

ONLINE TRAINING CONCEPT NOTE:

LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS

THE CHALLENGE

The international development and humanitarian sectors suffer from a fundamental lack of accountability. Decisions are made far from the affected populations, by decision-makers with no experience of living in poverty or through humanitarian crises. Despite decades of efforts to address this challenge – from the Paris Declaration, through to participatory research methods, to the localisation agenda today – there is still a serious gap in understanding, trust, and power between aid officials and the communities that they serve.

THE OPPORTUNITY

We are approaching this challenge through the lens of online learning. A typical training course – our own included – feature experts from the development community introducing systems, tools, and frameworks to help analyse poverty, intervene, and monitor and evaluate results. We believe that our courses, and others like them, make a real contribution in improving the quality of development and humanitarian aid. However, by missing out the voices of those receiving aid, they perpetuate a top-down approach to development, giving participants little insight into the realities of a life in poverty, or feedback on perceptions of humanitarian aid to date.

We would like to launch a new training course to challenge this perception. By working with local partners in the Global South, and leveraging our existing experience in accessible online learning, we would like to introduce a training course where the targets of development and humanitarian aid become the teachers. We envision a course made up of short videos, where respondents from the Global South explain what it is like to live in poverty, the ways in which they access social services and earn a livelihood, and provide feedback on their experience of social support and humanitarian systems.

We understand that an online training course must be engaging, so will apply the techniques that we have learned through our experience of online learning to date. We will find convincing speakers, ensure that the videos tell a coherent and compelling narrative, mix video with graphics design, and use a mix of learning methods (including quizzes, assignments, and potentially webinars) to ensure that the course is suitable for a variety of learners.

THE PARTNERSHIP

DevLearn is a consultancy and training company specialising in implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and communications for inclusive economic growth. We trained over 1,000 people online on [market systems development](#) and [results measurement](#) since 2015.

We are looking for partners who can work with us in the early stages of this course. This could consist of cost-sharing some of the initial cost of the course (after which we will bring it to market as a paid-for product), commissioning the full course to be freely viewed by anyone, or commissioning a version of the course for a specific organization (e.g., an international NGO).

If you might be interested in a partnership, please contact adam@devlearn.co.uk