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH IN WATER GOVERNANCE IN MEKONG

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**WATER
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PRESENTATION'S CONTENT

- FEMINIST LEADERSHIP CONTEXT IN MEKONG WATER GOVERNANCE
- WHY FEMINIST PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT IN WATER GOVERNANCE
- HOW THIS TOOL IS IMPORTANT TO BUILD COLLECTIVE VOICE AND COMMUNITY WOMEN NARRATIVE – **CASE FROM MEKONG REGION**
- KEY LEARNING

FEMINIST LEADERSHIP IN MWG CONTEXT

Looking from the Transformative Power

Power within

Power To

Power with

Power For

KEY FINDING- POWER WITHING

Women haven't had sufficient support in doing contextual analysis or in mapping the actors (government, private sector etc.) who are the power players.

While women experience the issues and problems at the community level, they often lack the information and skills to organize other community women to analyze these issues and the full gamut of related power dynamics to develop effective strategies in response.

They need the self-confidence emerging from their capacity to map key actors and power dynamics, connect the dots between one sector and another, and analyze the water/natural resources in the community using a feminist intersectional perspective that can reveal otherwise unseen forms of discrimination and other avenues for action.

KEY FINDING- POWER TO

The question often asked is “what is the most effective approach to decision-making and strategy development yet too often top-down approaches exclude crucial voices and undermine effective decisions and strategies

These disregard and disempower women and different social group when it coming to planning and incapable of gathering, incorporating and distilling local knowledge and experiences, and result in disempowering women and communities

Not so clear and confident on using the term of “water governance”

Discrimination against LGBTIAQ groups and women exists in the communities.

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KEY FINDING- POWER WITH

*Lack of opportunities for connecting and building common agendas
Women's limited experience and knowledge in networking and alliance building:*

Data lacking and resulting consequences

This undermines mitigation efforts and related planning for natural disasters and addressing impacts from dam construction.

The ability to respond to the needs and in decision making process

KEY FINDING- POWER FOR

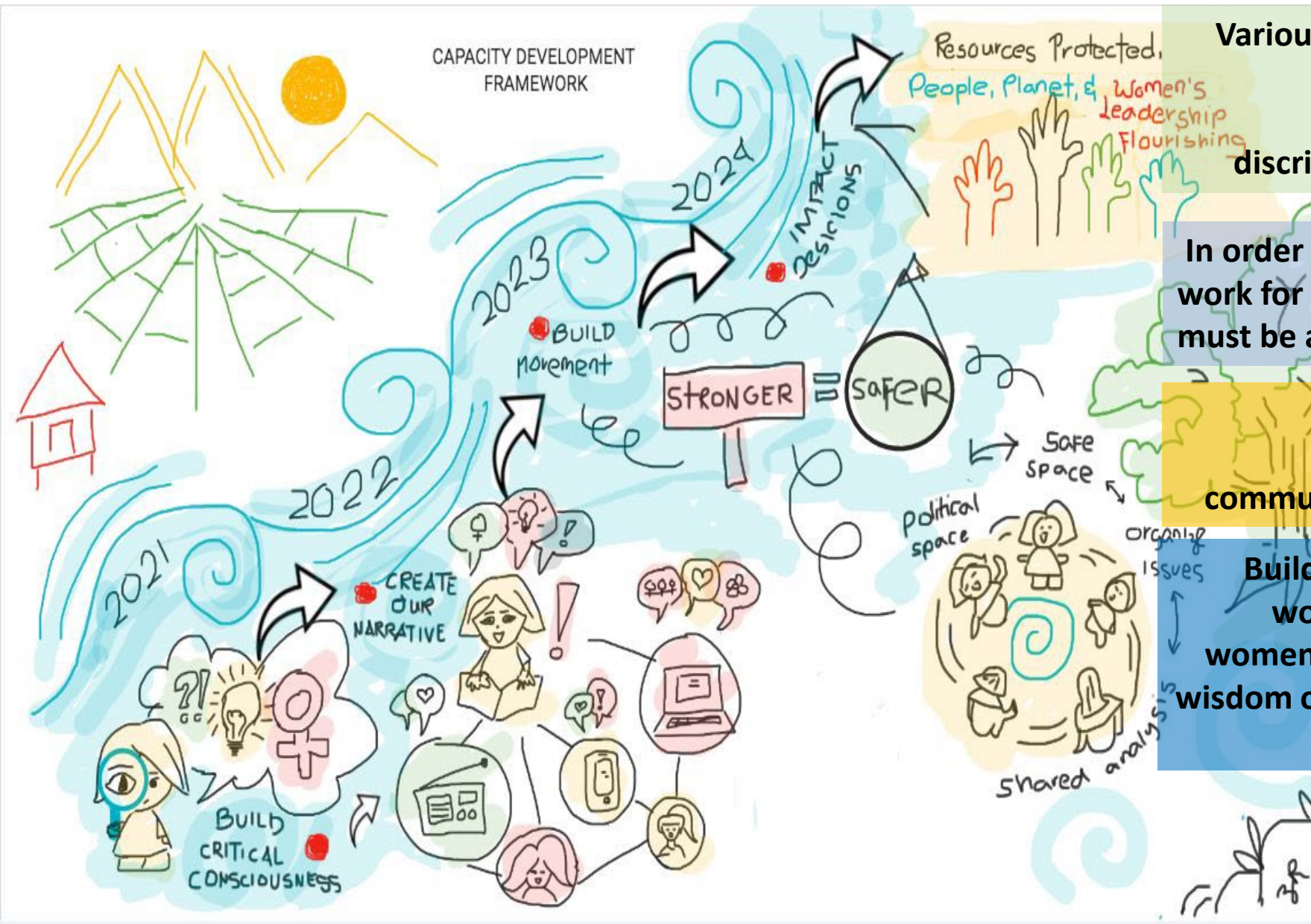
We have challenges in reaching our vision

Partner understanding of Inclusion: An underlying challenge relates to how partners understand inclusion and how they interpret its implications for program and participation

Partners have limited capacity and resources to advance women leadership within their organizations in a holistic way and to analyze and respond to the power dynamics between director/management teams who are male dominated and the staff who are female.

Oxfam's partners lack important background, knowledge and capacity to strengthen women's leadership and bring women and other vulnerable people into the dialogue and decision-making space.

WHY FPAR IN WATER GOVERNANCE ?



Various laws, policies, systems of governance, models of economic development and institutions with power and authority discriminate gender and in all their diversity.

In order to influence legal and policy reform to work for the people, these marginalized voices must be amplified

FPAR is a political advocacy tool that successfully organizes and mobilizes communities to engage with their government

Building the narrative that led by grassroots women, particularly Indigenous and tribal women, with their traditional knowledges and wisdom on living in harmony with nature and its resources.



FPAR IN ACTION

Feminist Participatory Action
Research in Processes of
formulation
"National Women Leadership
Network on Fisheries (WLN) in
CAMBODIA"

FPAR IN ACTION

FPAR as powerful tool to build community solidarity and voice in their Community Development Plan in Laos and Indigenous Women Network building in Thailand



Go Deeper and Go Together: building the common ground, knowledge, community, and collective strength together, the sense of the belonging, mutual support and solidarity that increases voice and impact

Key Learning

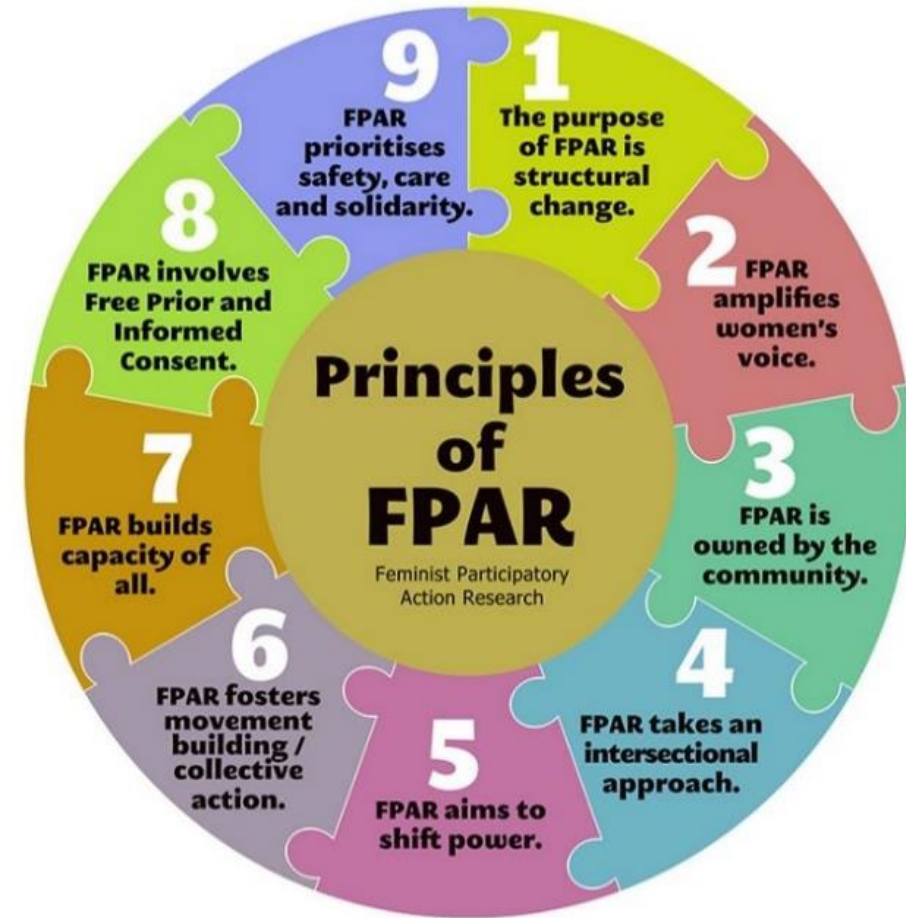
FPAR projects are designed and led by communities, often in partnership with organizations or academic researchers

With different tools, process, and principle of FPAR, could help community to discuss and analyze deeper on their issues and identify their common need that could be make them as a strong community.

FPAR is about communities collecting and analyzing data about their lived experiences, generating knowledge to inform activism

FPAR is a principle, process, and tools to guide us (Oxfam and Partners) to make inclusion real and often review and self-reflection of how the power we have could put us into a privilege decision.

With Feminist principles will help community/women leaders to look at every angle of power dynamic in individual, institution and system and structure then help them to see how they can address them in individual and collectively.



“Women who play role to collect the data and analysis, it is not about them having more rights compared to men. We don’t want to create the confusion that we promote women more than men, but we want to show that women able to and can-do outdoor work apart from household work, or look after the children, they have the capacity to lead important work. We encourage women to recognize their ability and the key aspect that they could be a good community leader and play their leadership roles,” *said, Ms Soknim Yon who has been part of FPAR as participant and also identified as local facilitator for Cambodia*

Keo Kaneka

“ **Go Deeper and Go Together:** building the common ground, knowledge, community, and collective strength together, the sense of the belonging, mutual support and solidarity that increases voice and impact”

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