

Distinctive Features of MSF Urban Spaces Approach

Key Concepts of the Approach and what makes it different;

The MSF Urban Spaces/ Organizing Action with Communities, is based on a clear concept of a strong collaborative approach and a participatory ecosystem. It is a practical large scale approach that, organizes action and engages local communities for social change. The approach has been implemented since 2018 and below are the distinctive features that contribute to its successful implementation.

These are the following:

1. Participatory Culture:

MSF Members, volunteers and staff participate in activities in which they have a co-designing role. Activities are shaped from everyone's creativity, skills and energies. Activities demand little but focused time or commitment from local volunteers. Activities are close to people's homes, open to everyone, and designed to attract the skills and talents of the individuals. They foster simple projects that immediately improve people's lives.

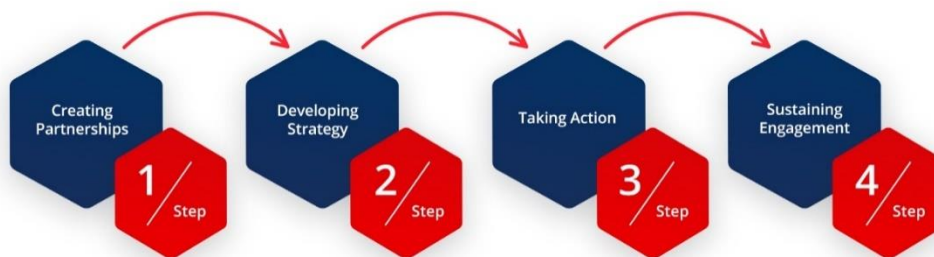
2. Strong Collaborative Partnership:

MSF members, volunteers and staff create partnerships with civil society actors, in their local context and on a shared issue of concern. All actors and individuals engaged, co-design every activity and co-produce every outcome. The objectives are agreed together with partners, not before identifying them. The partnership builds on principles of equity and transparency and goes beyond the immediate project and planned action. Priorities are defined by the ones most in need.

3. Organized Action:

The concept of the approach goes beyond mobilization and is more focused on organizing of action, which is preceded by a clear strategy and planning. Action takes place in a campaign like approach with a set up phase/foundation phase key milestone events and a target goal that is followed by evaluation and further implementation. Actions form part of a larger picture and are not end goals in themselves. The partnerships are maintained through acting together for a joint purpose.

Steps of the MSF Urban Spaces approach



URBAN SPACES

4. Internal Collaboration/ Value Creation

All community organizing activities are built upon a strong collaborative approach between the associative and executive 'dimension' in MSF. There are not two sides but two parts of achieving results. By emphasizing joint benefits, the strength of each part is leveraged and establishing clear ways of collaboration upstream, helps expectations and managing issues later. Local MSF teams are mixed with a balanced representation from the associative and the executive based on what would be most impactful, in every context.

CHECKLIST *Distinctive Features of Community Organizing Action based on MSF Urban Spaces*
Approach=what makes an initiative an MSF Urban Spaces initiative

1. MSF members are engaged in their city and everyday life, their skills and dedication is valued before and after the come back from the 'field'.
2. Partnerships built on equity and collaboration and come before creating strategy
3. Action is taken and leads to another action or initiative.
4. Collaboration between Associative and Executive, emphasizes, shared purpose and benefits.