How do we move all groups* to deliver and evidence participation in practice?

Utilitarian

- 'It's a means to an end'
  We believe that participation results in better response, and that justifies any additional cost, reporting and complexity.
  *Driven by:* evidence of better and different response than would have otherwise occurred as a result of affected people’s participation.

- 'It's too much work and costs too much'
  We believe that the costs/complexity of genuine participation is prohibitive and outweighs the advantages, so it’s not practical to deliver beyond 'tick the box'.
  *Moved by:* evidence that costs/complexity of engaging with affected people is manageable.

- 'It'll never happen'
  We think participation is a fad and won’t really change response, but aren’t prepared to say so, so we’ll just do the bare minimum to get by.
  *Moved by:* evidence that participation is happening and is genuine.

- 'It'll be massively embarrassing'
  We’re worried that participation will embarrass and undermine the credibility of humanitarians.
  *Moved by:* evidence that effective participation boosts the credibility and acceptance of humanitarians.

Idealistic

- 'It's an end in itself'
  We believe that participation is a values and principles issue – cost/benefit is irrelevant, it's about solidarity and dignity. People are not passive recipients.
  *Driven by:* evidence, primarily from affected people, of genuine participation whether or not it changes or improves response.

- 'Just trust us'
  We're up for genuine participation, but should focus on delivering it rather than having to prove it.
  *Moved by:* practice that shows that transparency and evidence gathering need not be compliance/cost heavy.

- 'Just get on with it'
  Affected people just need aid delivered as fast as possible. In crisis they want effective support, not hand-wringing do-gooders asking them what they need – that should be obvious!
  *Moved by:* evidence that participation doesn’t compromise speed of response or burden affected people.

- 'We know what we’re doing'
  You ask a doctor about emphysema, not a miner. You should let professional aid workers get on with their job without distracting them.
  *Moved by:* evidence that expertise and experience are complementary to rather than replaced by participation.

Highly supportive of the participation revolution

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