

2 BE LIBERATED FROM RELATIONSHIPS OF DOMINATION TO TRIGGER THE POWERS TO ACT

"Populations in situations of vulnerabilities are restricted in the exercise of their powers to act due to relationships of domination that prevent them being emancipated"

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- Situations of vulnerabilities or poverty are never accidental. These situations are always linked to a "system" that is based on relationships of domination.
- Situations of vulnerabilities which are often cumulative expose people to various types of domination and discrimination.
- **Domination can describe social relations between individuals, social classes, or groups of individuals.** As social relationships are constantly changing, domination is not a static state based on the dominant-dominated pattern.
- To be emancipated and to not reproduce relationships of domination, populations in situations of vulnerabilities must be able to **analyse their context.**
- In order to trigger the powers to act, awareness of the relations of domination is necessary at all levels : both for the groups that are subject to them and for those who can potentially exercise them.
- Working on relationships of domination is not neutral : it is a process that can be violent both for those who free themselves from it and for those around them.
- **Consciously or unconsciously, anyone** —in a situation of vulnerability or not— **who has power to act may reproduce relationships of domination**, particularly in dynamics aimed at reducing inequalities. Attention is paid to this risk when reflecting on accompaniment postures.

