



What role can people in poverty play in eradicating extreme poverty?

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 | 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | I 2-250

Learn from the experiences of those on the ground the role the poor can play in ending extreme poverty, the methodologies implemented, their outcomes, and consider ways for further collaboration.

AGENDA

- **Welcome:** Bertrand Badré, Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Financial Officer
- **Co-host and moderator:** Mahmoud Mohieldin, President's Special Envoy on MDGs and Financial Development, World Bank Group
- **Introduction:** Ben Fehsenfeld, National Director, ATD Fourth World, U.S.A.
- ***What role can people in poverty play in ending extreme poverty?*** Xavier Godinot, Research Director, International Movement ATD Fourth World
- ***Trade union struggles against poverty and inequality,*** Peter Bakvis, ITUC
- ***A participatory approach to poverty in Bolivia,*** Carlos Revilla Herrero, Coordinator of the Urban Project, UNITAS, Bolivia
- ***Experience in Africa,*** Marcelo Giugale, the World Bank, Director of Economic Policy and Poverty Reduction Programs, Africa Region
- ***Poverty and shame, main outcomes of international research,*** Robert Walker, Professor of Social Policy, University of Oxford, UK
- Q and A

In 2000, a study by the World Bank, conducted in fifty developing countries, stated that “there are 2.8 billion poverty experts: the poor themselves. Yet the development discourse about poverty has been dominated by the perspectives and expertise of those who are not poor ... The bottom poor, in all their diversity, are excluded, impotent, ignored and neglected; the bottom poor are a blind spot in development.”

In April 2013, President Jim Yong Kim stated that the Bank’s “first goal is to end extreme poverty by 2030 ... which will require extraordinary effort ... The job will become tougher and tougher, because those remaining in poverty will be the hardest to reach... If we are to succeed, we have to change the way we work together.”

The process for assessing the MDGs, coordinated by the United Nations, was a unique opportunity to change the way we work together. “Even in extreme poverty, a person has ideas. If these ideas aren’t recognized, people fall even deeper into poverty” (participant in MDG seminar, Ouagadougou, February 2013). This is why ATD Fourth World has launched its own participatory research project to assess the MDGs in twelve countries in which it has been active for years, and to ensure that people living in extreme poverty can contribute their experiences and their knowledge to the development agenda.

This seminar, hosted by the World Bank Group and sponsored by the Office for Cooperation with CSOs of the French Embassy in Washington, will be devoted to discussing the specific methodology that was implemented to think together with people living in extreme poverty, and its outcomes, paving the way for further collaboration in this field.

Resources:

- Deepa Narayan, [Voices of the Poor: Crying Out for Change](#), Oxford University Press for the World Bank, 2000, p2 and p264
- World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, [Within Our Grasp: A World Free of Poverty](#), Speech at Georgetown University, April 2, 2013 (www.worldbank.org)
- Working Paper: “[Towards Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind. The Challenge of the Post-2015 Agenda](#)”, ATD Fourth World, June 2013 (<http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/Towards-Sustainable-Development.html>)
- Video: “[Our Daily Fight Against Extreme Poverty](#)” 8’ introduction to participatory research on MDG (<http://vimeo.com/70123833>)
- Webdoc “[Unheard Voices](#),” From extreme poverty to social change (<http://www.unheard-voices.org/>)



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