KoGe KI 11: Social and political participation (Updated in October 2025)

Number and proportion of people from marginalised and vulnerable groups who report an increased participation in a.) social and/or[1] b.) political processes [1] *Projects/ Programmes can report to this indicator if they only report to a; or only to b; or both a and b.*	
Short-term outcome 3.1: Social and political empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable and groups including collective action to advance shared interests (KI 11)	
Type	Periodic (periodic assessment over time)
Technical definitions	The terms "social processes" and "political processes" are overlapping and cannot be clearly separated. Nevertheless, for this guideline they are defined as:
Social processes	**Social processes** are changes in social relationships and interactions of two or more people such as in families, self-help and support groups and women's shelters. KoGe projects/programmes aim to enhance positive changes such as assertiveness, association, accommodation, participation, cooperation, inclusion and integration. Moreover, they aim to address negative changes such as competition and conflict. **Not considered social processes** are advocacy measures or interests claimed explicitly at the political level.
Political processes	**Political processes** influence, shape and pursue demands and goals on a community, municipal, regional, national and/or international level including decision-making, representing group interests, expressing oneself publicly on political issues, participation in voting and elections, advocacy (e.g. give a voice to injustices), election to a political office and autonomy movements. In contrast, obtaining permission/ approval from the government/ authority or administration of the government's tasks (e.g. building/ operating a school/hospital) are **not considered political processes**, unless political goals are pursued (e.g. giving marginalised and vulnerable people a voice to demand their rights).
Participation in social and/or political processes	**Participation in social and/or political processes**: KoGe has a broad understanding of the concept "participation". It can be face-to-face or online and range from giving one's opinion, contribute to solutions and decisions to taking the lead in social and political entities. Participation in social and/or political processes should not be against the UN Agenda 2030. Every project/ programme should outline a **definition of "participation in social and/or political processes" that is adapted to its context, and** which is understandable for participants in the specific context. In contrast, studying socially relevant (burning) issues, passively attending events or charity activities such as running an orphanage or school feeding programmes are **not considered participation in social and political processes**, but can lead to it.
Marginalised and vulnerable people	**Marginalised and vulnerable people:** People and groups who **experience exclusion or discrimination** should be identified at the beginning of a project or during project implementation by the partner organisations based on their context-specific knowledge and experience. These individuals and groups often face structural barriers that limit their access to rights, resources and opportunities and restrict their full participation in social, economic and political life. Such exclusion can be rooted in multiple factors, including, but not limited, to gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, ethnicity, religion, displacement, armed conflict or disability. Individuals and groups may experience **multiple forms of marginalisation** and/or increased exposure to harm without sufficient means to protect themselves or recover, resulting in increased **vulnerability**. To increase the participation of people who are excluded or left behind in social and political processes, efforts must go beyond individual support but tackle the root causes of exclusion and engaging community actors and multipliers who can advocate for and foster inclusive environments.

Age groups	**Children** are persons who are 0-14 years old, **youths** are persons 15-24 years old and **adults** are persons older than 25 years.
Rationale	According to the KoGe theory of change, people who participate in social and/or political processes (short-term outcome) are more likely to be socially, economically and politically included into the society (long-term outcome and SDG targets 10.2 & 16.7). The ten core life skills[1] (LS) as well as the awareness of socially relevant (burning) issues, basic understanding of human rights, openness to dialogue, respect towards diversity, empowerment, leadership and organisational skills are important prerequisites to participate in social and political processes. KoGe projects/ programmes reporting to this indicator promote the above-mentioned skills and attitudes and therefore enhance people's participation in social and political processes.
Baseline	The baseline can be 0 or data from the previous year.
Data collection	**Required data** a. Total project participants (**attending at least 3 days of project activities**) b. Number of people surveyed c. Number of people who report a self-perceived increase in participation (answering with massive (1) or moderate (2) increase in the post-test) d. Proportion (c/b) of people who report an increased participation **Sample** Up to 100 project participants: ideally everyone should be interviewed. If more than 100 project participants: try to work with a **randomised sample[2]** (probability sample). Here is a reference to approach a meaningful sample size. If you cannot interview a meaningful sample, kindly provide the data you have. <table><tr><th>Total participants</th><th>Sample size</th></tr><tr><td>100</td><td>No sample, include all</td></tr><tr><td>200</td><td>134</td></tr><tr><td>300</td><td>172</td></tr><tr><td>500</td><td>222</td></tr><tr><td>1000</td><td>286</td></tr><tr><td>2000</td><td>333</td></tr><tr><td>5000</td><td>370</td></tr><tr><td>10'000+</td><td>400</td></tr></table> **Data collection tools** *Survey/Questionnaire (see Annex)* **Data disaggregation** - by gender (female, male, other gender identities) - by age (children, youths, adults) **Frequency** Yearly or when appropriate to measure mid-term change. Every individual who participates in a social and/or political process is counted. Double counting is possible if a person participates in a social and another political process. It's also possible to interview and count former participants to assess mid-term change of their participation.

Total participants | Sample size table (clean version):

Total participants	Sample size
100	No sample, include all
200	134
300	172
500	222
1000	286
2000	333
5000	370
10'000+	400

[1] Problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication skills, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness building skills, empathy, and coping with stress and emotions

[2] A well-designed sample represents well the population of interest, so that when the collected data is analysed, we can be confident that the results achieved from the sampled study represent the entire group/population/project participants.

Good performance; interpretation of results	Meaningful, inclusive and sustained participation in social and political processes is the result of a multi-year long process that strengthens people's agency and capacities. The pace and nature of this process depend on a variety of factors, including access to education, language, social norms, power dynamics, and the specific historical and cultural context in which people live. While the quality and depth of participation cannot be fully captured through this specific Key Indicator, they are better understood through complementary approaches such as the Most Significant Change (MSC) method, participatory evaluations, and academic research. Nevertheless, an increase in the number and proportion of people who report having actively participated in social and/or political processes is an encouraging sign of progress towards greater inclusion and civic engagement.

Annex:

Sample questions for primary data collection	**Example questions for a post-survey** The data is collected from project participants at minimum in a **post-survey** with a **5-point Likert scale.** Pre- and post-surveys are of course also possible. *R1.) Based on the definition of "participation in social and/or political processes" which you just read/ was just explained to you, how has your level of participation changed in the last 3 months?* *1 = massive increase* *2 = medium increase* *3 = no change* *4 = medium decrease* *5 = massive decrease* *R2.) What are the main reasons for the self-perceived increase/no change or decrease in "participation in social and/or political processes" you reported?* *R3.) In which manner are the reasons you gave above linked to the projects' activities?*