



JASS

Today

Power –

Movements –

Change

December 2009

JASS then ... who were we?



JASS then ...

Uganda Debt Network
Kenya Land Alliance
MWENGO
Solidarity Center, Serbia-
Montenegro
ActionAid
Catholic Relief Services
Women's Environment and
Development Organization
Women's Rights Coalition,
Mozambique
Oxfam
Institute for Development
Studies
Eurodad
CEDPA
Kenya Policy Project
Gender budget work (various)



Who and where are we now?



Southeast Asia



Southern

Africa



Mesoamerica

What are we doing?

JASS Mission (2007 onwards)

strengthening women's
voice, visibility, and
collective organizing power
to create a just and sustainable
world for all



Objectives

- Strengthening **activist leadership** with women from all backgrounds and walks of life
- Expanding **grassroots organizing** linked to mobilization and advocacy
- Forging **new alliances + agendas** between women from distinct locations, sectors, movements, ages, ethnicities, backgrounds
- Making women leaders + feminist messages **more visible + appealing** to the broader public (challenging prejudice, taboos + stigma)
- Increasing **women's access to/use of resources, rights + freedoms**



What are we doing?

Feminist Movement-Building

Sn Africa
HIV+ activists
in PPOs

SE Asia
Young,
grassroots
organizers

plus building feminist+women's movements

African Feminist Forum
multi-generational feminist dialogue

What are we doing? Strengthening + Energizing Feminist Movements

Mesoamerica
Petateras

plus feminist movement-building



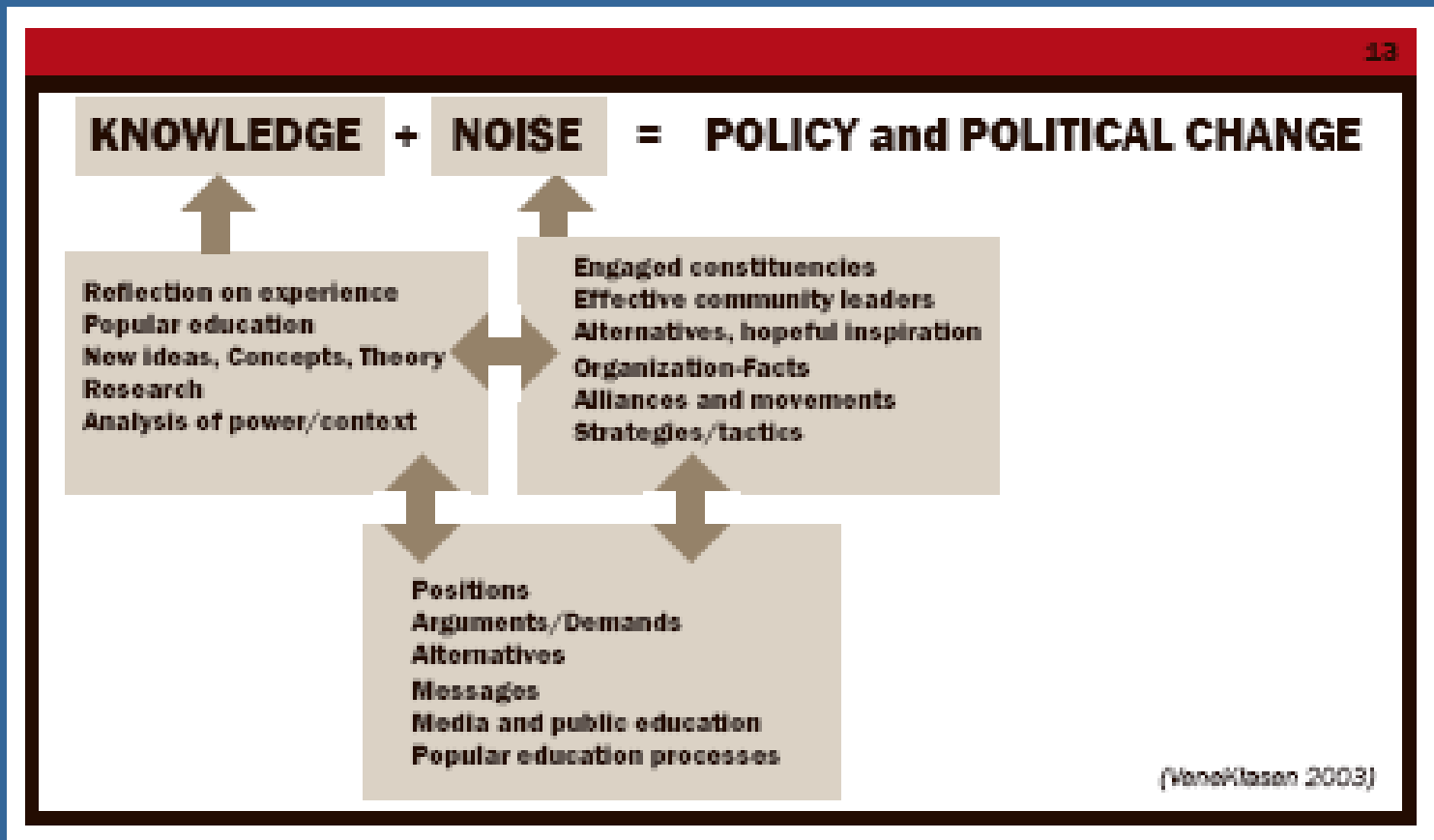
Indigenous women,
human rights defenders

Crossregional

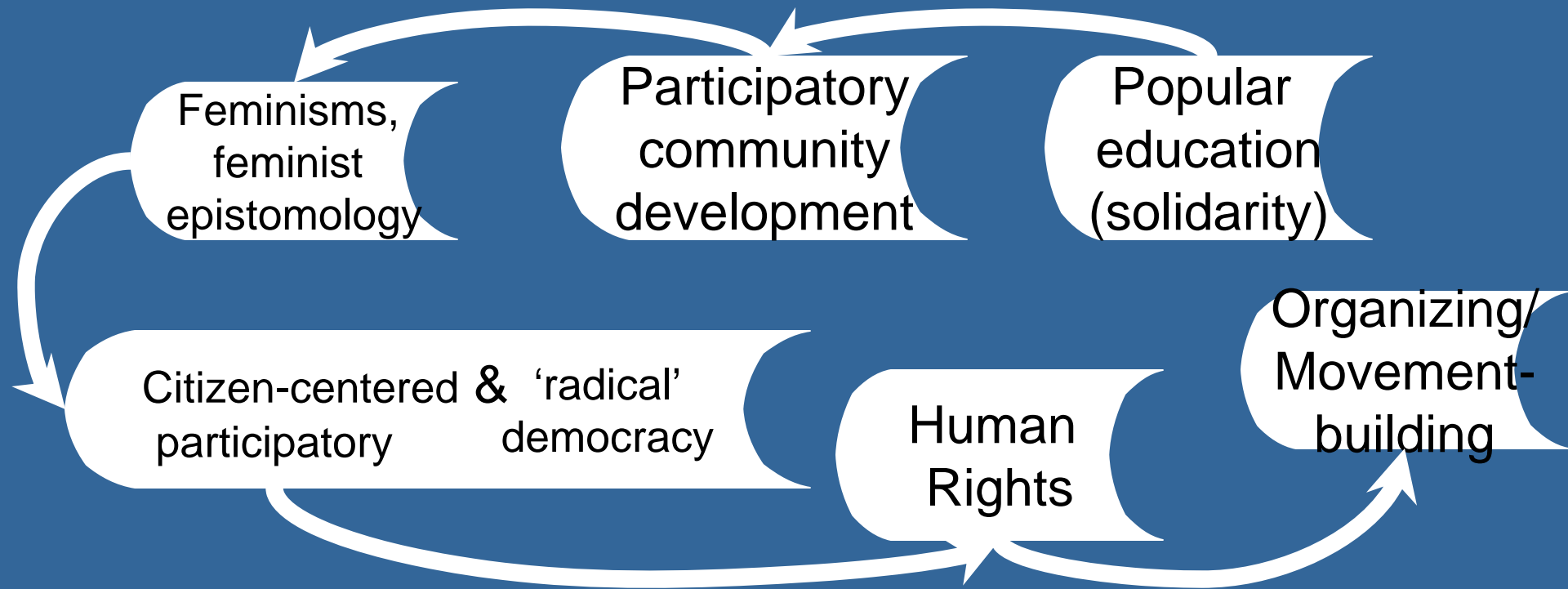
Connecting, documenting,
communicating, supporting +
solidarity

How are we doing it?

JASS approaches



JASS approach(es)



JASS Core Strategies



CONTEXT – big picture

Challenges:

- extreme economic instability;
- shrinking access to justice and basic services from governments pared down by deregulation and privatization (+ debt);
- increasing control by religious conservatism, corporate interests, and drug cartels;
- growing levels of unchecked violence by gangs, random strangers, and intimate partners
- women's rights and justice agendas invisible and marginalized.

Context: Faces of Power

**INVISIBLE
POWER**

stigma *prejudice*

Consumerism neoliberalism

FEAR INTERNALIZED INFERIORITY

hidden power

Big Pharma

conservative religious institutions

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Unregulated corporate power

Drug cartels

visible power

Autocratic governments *corruption*

LOCAL GOV'TS, POLITICAL VOICE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

What are we changing?

1. Issues

Corruption, impunity

Violence

Poverty – fighting for women’s access to
all kinds

Repression – political violence + censorship

“Bad women” – taking the lid off sex + sexuality

Fundamentalisms – resisting anti-abortion,
stoning laws



What are we changing?

2. Processes and culture

- making women + our agendas visible
- reclaiming and re-energizing feminisms



strengthening multiple kinds of (NON-DIVA) activist leadership

dealing with our big differences – age, class, race, sexuality....

- challenging prejudice + macho attitudes
- transforming ourselves and our organizations

Activist Leadership

Malawi HIV+ women leaders



“Many of the women boasted that their leadership skills have been transforming their lives and those of fellow women and girls by challenging systemic inequalities” Hope Chigudu, blog from second gathering

Political Organizing

Nias Island – vote for women



With partner PESADA in N. Sumatra, Indonesia: Encouraging marginalized women to stand for local government, to vote, and to support other women.

Mobilization, Resistance and Solidarity



Is there such a thing as TOO MUCH MOMENTUM?



Metaphor of the moment:
steam train or bonzai?



Another World ...

Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

Arundhati Roy

Another world is not possible without feminisms ...

Alda Facio

CAUTION



**WOMEN
CROSSING
THE LINE**