



THE PROBLEM:

Our systems of governance are failing

At the heart of what makes us human is our capacity for collective decision-making. Yet the tools we've inherited, from representative democracy to bureaucratic policymaking, are outdated and unfit for today's challenges.

People feel increasingly disconnected from the decisions that shape their lives. In Global North countries, **fewer than one in three people feel they have a voice in government**¹. In the Global South, this figure is even lower.

In 2025, the world faces increasing polarisation, deepening inequality and growing distrust in institutions. Humanitarian, economic and climate disasters are ever more likely, and the people of the Global South always suffer first. Institutions meant to serve the public are gridlocked or captured by short-term, private interests. People everywhere feel disconnected from the decisions that shape their lives.

Unless we redesign how we govern, how decisions are made, who participates, and whose interests are served, progress on any major issue will falter.

THE SOLUTION:

We can build new and better ways to thrive, together

Collective problems require collective solutions. When communities are meaningfully involved in shaping decisions, they can uncover otherwise overlooked problems and solutions. The result: outcomes are smarter, more legitimate, and more widely supported. Participation not only leads to better policies, but builds trust and cohesion within societies.

At i4Policy, a global not-for-profit founded in Africa, we've been imagining, testing, and deploying new models, networks and technology to achieve participatory governance. We work with communities, from the local to the global: from shaping national startup laws across Africa, to organising citizen deliberations at the UN climate talks.

We've built a movement, developed innovative tools, and helped co-create policies that respond directly to people's lives and needs. We recognise that not everyone is digitally connected, but by proactively combining analogue processes with digital, and with growing global access to digital tools, mobile networks, and AI, we can now meaningfully engage communities more directly, more efficiently, and at scale.

What once seemed impossible is now within reach: fair, inclusive, participatory decision-making for all

¹ See OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions (2024) and UN World Social Report (2024)



The future is Co-Created” Our Vision

We imagine a world where collective decision-making is the norm, enabling everyone to live a dignified life within a society that supports their needs, regardless of their background.



OUR IMPACT (SINCE 2019):



Brought together **250+ communities** across **50 African countries** to co-create a continental innovation policy manifesto that influenced the African Union’s Digital Innovation Strategy and gave birth to an inclusive policy reform movement



Supported policy reform in **40+ countries**, facilitating citizen-driven legal reforms in Senegal, Nigeria, and the DRC through hundreds of meetings with thousands of citizens.



Trained changemakers and government leaders in **50+ countries**, scaling our reach via open toolkits and online learning platforms.



Reached **200+ million people** with accurate information during COVID-19 through a viral campaign featuring African artists from **50+ countries**.



Organised the **first pan-African Digital Assembly** bringing together hundreds of innovation leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss post-COVID recovery



Built civic tech in and for the Global South, including the **Citizen Engagement Platform**: a collaborative digital space where the voices of African citizens can be elevated to shape the future of the continent;



Co-initiated and coordinated **the world’s first global citizens’ assembly** hosted at COP 26, that brought together people from every continent to deliberate on the climate crisis.



Established **partnerships with leading policy thinkers**, civic tech communities, and governments to shape inclusive governance.

OUR STRATEGY:

We believe the best way to achieve better societal outcomes, as embodied in the SDGs and Africa 2063 Goals, is to improve the policy frameworks that determine the rules of the game.

Our first priority is tangible action:

- **Top down:** we work with policy-makers and decision-makers to embed participation in decision-making, increasing legitimacy and success.
- **Bottom up:** we build and strengthen existing and emerging communities to demand participation, contribute to agenda-setting, and shape outcomes.
- **Real change happens when top-down and bottom-up actions meet**

We tailor our approach to each context using flexible frameworks and a strong commitment to learning and adaptation through our co>gov Lab.

Our work is done in deep partnership with trusted community actors.

We believe in spreading ideas, practices and methodologies to as many communities as possible. We prioritise open-source information, and have both offline and digital approaches to collaboration, ensuring accessibility in every context.

i4Policy is co-developing and applying innovative, tech-enabled approaches that demonstrate how meaningful participation strengthens social cohesion and inclusion. **Collectively**, we can **ensure that the majority of the global population has a real and sustained voice in shaping the decisions that affect their lives.**

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS:

You can help us scale our impact in democratising policymaking and building better societies. With your support², we will:



Nurture worldwide policy and constitutional reform movements, targeting at least:

- **20 city or community-level** governance policies or platforms
- **50 national level** policies
- **Five global conversations** on vital topics affecting humanity, e.g.: climate, human rights or health



Across our various co-creation methodologies, we set out to:

- **Bottom up:** support **1,000,000+** more voices to improve the policies and issues affecting their communities;
- Ensure that **at least 50%** of these voices are women, and that the voices are truly representative of marginalised or excluded groups
- **Top down:** Train **1000+ government officials** and community leaders;

² See financial annex for a detailed 5-year budget



Develop and apply **next-generation digital tools**, enabling easier, cheaper and accessible participatory processes for communities and decision-makers alike;



Monitor and evaluate to actively generate insights on our processes and ensure the policies and decisions deliver the desired outcomes. We will learn, improve, and evolve participatory governance practices through evidence, deeper understanding, iteration, and innovation.

Over this period, we will create and connect to communities around the world who understand the power of participation, building momentum and a movement that will create a global shift in how our societies are governed.

WHAT KIND OF PARTNERS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We're committed to breaking away from extractive, top-down models, moving beyond legacy models of development that often marginalise local voices. Instead, we centre community-led design and ownership in everything we do.

We're looking for funders who share that commitment. Partners who understand that participation isn't a box-ticking exercise, but an intentional path to better governance and decision-making. Partners who know that this takes time, trust, and resources, and are willing to scout for and back local actors ready to engage their communities, but who lack the means to do so.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how your vision aligns with our mission and to explore a partnership that advances our shared goals.

"The future is co-created." Join us in making it happen.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

<https://www.i4policy.org/our-work/> <- Theory of Change & Case Studies

<https://www.ecosystem.build/> <- Resources to grow entrepreneurial ecosystems

<https://decisionthinking.org/> <- Participatory process Support platform

<https://citizenengagement.nepad.org/> <- AU Citizen Engagement digital tool

<https://globalassembly.org/> <- World's first global citizen's assembly



The Future Is Co-Created

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