



6 priorities

for social transformation



6 priorities for social transformation

1st priority

Decide to use social transformation with populations in situations of vulnerabilities

2nd priority

Be liberated from relationships of domination to trigger the powers to act

3rd priority

Train for emancipation

4th priority

Structure as a collective to have more power to act

5th priority

Ally based on the non-reproduction of relationships of domination

6th priority

Experiment with alternatives for social change



WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS :



En partenariat
avec



Train to Transform - 2024

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
- NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.
You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
You may not use the material for commercial purposes. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you
may not distribute the modified material

Graphic design : La Comète - lacomete.jimdo.com

Vulnerabilities



Participation

Social transformation



1

DECIDE TO USE
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
WITH POPULATIONS
IN SITUATIONS
OF VULNERABILITIES



1

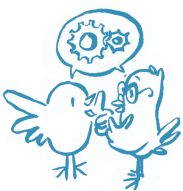
DECIDE TO USE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION WITH POPULATIONS IN SITUATIONS OF VULNERABILITIES

" Social transformation that aims to reduce situations of various kinds of poverty, inequality and injustice is conducted by and with the populations in situations of vulnerabilities as a priority "



OUR STARTING BASE

- Situations of vulnerability are plural and relative to their context : they can be economic, cultural, legal, social, environmental or psychological. They are the outcome of an economic and social system.
- Several levels of transformation can be seen : individual, collective, and systemic.
- Social transformation involves the active and voluntary participation of the populations in situations of vulnerabilities.
- Social transformation requires the people concerned to become aware of the structural causes of their own vulnerability.
- Social transformation involves recognising the powers to act of people in situations of vulnerabilities.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- Social transformation involves the long-term improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable people. Improving living conditions drives commitment to social transformation.
- Improving someone's physical living conditions can change the way they are perceived by people around them : a change in earnings or material possessions, demonstrates that an individual can influence their own situation and is proof of a change in their social position.
- Considering economic and material factors are drivers in the participation of vulnerable people, we should pay attention to the effects of participation on them and on their family and friends, so that the family and friends are able to form an alliance with the person (compensation for their availability, social recognition, etc.).



Domination



Analysis of the social context



Awareness

2

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



2

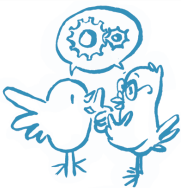
BE LIBERATED FROM RELATIONSHIPS OF DOMINATION TO TRIGGER THE POWERS TO ACT

"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"



OUR STARTING POINT

- Situations of vulnerability and poverty are linked to structural rather than individual causes. These situations are always linked to a " system " that is based on relationships of domination.
- Situations of vulnerability are often intertwined, exposing people to different degrees and types of domination and discrimination.
- Domination can describe social relationships 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. You can be in a dominant or dominated position, depending on the type of interaction and its context.
- To be emancipated and to not reproduce relationships of domination, populations in situations of vulnerabilities must be able to analyse their context.
- Anyone can consciously or unconsciously reproduce relationships of domination, even in initiatives of support, aimed at reducing inequality. Our organisations pay close attention to this risk, particularly when considering dynamics of support.



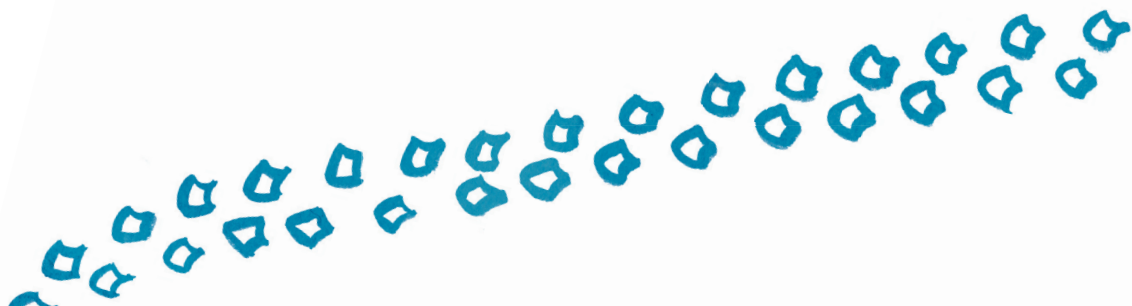
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- Working on relationships of domination is not neutral: it can be a violent process, both for the people who escape the relationships, and for their families and friends. As people grow and acquire new awareness, the way they relate to others changes, calling into question the (sometimes very unequal) pre-existing balance, i.e. the way the relationship began.



WHAT REMAINS TO BE VERIFIED

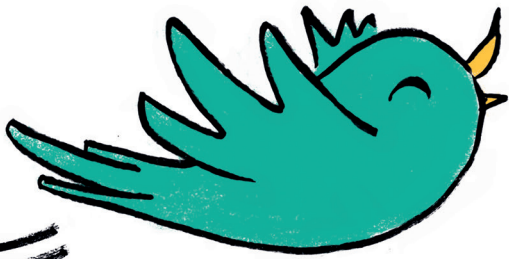
- In order to trigger the power to act, an awareness of the relationships of domination is necessary at every level : both for the groups that are subject to them and for those who can potentially exercise them.



Emancipatory training



Facilitation



Individual autonomy

3

TRAIN FOR EMANCIPATION



3

TRAIN FOR EMANCIPATION

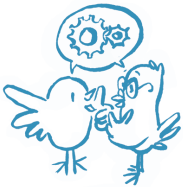
" Emancipation and empowerment of populations in situations of vulnerabilities involves a process of individual and collective training "



OUR STARTING POINT

- The term " training " encompasses all dynamics of learning and strengthening of participants : activities including awareness raising, capacity building, animations, information, mobilization, etc.
- " Emancipatory " training courses, based on the principles of popular education, use a combination of technical capacity-building (access to a trade, economic security) and political training, which goes through various stages: information, awareness-raising, developing the capacity for critical analysis, identifying problems, proposing solutions, forming alliances with other organisations. This training is action-oriented.
- The so-called " emancipatory training " process includes enhancing the knowledge revealed by exchanging practices, capitalising on practices, and forming collectives.
- In a perspective of social transformation, and as part of a popular education approach, the intention of the trainer is to encourage independent thinking and the individual and collective power to act of populations in situations of vulnerabilities. The trainer must thus adopt the attitude of a facilitator who makes it possible to provide spaces for expression and spaces for action.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED



- Increasing cultural¹ and symbolic² capital drives transformation in social relationships. Acquiring knowledge through training also enables people to develop resources that can be passed on or exchanged, and therefore help them to adapt better socially. This approach places people in a " give-and-take " situation³, and helps establish more equitable social relationships, since they are based on a greater reciprocity.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE VERIFIED



- In a perspective of social transformation, the articulation between individual emancipation and collective emancipation is to be explored.

¹ Cultural capital is the set of cultural resources (goods, knowledge, know-how or skills, mastery of language and the arts) possessed by an individual which he or she can mobilise. This sociological concept was introduced by Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron in " La Reproduction : éléments pour une théorie du système d'enseignement " (1970).

² Symbolic capital refers to any form of capital (economic, social, religious, cultural, artistic, associative, etc.) that has particular value within society. It determines the social position of individuals in society. It is a concept coined by sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in " Raisons pratiques " (1994).

³ A concept that was created by Marcel Mauss, who defines gift-giving as a form of social contract, based on the triple obligation of «giving-receiving-giving back», and based on reciprocity, which creates a state of dependence that perpetuates the social bond, in " Essai sur le don " (1925).



Trajectories of the collectives



Doing together



Autonomy of the collective

4

STRUCTURE AS
A COLLECTIVE
TO HAVE MORE
POWER TO ACT



4

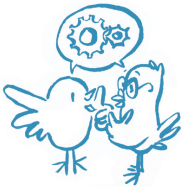
STRUCTURE AS A COLLECTIVE TO HAVE MORE POWER TO ACT

" Populations in situations of vulnerabilities are organising as collectives to promote their individual emancipation and capacity to act "



OUR STARTING POINT

- To encourage individual emancipation, the training processes are accompanied by strategies to structure populations in situations of vulnerabilities as collectives.



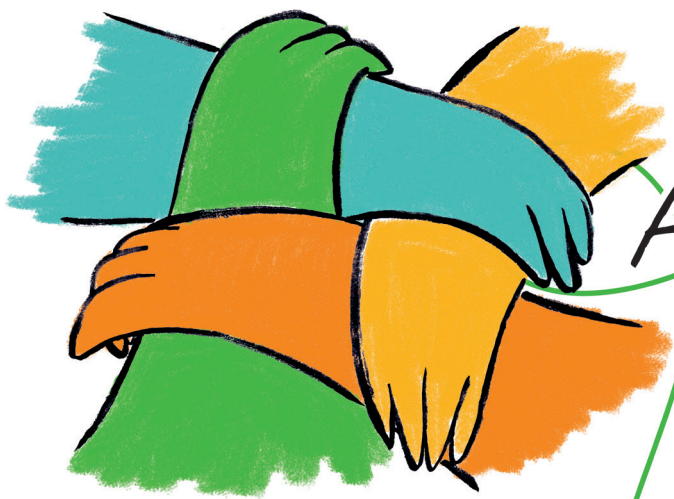
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- Carrying out actions and " doing things together " contributes to structuring a collective.
- The trajectories of collectives are very diverse, with stages that can become entangled and be carried out in a disorderly manner. These stages are: emergence, consolidation, resilience in the event of difficulties, empowerment, putting at the service of social change.
- Many collective trajectories are marked by decisive contributions in terms of individual emancipation with the acquisition of resources (skills, confidence, funding), which allows for changes in the situation that benefit individuals, before being able to benefit everyone.
- Working together with a group of peers is a key stage in building an alliance : this preliminary stage enables people to gain confidence, capacity and security through peer support.
- Increasing the autonomy of collectives is a process, and not an end in itself, which can take several forms: economic autonomy, organisational autonomy, which refers to the collective's ability to function internally, and political autonomy, which refers to its capacity for outward-looking initiatives.



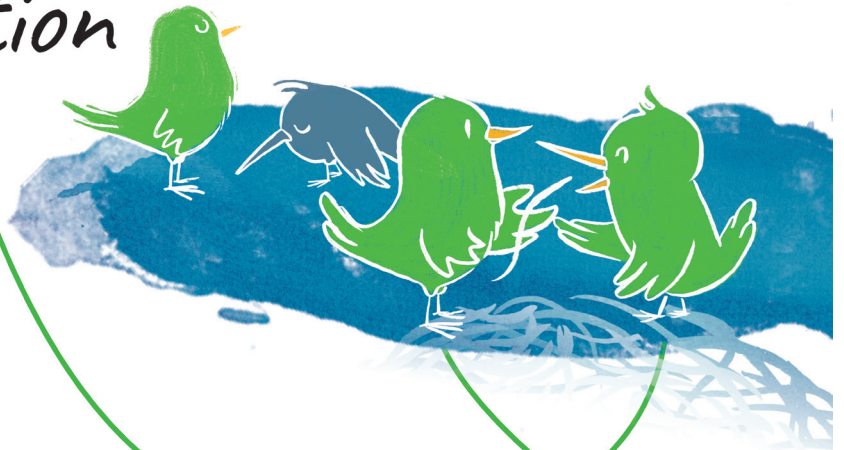
WHAT REMAINS TO BE VERIFIED

- Forming a collective involves an articulation between individual support and collective support, and this in the long term : it is essential not to lose the follow-up of the motivation of the individuals even once the collective has been set up..
- Within the collectives, strategies are set up to reduce the discrimination and relationships of domination, and strengthen the power of the collective to act.
- The support for collectives in their capacity to recover from adversity (departure of members, political appropriation...) should be explored.
- There is a risk that once people are secure in a peer group, they will become detached from the rest and will act without consulting others.



Alliance

Non-reproduction
of dominance
relationships



Shared
vision

5

ALLY
BASED ON THE
NON-REPRODUCTION
OF RELATIONSHIPS OF DOMINATION



5

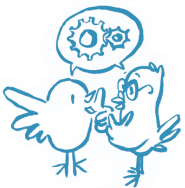
ALLY BASED ON THE NON-REPRODUCTION OF RELATIONSHIPS OF DOMINATION

" Within emancipated populations, some people have decided to unite their powers to act with others, and avoid reproducing relationships of domination "



OUR STARTING POINT

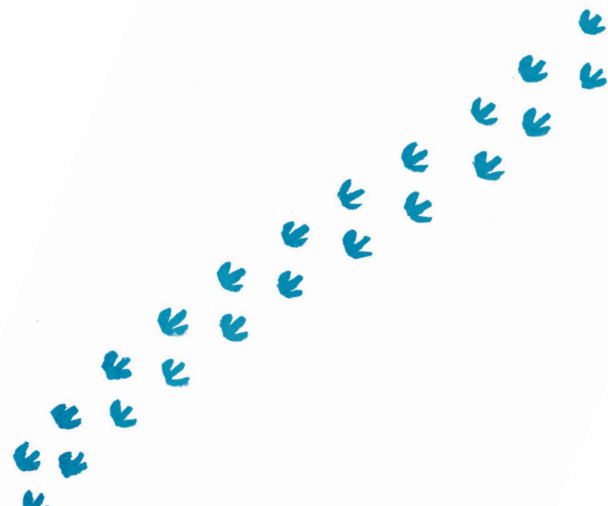
- Individual and collective emancipation is not enough to combat relationships of domination and change society. It is collective solidarity actions that result from the decisions of committed people who contribute to this.
- Alliance is experienced between people from different backgrounds and groups who have taken various paths in life, but who all share the will to make the commitment to change society together. The participants of an alliance are therefore a mixed group.
- An alliance is a collaboration based on a shared vision. In the partnership, we will rather look for resources for the realization of an action.
- It is crucial for everyone to be aware of their place in the alliance : everyone must be aware of their own behaviour and that of others, and of relationships of domination. One of the conditions for taking collective action in solidarity, is to ensure that these relationships are not reproduced.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- When vulnerable people demonstrate that they can have a positive impact on the situation of other members of the community, there is a change in the way the community and local authorities view the social role that these people are able to play. They gain legitimacy, which amounts to increasing their symbolic capital¹. This added social value means that more marginalised groups are viewed in a different light by those around them, because they produce social improvement that benefits other members of the community. This leads them to want to form new alliances.

¹ Symbolic capital as a concept introduced by Pierre Bourdieu. Cf. Priority 3.



Solidarity-based collective actions

Innovation



Impact



6

EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



6

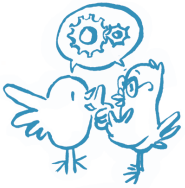
EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

" Collective solidarity actions, as alternatives to the individualist and competitive dominant system, have an impact in terms of social change "



OUR STARTING POINT

- Collective solidarity actions try to include the most vulnerable and often excluded people in the process of social transformation.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- Solidarity-based collective action has a political dimension. Even though it does not always aim to change public policy as such, it helps to improve community life.
- It is interesting to work on the geographical dimension in mobilising people, by thinking about how groups with appropriate scope and aims.
- These alternatives can either be historical initiatives readapted to the current context, or be inspired by existing alternatives in other territories and adapted locally. Other sources of inspiration are to be explored.
- Meetings between collectives are a great source of inspiration when it comes to suggesting alternatives.
- Participants may encounter pitfalls, obstacles and reluctance of individuals or local stakeholders to get involved in action, but strategies are being developed to overcome this challenge.



WHAT REMAINS TO BE VERIFIED

- Collective solidarity actions can be a local source of economic, social, political and/or environmental innovation. They are qualified as innovative according to their capacity to respond to the specificities of the territory concerned.
- The analysis of the impact of collective solidarity actions give those who commit to them the ability to show their contribution to social change.

