



Dear partners,

Last year we got to work together with in a very pleasant and constructive way again! Jointly we have learned a lot! The commitment was strong to learn together about participatory approaches. Participatory approaches ensure that the voice of the community is central in development initiatives.

At Wilde Ganzen, we believe that real, lasting change can only happen when people living in poverty are in control of their own lives. This is why we embrace a community-led approach in every project we support. In this newsletter, we therefore pay special attention to this!



### **Decide for yourself, change for yourself: The power of community participation**

Community participation entails that the voices and wishes of those involved are always central in each phase of the project. This approach is known as Participatory Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PPMEL). But what exactly does community participation entail? And how can you apply this in your projects? To learn more about this, we would like to refer you to this [blogpost on community participation](#).

## What is Participatory Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PPMEL)?

Since 1990, PPMEL has gained traction within the international development sector. Traditional (Western) evaluation methods are known to ignore and undermine the voice and power of local communities, including the voices of those who are most affected by the projects. PPMEL aims to change this by putting the voice of the community and their knowledge right at the centre. To learn more about this, we would like to refer you to our first blogpost on PPMEL, which focuses [on the importance of PPMEL](#).



## Implementing Participatory Planning Monitoring and Evaluation: a step-by-step approach

What exactly is PPMEL? At its core, PPMEL refers to the use

of a participatory approach in all phases of the project. From planning, to monitoring, to evaluation, and to learning. Nothing new, then! It has been practised around the world for centuries. But colonisation, globalisation, automatization, and other processes have undermined people's voices. Fortunately, the voice of the community has always remained as long as you

are willing to listen to it! But how to do this? Please find more information in our third blogpost on PPMEL, which explains [how PPMEL can be implemented](#).



## Looking ahead: Towards downward accountability and learning together!

In 2023-2024 Wilde Ganzen organised a PPMEEL pilot, in which 20 partner organisations participated in a training on PPMEEL organised by Deo Ochieng. As part of the training, these organisations applied the PPMEEL approach to their own organisation and development initiatives. Afterwards, they shared their successes and challenges. The third [blogpost on PPMEEL portrays the experiences of three organisations who participated in this pilot.](#)



## Your participation in Wilde Ganzen's PPMEEL strategy

Wilde Ganzen is working on developing its 2026-2028

strategy plan in the upcoming months. A key topic within this strategy is shifting the power to communities. Participatory approaches are an important component in this. We are

curious to hear what you think about this, what you already know, and what you would like to learn together? We have developed a questionnaire about your opinions and suggestions related to PPMEEL. We are also taking this opportunity to ask you if you have any ideas about the direction of Wilde Ganzen. Filling in the questionnaire will take about 10-20 minutes to complete. Would you like to share your ideas with us? Then please fill in the [questionnaire](#).

## Looking for more information?

For additional tools, tips, and suggestions, we would like to refer you to:

- Our Whitepaper on [Community Participation](#)
- Our first Whitepaper on PPMEL > [focusing on the importance of PPMEL](#)
- Our second Whitepaper on PPMEL > [providing tools, tips and suggestions for the implementation of PPMEL](#)
- Our third Whitepaper on PPMEL > [providing three case studies on PPMEL, the challenges that were encountered in these cases, and how to address these challenges](#)

Thank you for your attention. Should you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, we would be most happy to

receive your feedback!

**Best regards,**

**Project Team - Wilde Ganzen**



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