



ATD FOURTH WORLD

ALL TOGETHER IN DIGNITY TO OVERCOME POVERTY

The Role of CSOs in the fight against poverty: an ATD Fourth World contribution

Prepared for the Virtual Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on
“Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication
of Poverty (2018-2027)”, 17 May 2022

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The International Movement ATD Fourth World (All Together in Dignity):

- A global movement working in partnership with individuals, families and communities living in persistent poverty in over 30 countries and accompanying them in the realization of their rights.
- Obtained the ECOSOC general status in 1991.
- At the origin of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty (1987), officially recognized as the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) in 1992.
- Spirit of October 17: putting the voices, experiences and knowledge of people living in persistent poverty at the center of the Day.
- Focus on participation, human rights approach, dignity and transformative partnerships with governments, institutions and international organizations.



UN Commemoration of the International Day of the Eradication of Poverty, October 17, 2017

*Special Dialogue between activists
living in poverty from Boston, NYC
(USA), Kenya and Tanzania.
October 17, 2018*



*Gathering at the
Commemorative
Stone in honor of the
victims of extreme
poverty,
UN Gardens,
October 17, 2019*





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- *Shifting the narrative and understanding of multidimensional poverty*
- *Advocating for and creating spaces for the direct and meaningful participation of people living in poverty*
- *Encouraging and co-creating effective policies and programs tackling poverty all the while respecting people's agency, dignity and inclusion (see submitted paper)*

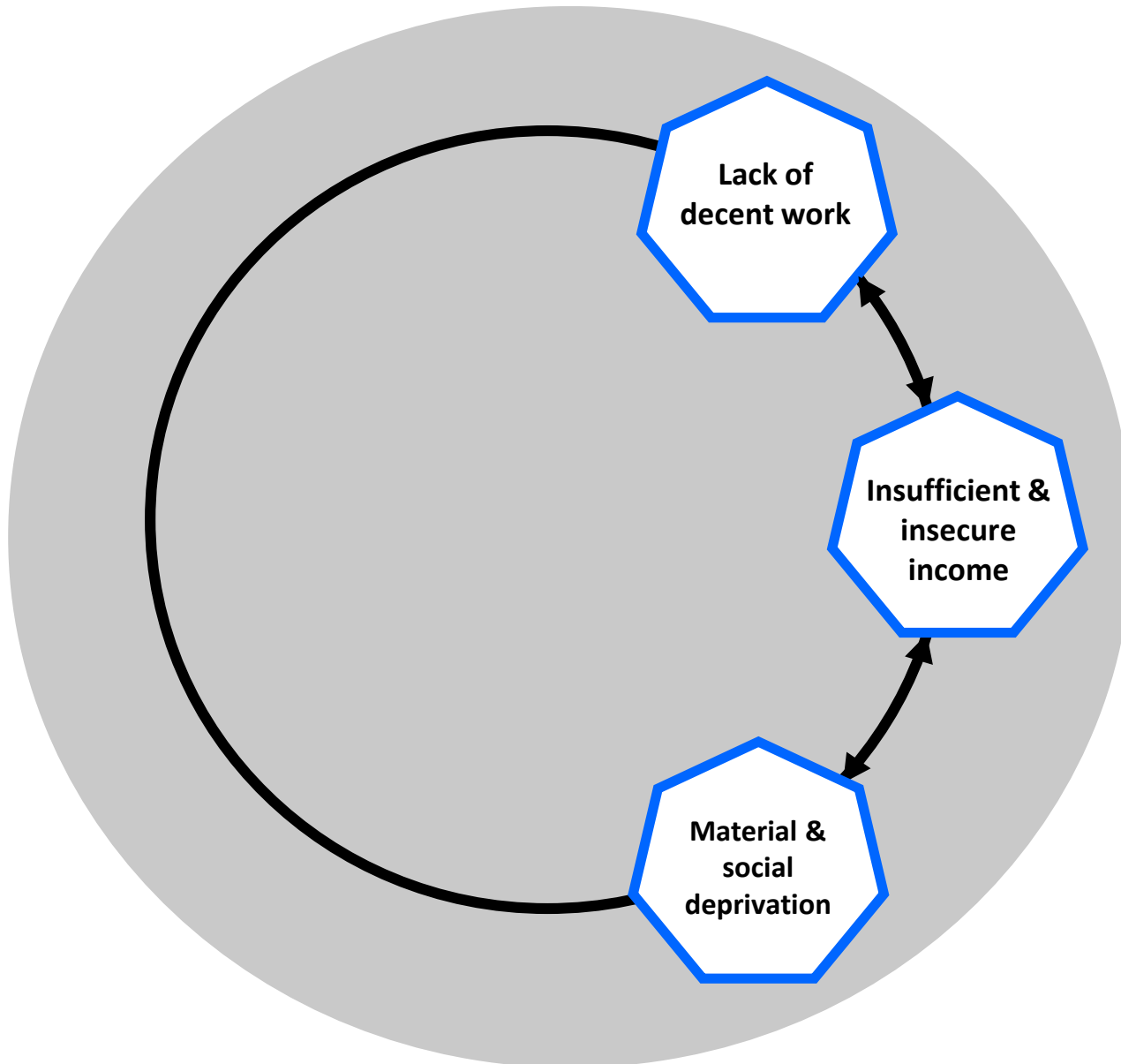


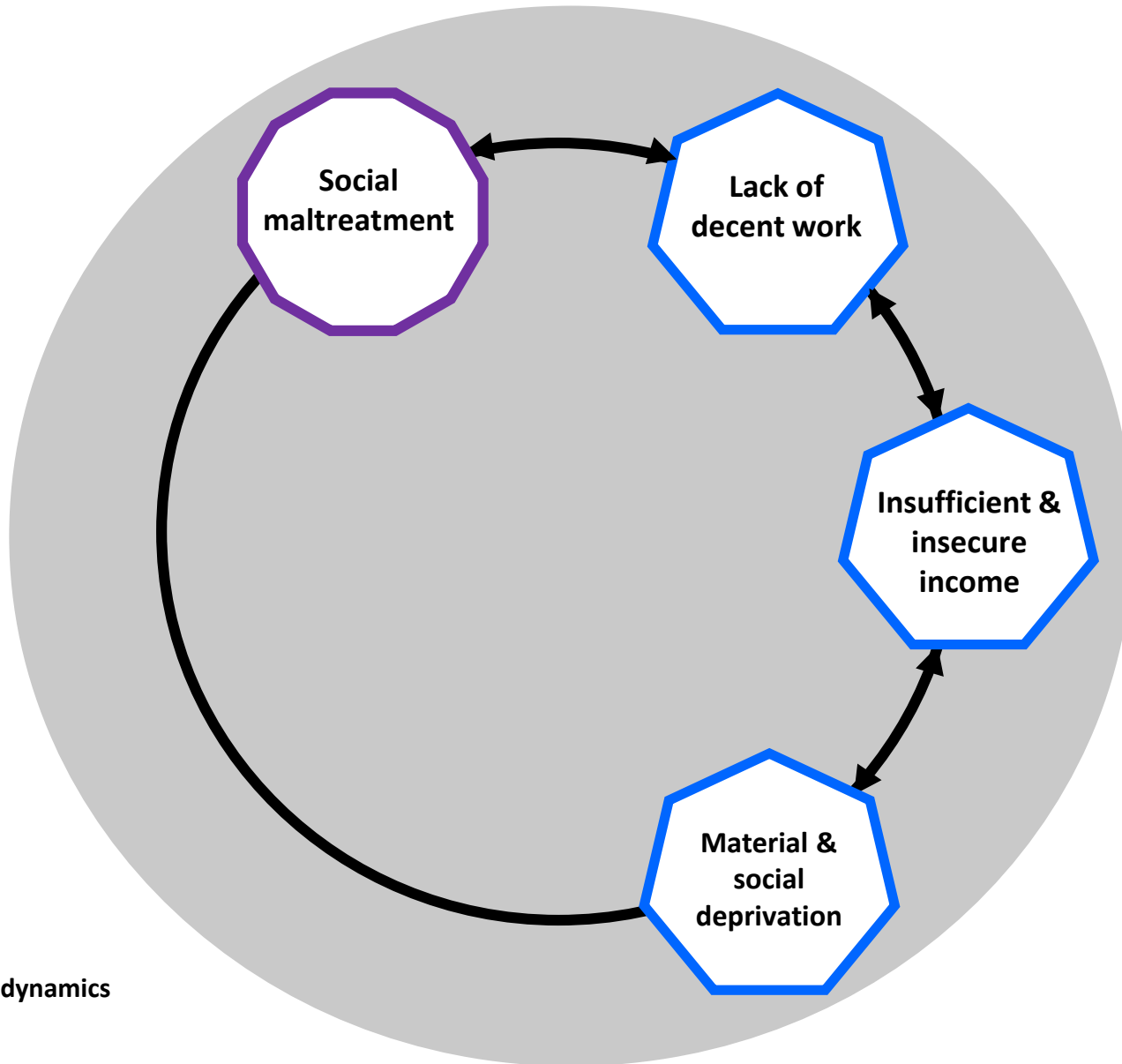
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Shifting the narrative and understanding of multidimensional poverty

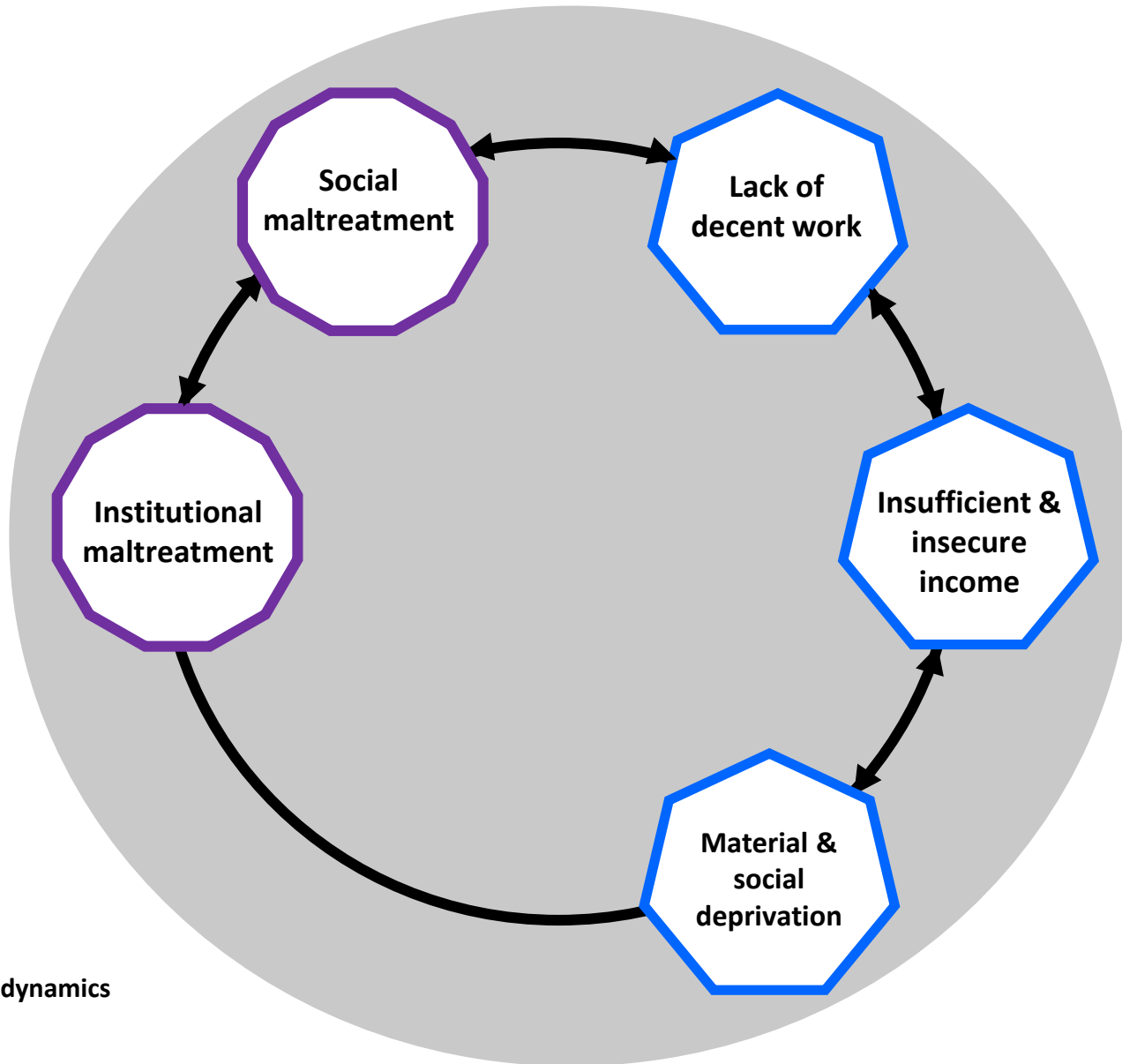
- SDG 1: eradicating extreme poverty in all its forms everywhere
- But what are the multiple forms of poverty both in the Global North and South?
- Multidimensional poverty now largely acknowledged and accepted but certain dimensions have gone unrecognized.
- The ways in which the dimensions interact to shape the experience of poverty has not been properly understood.





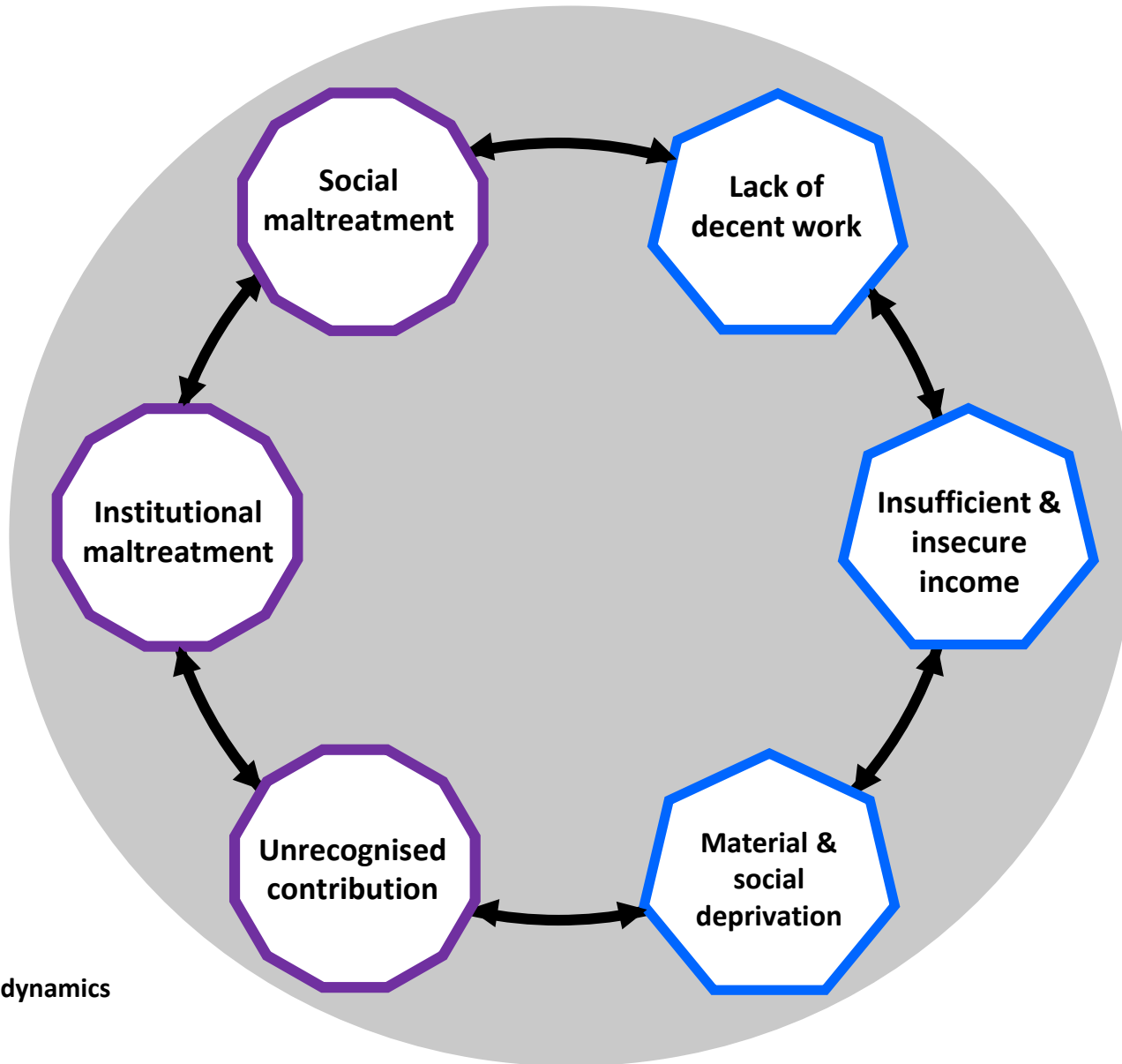
 Relational dynamics

 Privations



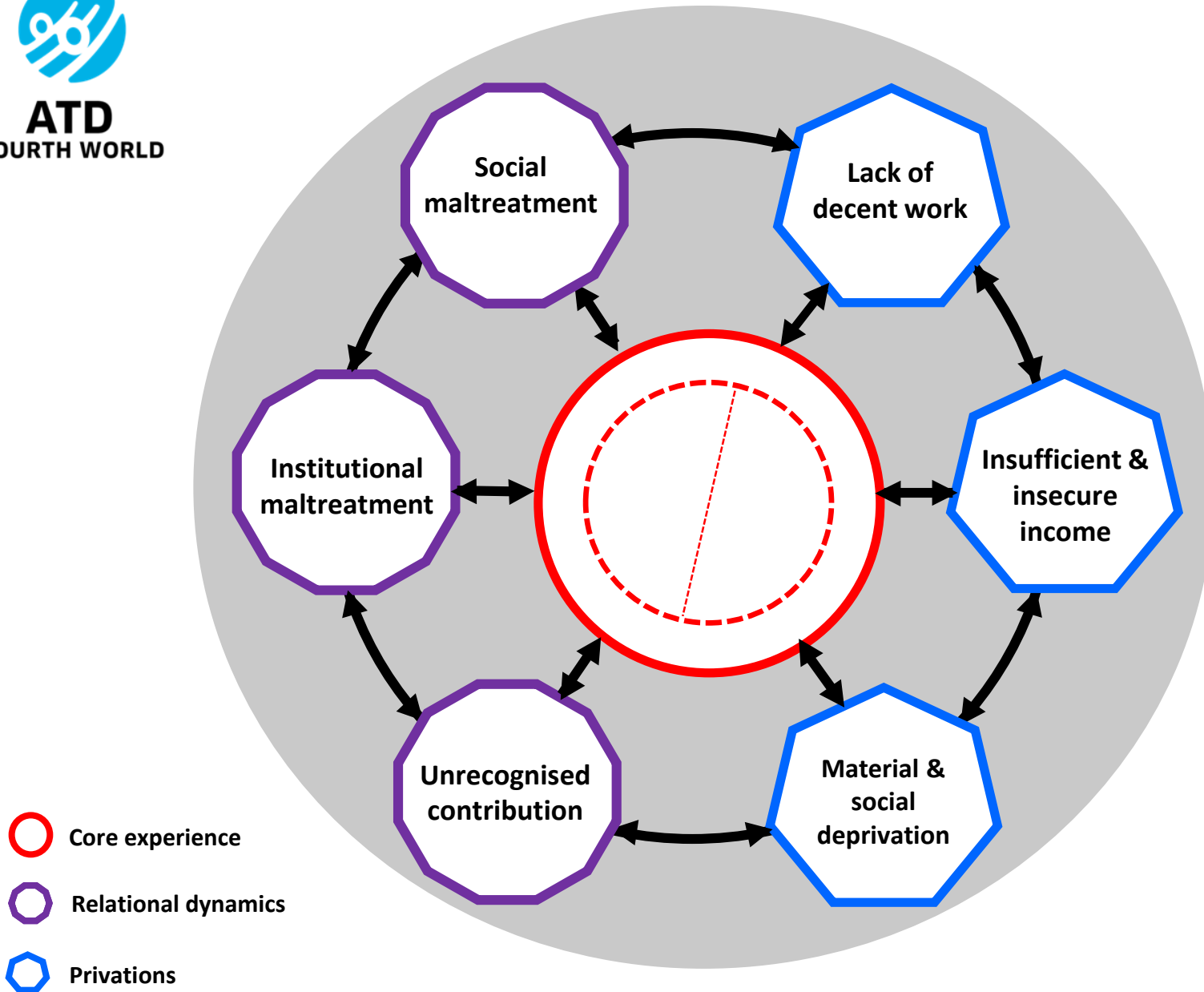
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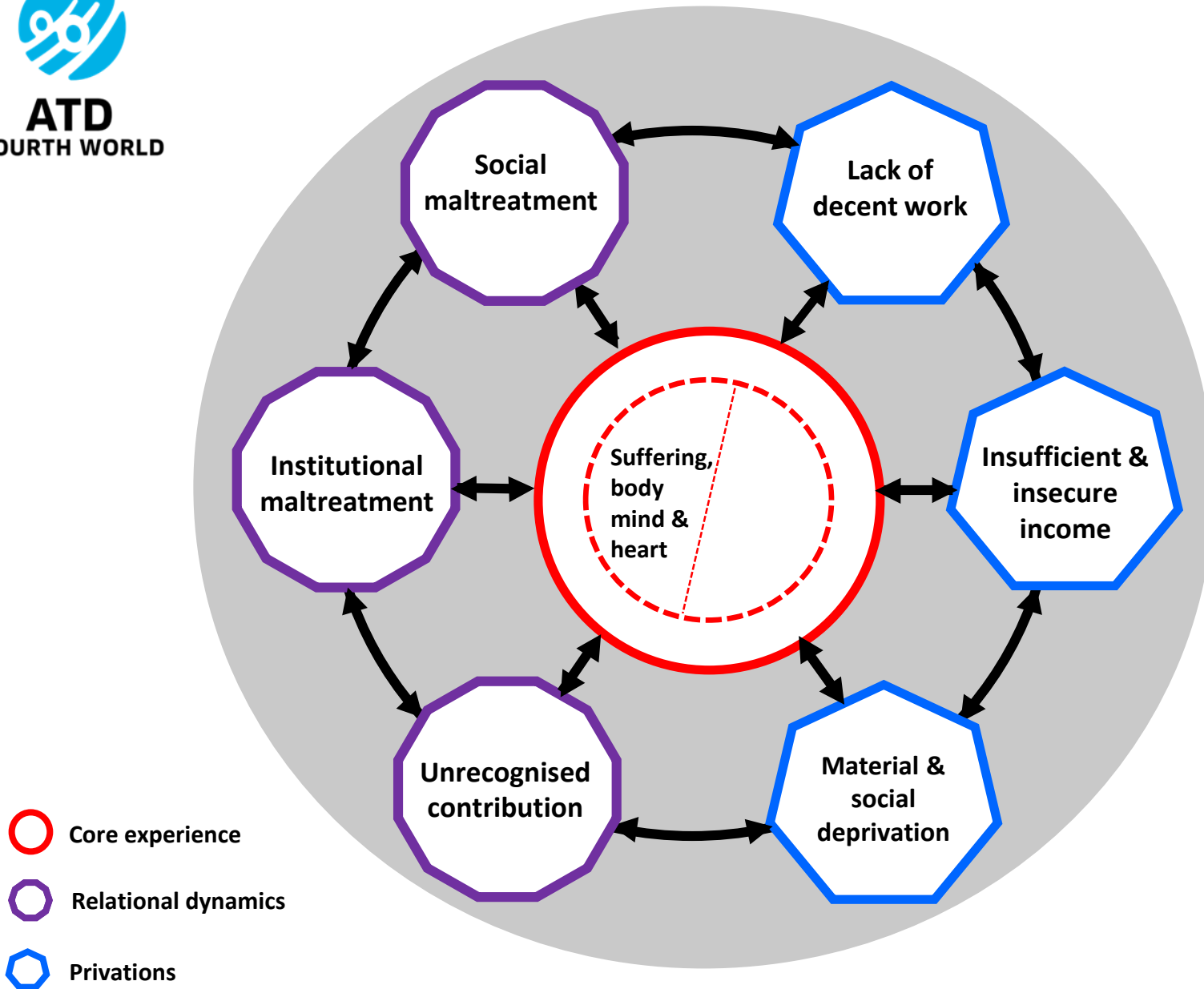
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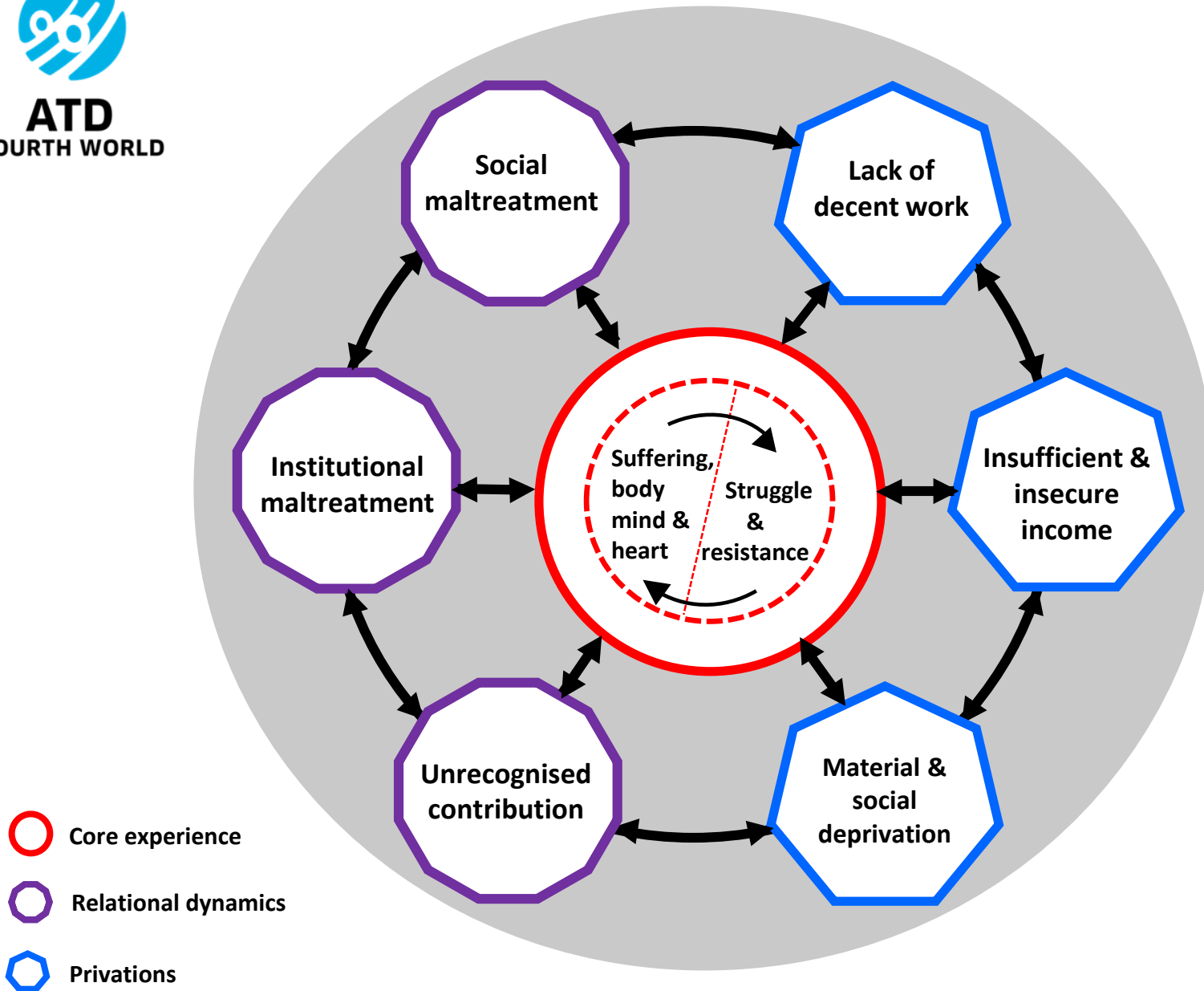


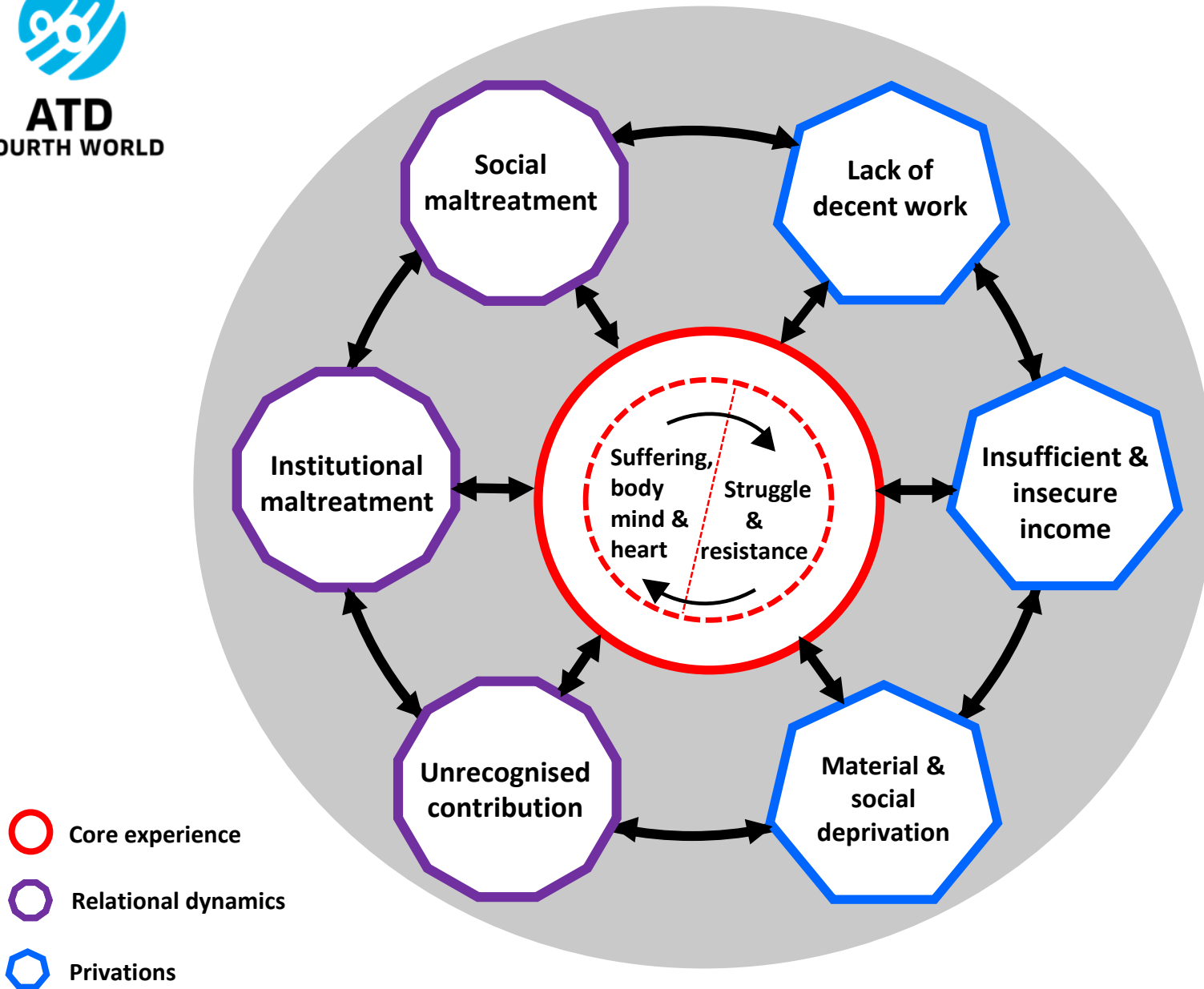
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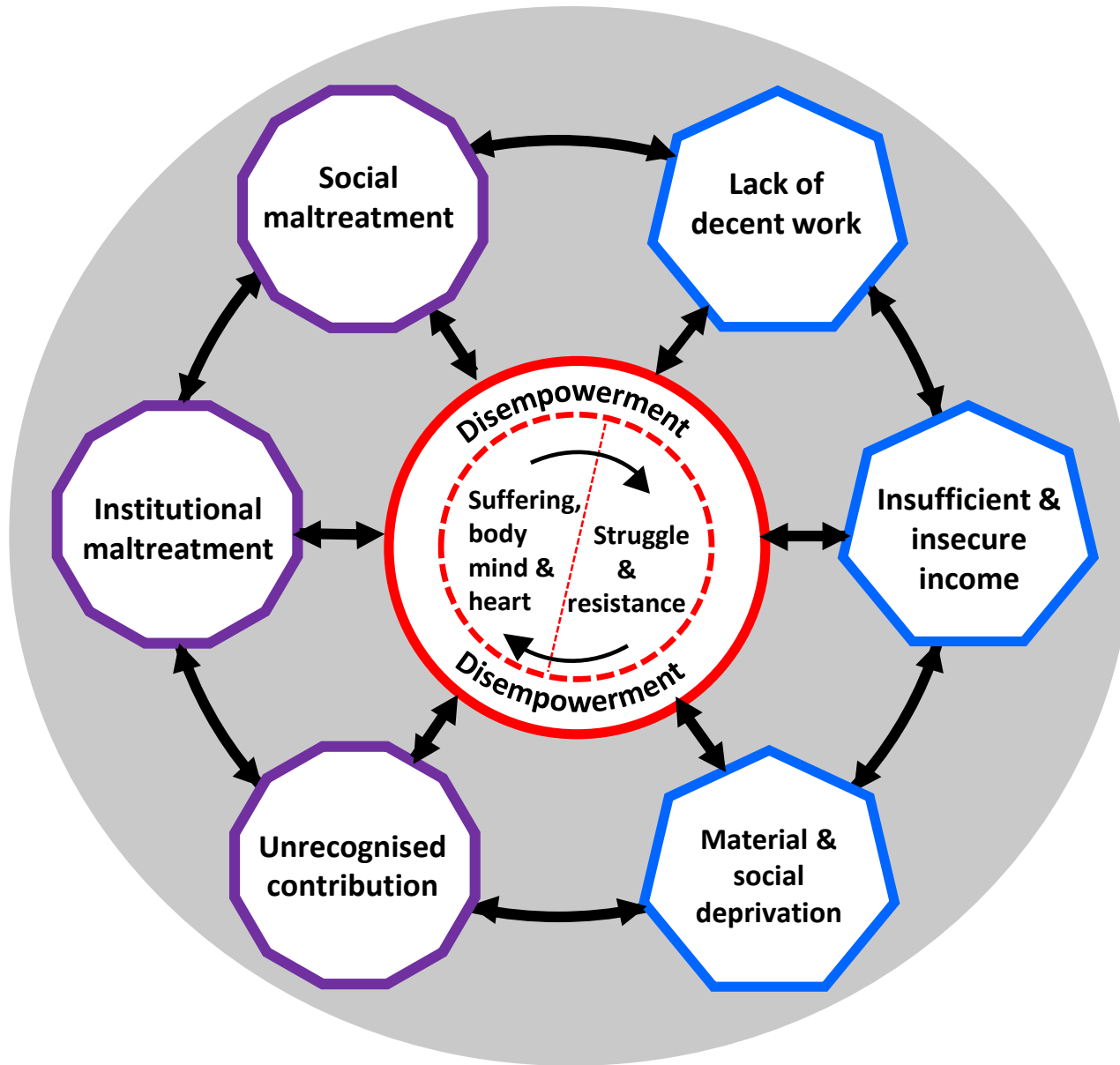
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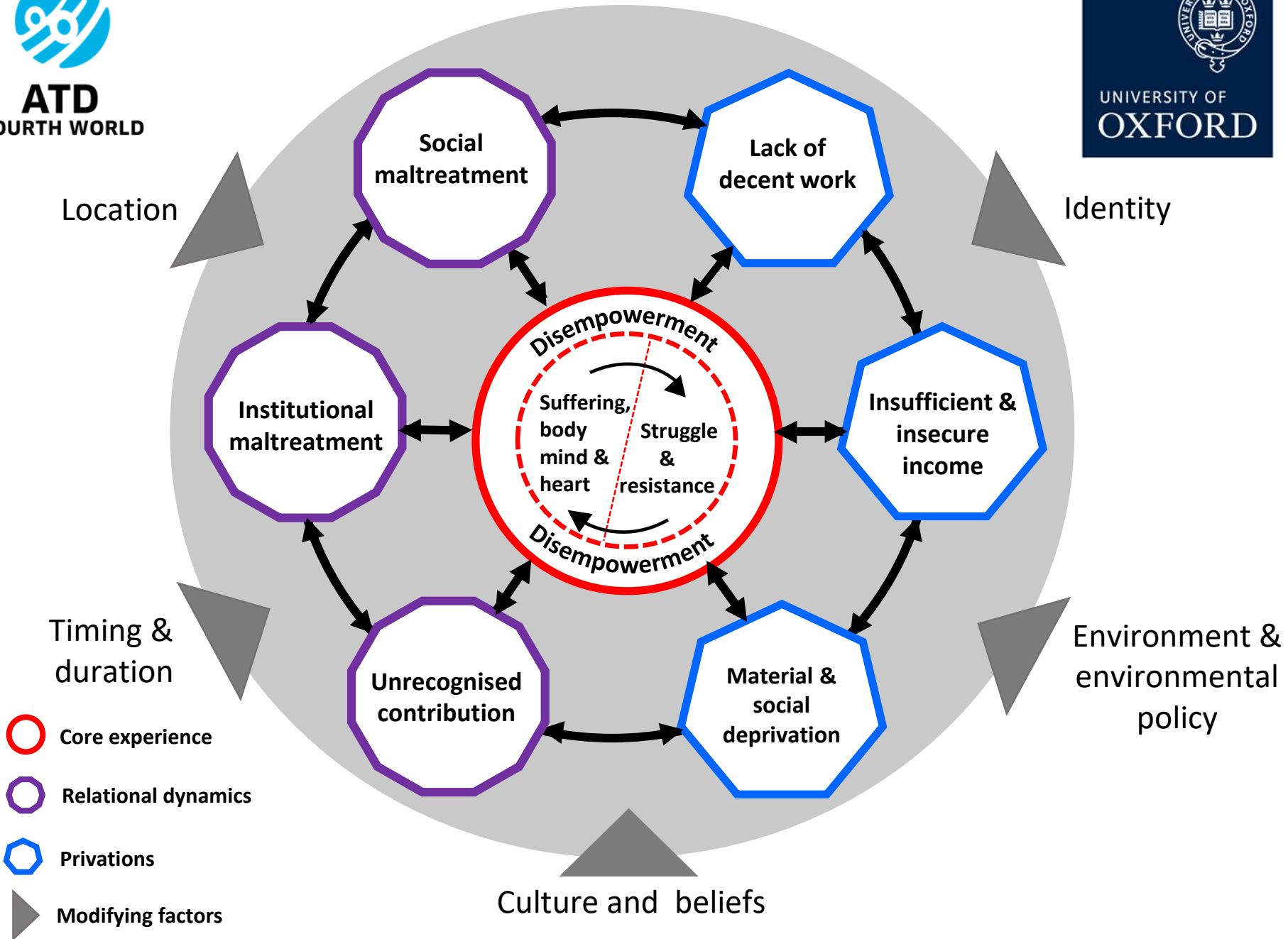
Modifying factors



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Shifting the narrative and understanding of multidimensional poverty

- From the *Hidden Dimensions of Poverty* to the Participatory Policy Assessment tool
- From Extreme Poverty to Persistent Poverty



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Advocating for and creating spaces for the direct and meaningful participation of people living in poverty

*‘Understanding poverty and finding solutions to eradicate it must rest on an approach based on the dignity and respect of the person and their rights. **Dignity implies, inter alia, civil registration and access to legal identity and non-discrimination on any grounds.** Poverty frequently intertwines with discriminatory practices both overt and covert. Finally, **dignity implies the participation and empowerment of the most vulnerable in decisions that directly affect their lives.** The needs of people living in poverty are often not adequately reflected in policymaking processes. The meaningful participation of those living in poverty and their representatives in the design, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 recovery plans is crucial.’*

Paragraph 34 of the [UNSG report for CSocD60](#)



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Advocating for and creating spaces for the direct and meaningful participation of people living in poverty

*‘Participation can be defined as meaningful when participants manage to influence decisions on issues that affect their lives. **This happens when policymakers and service providers give serious consideration to their views and provide appropriate feedback on how those views have been taken into account.** An important outcome of meaningful participation is participants’ strengthened **empowerment**, which can be defined as their capacity to exert control over their lives and to claim their rights.’*

Page 61, UNSDG Good practice Note on ‘Operationalizing Leaving no one behind’



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Conditions to ensure a fair and non-exploitative process:

- building a feeling of trust,
- creating an environment that is safe and secure at the mental and physical levels,
- granting time to prepare for the process,
- verifying that the language used is understandable by all,
- ensuring that vulnerable groups not be put at risk, and guaranteeing confidentiality when needed.

On the side of the institution, adaptation is also needed:

*“It should also be acknowledged that engaging meaningfully with the most marginalized and excluded groups may take extra time and resources on the part of UN staff themselves. **This requires UN staff to build their own capacity and adapt their behaviours**”. (Page 61, UNSDG Good practice Note on Operationalizing Leaving no one behind)*



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Two examples of participation:

- In policymaking: In Belgium, participation leading to the formulation of political recommendations and reports for the Federal and regional governments and parliaments. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSNZvUANlm8>
- In development project: In Haiti, integrated care placing the needs and interests of the poorest families first through the [pilot project entitled Knowledge-Health-Participation](#), which enables families living in deep and persistent poverty to have access to the basic social security programs.



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To conclude:

- People living in poverty should be seen as real actors in the fight against poverty and not only beneficiaries.
- Governments, institutions and IO have a special role in fostering participatory spaces, CSOs have the capacity to support these processes.
- IDEP 30th anniversary this year: calling all UN agencies and governments to use the Day as a space for people's participation and a reminder of the urgency to eradicate poverty, by putting people at the center.

'The Decade should therefore be a ten- year rolling campaign by the UN system to demonstrate that, despite the daunting scale of the challenge of ending poverty, an inclusive, fair and sustainable future is possible through determined collective action by Member States with the support of the UN development system. **Every 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty provides a focus for the campaign.'**

UN system-wide plan of action for the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)