



6 priorities *for social transformation*



former pour transformer

LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE
POUR LE CHANGEMENT SOCIAL



Train to Transform - 2020

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The collective

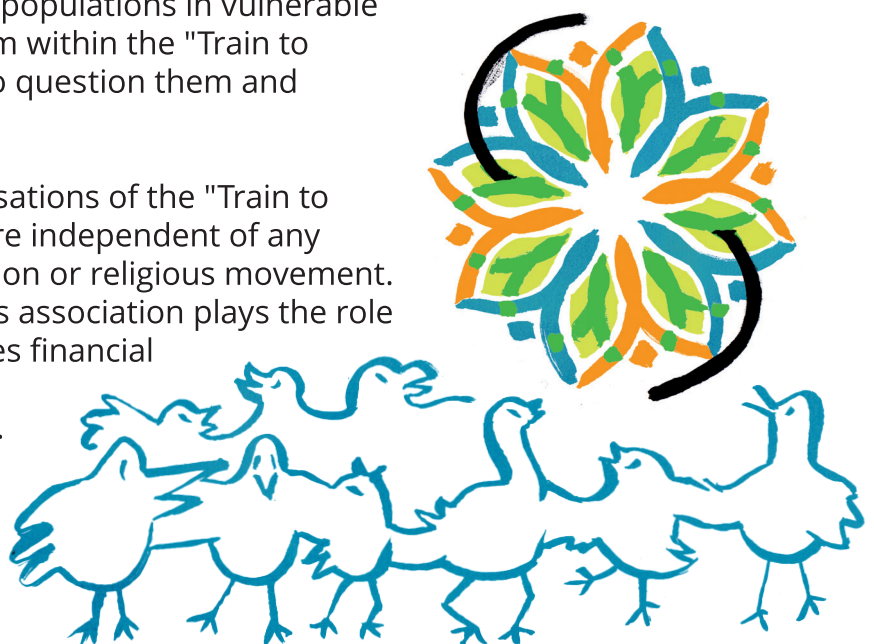
Train to Transform collective

In 2017, at the instigation of Frères des Hommes, nine civil society organisations came together in a Collective called "Train to Transform". This Collective is dedicated to the improvement of the practices of the actors of social transformation. Since then, representatives from each organisation have been meeting regularly for times of exchange, reflection and collective analysis.

These organisations have in common that they work locally - in different contexts and countries - to improve the conditions of populations in vulnerable situations. This commitment is based on the idea that these people can, by "activating" their power to act, fight to transform society.

Each member, in their commitment to social transformation, capitalizes on their practices of supporting populations in vulnerable situations, to share them within the "Train to Transform" collective, to question them and improve them.

The co-founding organisations of the "Train to Transform" Collective are independent of any political party, trade union or religious movement. The Frères des Hommes association plays the role of facilitator and receives financial support from AFD via a programme agreement.





A common political vision

The 6 priorities for social transformation

Since 2017, the Collective has been reflecting on the conditions to be met for social transformation. This reflection has been formalized in the form of "6 priorities for social transformation". These priorities are now forging a common political vision of what makes common sense for the organizations of the Collective in their commitment to social transformation.

The priorities can be understood as beacons that bring the organisations together on the path they are taking with the people. Priorities are not dogmas or steps to be taken. They are conditions that enable social transformation to be established and take place.

In this sense, the paths taken to fully achieve these priorities remain to be travelled, experimented, cleared, and each organisation can make all or part of the content of these 6 priorities its own, in the political orientations of its own organisation.

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"

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- **Situations of vulnerability** are plural and relative to their context : they can be economic, cultural 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 involves recognising the powers to act of people in situations of vulnerabilities to transform their society.
- **Social transformation** involves an individual awareness of the people in situations of vulnerabilities.
- Social transformation involves improving the living conditions of populations in situations of vulnerabilities in a permanent/sustainable fashion.



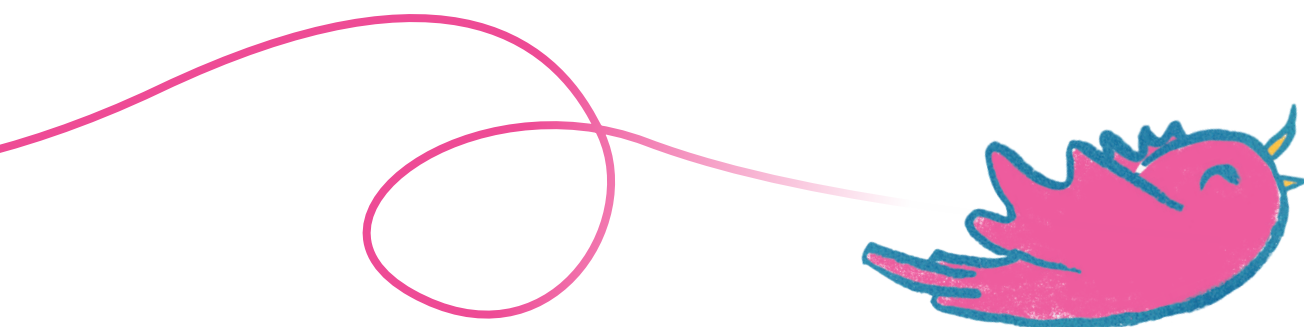
2

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.



3rd priority

3

TRAIN FOR EMANCIPATION

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

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- The term "training" encompasses all dynamics of learning and strengthening of actors: activities including awareness raising, capacity building, animations, information, mobilization, etc.
- **Training for "emancipation"** draws from the articulation between technical capacity building (access to a trade, economic security) and political training (awareness raising, capacity for critical analysis, identification of issues and proposing solutions). This training is geared towards action.
- The so-called "emancipatory training" process includes enhancing the knowledge revealed by exchanging practices, capitalising on practices, and collective structuring.
- In a perspective of social transformation, 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.
- In a perspective of social transformation, the articulation between individual emancipation and collective emancipation is to be explored.



4th priority

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"*

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- To encourage individual emancipation, **the training processes are accompanied by strategies to structure populations in situations of vulnerabilities as collectives.**
- Structuring as collectives 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 is constituted.
- 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 (competence, confidence, financing), which allow changes in the situation that benefit individuals, before being able to benefit everyone.
- Conducting actions and **"doing things together"** contributes to structuring as a collective.
- Increasing the **autonomy of collectives** is a process 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.
- Within the collectives, strategies are set up to reduce the discrimination and relationships of domination, and strengthen the power to act of the collective.
- The support of collectives on their capacity to rebound in case of difficulties (departure of members, political appropriation...) remains to be explored.



5th priority

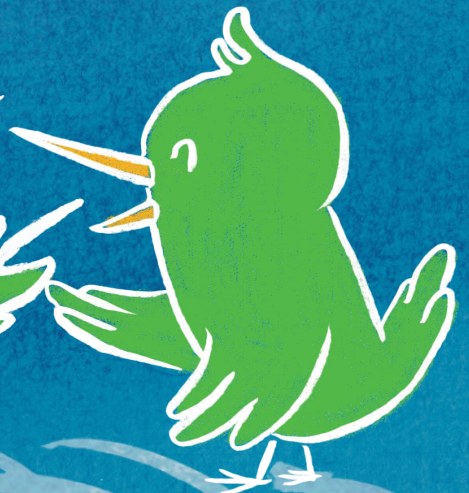
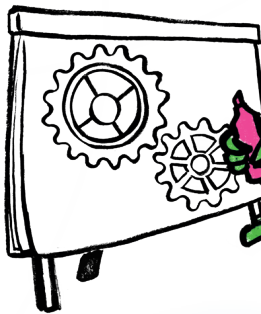
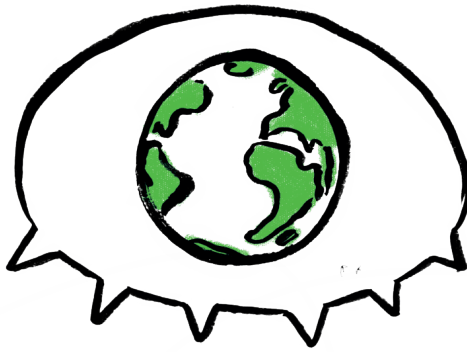
5

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 "*

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- 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.
- The **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 actors of an alliance thus constitute a mixed group.
- Each person must have become aware of the behaviours and relationships of domination to build an alliance. A condition for conducting collective solidarity actions is embodied in the **non-reproduction of these relationships**.
- An alliance is collaboration based on a **shared vision**. In the partnership, we will rather look for resources for the realization of an action.



6th priority

6

EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

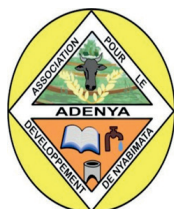
" Collective solidarity actions, as alternatives to the individualist and competitive dominant system, have an impact in terms of social change "

SHARED OBSERVATIONS AND WORKING ASSUMPTIONS

- **Collective solidarity actions** can be a local source of **economic, social and/or environmental innovation**. They are qualified as innovative according to their capacity to respond to the specificities of the territory concerned.
- 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 for proposing alternatives.
- The implementation of these alternatives can encounter obstacles, obstacles, reticence of diffusion, at the individual level and/or at the level of the actors of the territory, but strategies are experimented to face them.
- Collective solidarity actions try to include the most vulnerable and often excluded people in the social transformation process.
- The analysis of the **impact** of collective solidarity actions give those who commit to them the ability to show their contribution to social change.



The 9 organizations of the collective “Train to Transform”



Adenya

Rwanda - Rwanda Association for the Development of Nyabimata

The Association for the Development of Nyabimata was founded in 1982, notably with the support of Frères des Hommes. It intervenes, as its name indicates, in the area around the village of Nyabimata, in the district of Nyaruguru, one of the poorest and most isolated regions of Rwanda. It is inhabited by peasant families who survive on subsistence farming on small areas (less than 1 hectare per family on average) and with very little means in terms of access to seeds.

Adenya aims to improve the lives of these peasant families by increasing and diversifying agricultural production through agro-ecological practices, and by developing the technique of progressive terraces on the hills. The means: The association promotes collective work between farmers and the transmission of their experience and know-how. The association has about ten employees.

www.adenya.org.rw



APEF

RDC - Association for the Promotion of Women's Entrepreneurship

Created in 1996, APEF works with women in South Kivu (a region of the Democratic Republic of Congo where the poverty rate reaches more than 80%) both in an economic approach with support for the development of income-generating activities and in the promotion of their rights through awareness-raising.

Gender is placed at the centre of APEF's strategy, which includes men in actions targeting households. Since its creation, APEF has been working with Frères des Hommes in a partnership based on shared values, mutual capacity building and co-responsibility.

Facebook : www.facebook.com/APEF1



BATIK International

France - Association for the Defense of Women's Rights

Founded in 1998, BATIK International is an international solidarity association that works with people in vulnerable situations in Europe, South-East Asia and on the southern shores of the Mediterranean to empower them and enable them to access their rights and/or decent work in the long term.

Anxious to preserve and develop the autonomy of the local organisations it supports, the association contributes to their strengthening through training activities, peer counselling and exchanges of practices.

Better equipped, these structures are better able to support vulnerable people (women, young people, the elderly, migrants), whether in their socio-economic integration process (support for the creation of activities, international mobility, definition and implementation of the professional project) and/or in their access to rights (social, health, education...).

www.batik-international.org



Cenca

Pérou - Institute of Urban Development

Created in 1980, Cenca works essentially in Lima, around one of the dominant issues in this capital: the growing rural exodus that leads to the extension of the city and the construction of precarious and vulnerable popular neighborhoods on the outskirts of the capital. Cenca works hand in hand with national and international allies; it is also concerned with working in collaboration with municipalities and public institutions to improve local legislation and the infrastructure and facilities that benefit the populations.

Cenca directs its work through 5 strategic axes: City and Territory, Environmental Management, Gender Equity, Solidarity in the Economy, Co production of knowledge. All activities are oriented towards Social Transformation at the personal, community and structural levels.

www.cenca.org.pe



Duhamic-Adri

Rwanda - Association for Integrated Rural Development

Duhamic-Adri was founded in 1979. The association is active throughout Rwanda, and more particularly in the southern, northern and western provinces as well as in the capital Kigali where its headquarters are located. In Rwanda, farmers have only small plots of land to cultivate (0.32 hectares on average). Duhamic-Adri supports them through training and legal and technical support. The organisation goes out to meet farmers and provides them with management advice and advice on how to find financing. The aim is to raise the awareness of these populations, to "equip" them so that they can change their situation themselves. Duhamic-Adri employs 50 people.

www.duhamic.org.rw



Fedina

India - Foundation for Educational Innovations in Asia

Created in 1983 in Bangalore, in the State of Karnataka, Fedina aims to support and defend marginalized populations (untouchables, women, tribal populations, informal sector workers). The organisation operates in 5 Indian states (Karnataka Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry). Fedina has initiated a vast network of grassroots organizations in southern India, the Network of Social Action Groups, which brings together some 30 community groups and more than 40 trade unions with 115,000 members and defends the interests of at least 570,000 people. Fedina has 19 employees.

Facebook : www.facebook.com/fedinablir



Frères des Hommes

France - International Solidarity Association

At the initiative of the collective "Train to Transform", Frères des Hommes is a French association created in 1965, non-denominational, independent of any political party and trade union. Faced with a political, economic and social system that generates inequality and exclusion, Frères des Hommes has set itself the mission of being an actor of social transformation in France but also abroad, where the association works with partner organisations from civil society. In particular, Frères des Hommes has created the international solidarity incubator, which links French citizens who wish to carry out an international solidarity project (the Pépins) with local partners in other countries. This system has been set up to train and support the Pépins in developing critical awareness and acting in the field in alliance with populations in vulnerable situations.

www.fdh.org



MPP

Haiti - Papaya Peasant Movement

Founded on March 20, 1973 in Papaye on the Haut Plateau Central in Haiti by a Haitian agronomist, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste. The Mouvement Paysan de Papaye is a peasant organization whose goal is to unite all peasants (Men, Women, Youth) of rural Haiti organized in groups for their cultural and economic promotion where they are real actors of change in their living conditions.

Its mission is to defend the rights and interests of peasants and support them in their socio-economic activities, allows access to training (technical and ideological training through specific training programs and long training but also facilitates university training for young people both in Haiti and abroad) and facilitates access to basic services in the area.

The MPP has more than 60,000 members and about 100 employees. MPP's areas of intervention are mainly based on family peasant agriculture, integrated water management, rural energy, environmental protection, small livestock farming, social and solidarity economy, and the processing of agricultural products. Training and gender equity are transversal axes within the organization.

www.mpphaiti.org



UGPM

Sénégal - Union of Peasant Groups of Meckhé

In Senegal, the rural environment has been experiencing major difficulties since the liberalization of agriculture in the country and the implementation of structural adjustment policies "less State, more State". Problems of outlets, export crops, indebtedness, soil depletion, all these factors aggravate the rural exodus and the degradation of living conditions in the countryside. Since 1985, the UGPM has wanted, in the Meckhé area (Thiès region), to help families develop their farms through sustainable agro-ecological practices but also by diversifying their sources of income. Attached to the values of peasant agriculture, the UGPM thus tries to promote the return to locality, environmental protection and solidarity by fighting for the peasant to acquire real economic and social viability.

Facebook : www.facebook.com/UGPMeckhe



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