

IMPACTS

Collection

6

priorities

for social
transformation



train to transform
CIVIL SOCIETY
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS :



AND OUR MEMBERS :



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Train to Transform - 2024

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The Train to Transform Collective

Today, the collective includes the Association pour la promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat féminin (APEF) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Union des Groupements Paysans de Meckhé (UGPM) and Concept in Senegal, Duhamic-ADRI and Adenya in Rwanda, the Mouvement Paysan Papaye (MPP) in Haiti, Cenca in Peru, Fedina in India, and Batik International and Frères des Hommes (FDH) in France.

This collective is dedicated to improving the practices of those involved in social transformation.

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

Each member organization capitalizes on its support practices for vulnerable populations, sharing them within the «Train to Transform» Collective, questioning and improving them.

Member organizations are independent of any political party, trade union or religious movement, and all play a role in co-leading, co-deciding, co-producing and communicating within the collective.



Our shared political vision

Within the Train to Transform collective, our vision of social transformation has been agreed around 6 priorities for social transformation, which form the framework of a shared political vision, with the aim of moving towards a society that is fairer and more respectful of everyone.

- 1 Decide to use social transformation with populations in situations of vulnerabilities
- 2 Be liberated from relationships of domination to trigger the powers to act
- 3 Train for emancipation

- 4 Structure as a collective to have more power to act
- 5 Build alliances based on the non-reproduction of relationships of domination
- 6 Experimenting with alternatives for social change



IMPACT ANALYSIS PROJECT

The Train to Transform Collective wanted to equip itself with an impact measurement system that would enable it, in the medium term, to ensure and demonstrate that the dynamics of social change are at work on the ground, and that they are contributing to a lasting reduction in relationships of domination.

In 2022, five member organisations, based in 4 countries, took part in this first round of impact studies: Duhamic-Adri and Adenya in Rwanda, UGPM in Senegal, APEF in DR Congo and CENCA in Peru.

The system was co-constructed by Frères des Hommes and national civil society organisations, with the support of an external consultant. The studies were carried out by local external consultants.

Each study was the subject of a full report and a summary. These studies are the result of a first cycle of analysis. They will serve as a reference for the next impact monitoring cycle.

Slamping
2 CBO in
2 different districts

ADENYA - IMPACT ANALYSIS

The impact of concerted collective actions (CCAs) on the dynamics of social change -RECASE project
ARE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO) BECOMING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ACTORS ?

Health and environmental :
reduction of outbreaks infectious

Social impact and relational :
+ bonds of solidarity, friendship and partnership

Impact psychological and educational :
+ self-esteem, less de-schooling

Impact budget :
small budget but strong contribution of the actors

Policy impact :
integration of CCAs into performance contracts

Institutional impact :

- + increased visibility of CBOs,
- + autonomy,
- + recognition,
- + membership

Solidarity actions for all that continue beyond the project

MAIN IMPACTS

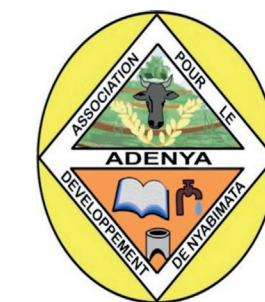


CHALLENGES FACED

- Reluctance of CBO members to help other farmers outside their organization
- Unavailability of manpower during rainy periods
- haste in the validation process & willingness of authorities to take ownership of the fund management
- Immense needs in terms of rehabilitation
- Low participation of the population in the work at the beginning

ACTION LEVERS

- Participatory identification of the priority problem
- Consultation of different actors at all stages
- Participatory planning around a common objective
- Complementarity of the different actors
- Awareness-raising work on the CCA approach
- Physical participation of all actors
- Initiation of members to speak out
- Some disengagement from the RECASE project
- Follow-up by the authorities in the absence of the project



APEF - IMPACT ANALYSIS

Slamping

50 women accompanied by APEF between 2017 and 2021

Socio-political effects among women members of the production units

HAS THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE WOMEN BEEN STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF APEF'S SUPPORT ?



MAIN IMPACTS

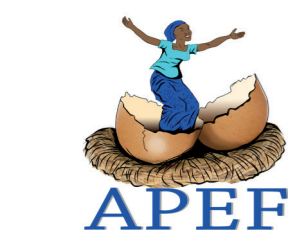
- Strengthening self-esteem and increased social consideration
- Awakening awareness of women on their rights and duties
- Increase in self-sufficiency financial of women
- New roles taken by women :
 - training
 - consulting support
 - loan
- More balanced distribution of tasks within the household
- Women's membership to one or more associations
- The involvement of women in new actions community

CHALLENGES

- Strengthen women's political commitment
- Develop alliance strategies : tendency of trained women to want to lock themselves into the APEF
- Integrate men more

LIMITING FACTORS

- The vulnerability of women for whom the main concern is to ensure survival before thinking about politics
- Relative mistrust of family members
- Women's fear of negative social perception



Slamping

22 women

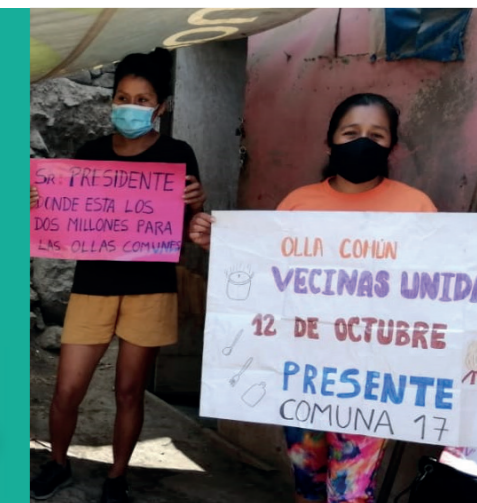
CENCA - IMPACT ANALYSIS

The social impacts related to the capacity building of the women of Mariategui

HAS WOMEN'S CAPACITY BUILDING LED TO CHANGES IN THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AT THE PERSONAL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEVELS ?

MAIN IMPACTS

- PERSONAL**: The reinforcement of self-esteem and the freedom of expression
- FAMILY**:
 - Strengthening of socio-economic and technical skills and sharing of knowledge with others
 - Participation to the income of the family and more dialogue
 - Better distribution of domestic tasks in the family
- COMMUNITY**:
 - Enlargement of the social network : friends, neighbors, alliances
 - Strengthening social leadership at three levels : local, district and national
 - Solidarity and advocacy actions that continue beyond the project



CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

- Multiply-inserted women with an important work overload
- Increased vulnerability with the pandemic Resistance from some husbands
- Political proselytizing
- Geographical distance
- Distance géographique

SOME IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

- Promote group rather than individual counseling sessions to address certain topics
- Promote a "Let's talk together" and "Let's talk territory" program
- Follow up on the social leaderships that have emerged at the 3 levels
- Better articulate the actions carried out by women and those carried out by the boards of administration of family groups



DUHAMIC ADRI - IMPACT ANALYSIS

Slamping
4 groups in
2 different sectors

The effects of small livestock multiplication and training - RECASE project

PROJECTARE FARMER'S GROUPS BECOMING RECOGNIZED ACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN THEIR TERRITORIES ?



The reinforcement of **self-esteem** members

The improvement of **living conditions** of the members and of the community

The evolution of **social relations** in the territories

The **commitment** of farmers' groups in collective actions

MAIN IMPACTS

The development of **alliances** with local authorities

Recognition of farmers' groups in their community

Solidarity actions for all that continue **beyond the project**

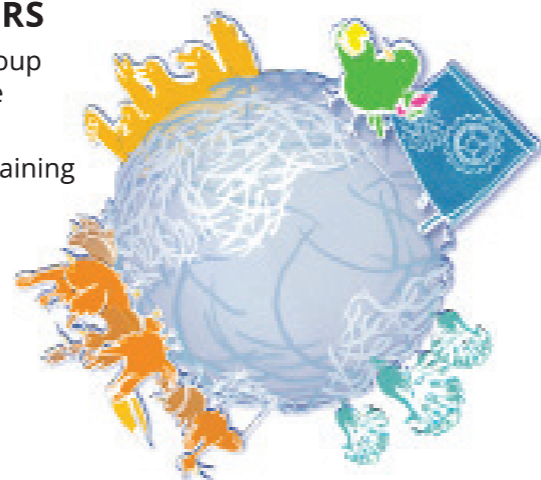


RESTRICTING FACTORS

- Jealousies in the entourage
- Conflicts within the groups
- Group management problems due to the large number of memberships
- Effect of Covid-19 on group activities
- Swine fever outbreak

LEVERAGE FACTORS

- The inclusion in a group of farmers who were previously isolated...
- The central role of training



Slamping
9 groups
of the UGPM

UGPM - IMPACT ANALYSIS

The effects in terms of revitalization of the UGPM's farmers' groups

DOES THE STRENGTHENING OF FARMERS' GROUPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE REVITALIZATION OF THE TERRITORY ?

Better involvement of members in the life of the group

Better social cohesion

Free expression and reasoned within each group

Emergence of new leaders in the management of the groups

MAIN IMPACTS

More autonomy financial of members and **economic initiatives** within the villages

Setting up a local market for a local supply



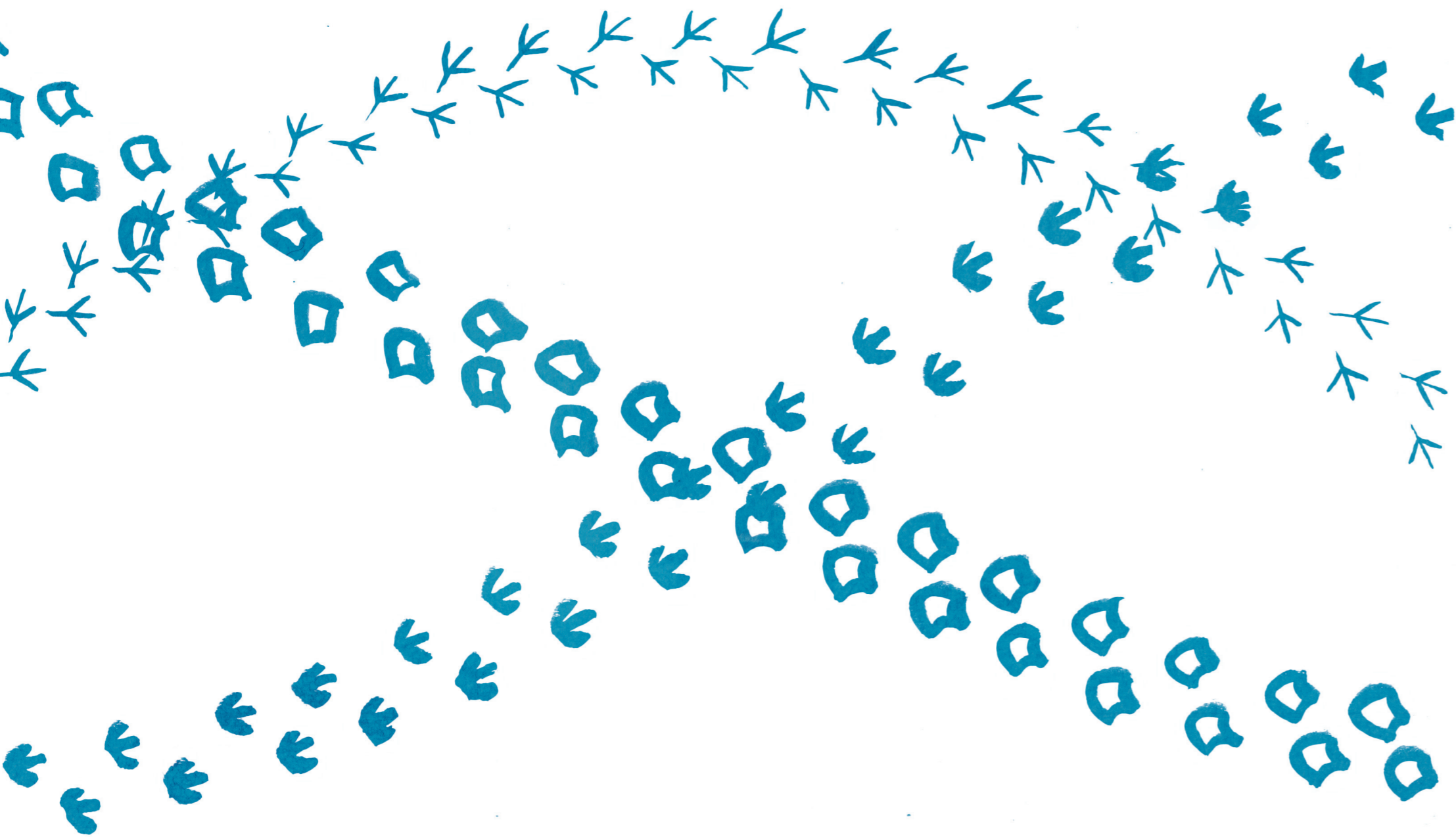
LEVERAGE FACTORS

- The role of endogenous facilitators
- Multi-dimensional character : social, organizational, economic
- ...and multi-approach to support : individual, family farm, group, village

CHALLENGES

- Still low involvement of young people
- A non-harmonized revitalization between farmers' groups





CROSS-FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

A cross-functional analysis of the impact studies was carried out by consultant Delphine Vincenot of Co-Opus Lab, in order to fully understand and monitor the impact of the projects and refine the 6 priorities for Social Transformation of the Train to Transform Collective.



MAIN FINDINGS AND IMPACTS

The 5 studies carried out all highlighted a series of recurring impacts, categorized below according to the different spheres of empowerment.

OWNERSHIP - Resources, access to services and personal situation

1. Roles (paid/unpaid work, education, job search; single father/mother; spouse ...), activities and responsibilities arising from social roles and relationships (relationships with family, relatives, social groups)
2. Individual and family income and income management
3. Access to services (housing, bank, care, etc.)
4. Resources, property and their use (house, land, goods, tools, natural and productive resources)
5. Access to public spaces (mobility, freedom of movement)

KNOWLEDGE - Skills and critical awareness

1. Technical training and basic general learning level (languages, literacy, etc.)
2. Individual critical awareness of power relations
3. Ability to formulate ideas, an opinion

WANTING - State of mind, psychological strength, ability to reach out to others

1. Acceptance and self-esteem
2. Self-confidence (recognition of abilities and assignment of responsibilities by self and others)
3. Public Speaking
4. Personal development (personal project, appreciation of one's quality of life)

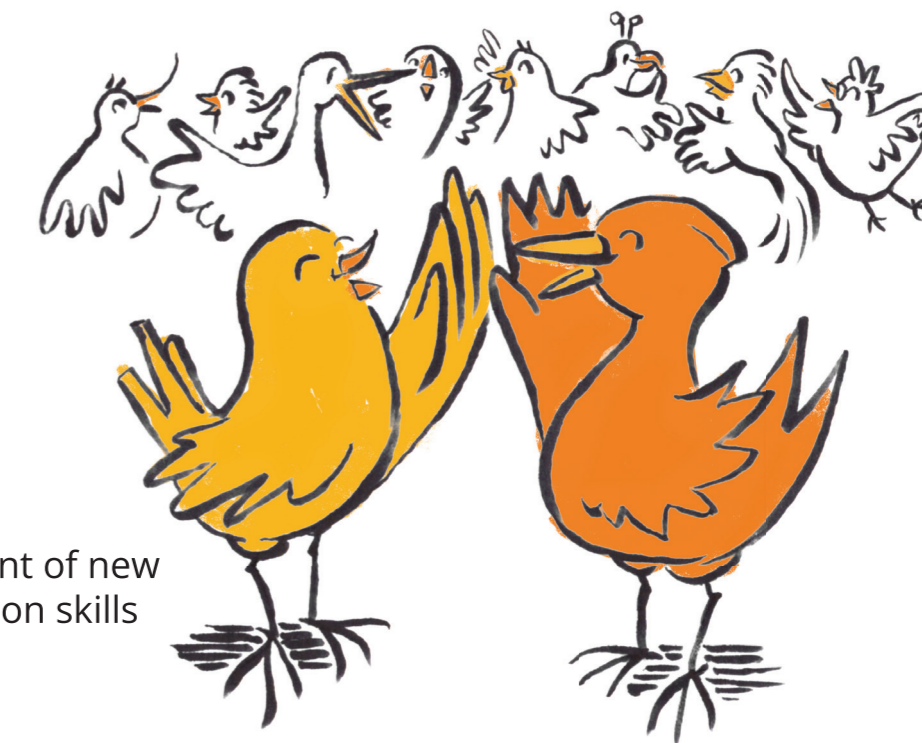
POWER - Critical awareness and capacity for collective influence

1. Collective critical awareness of power relations and the power of collective action
2. Participation in associations, networks related to local development
3. Capacity for collective influence (responsibilities, actions taken, local influences)

Have - Resources, access to services and personal situation



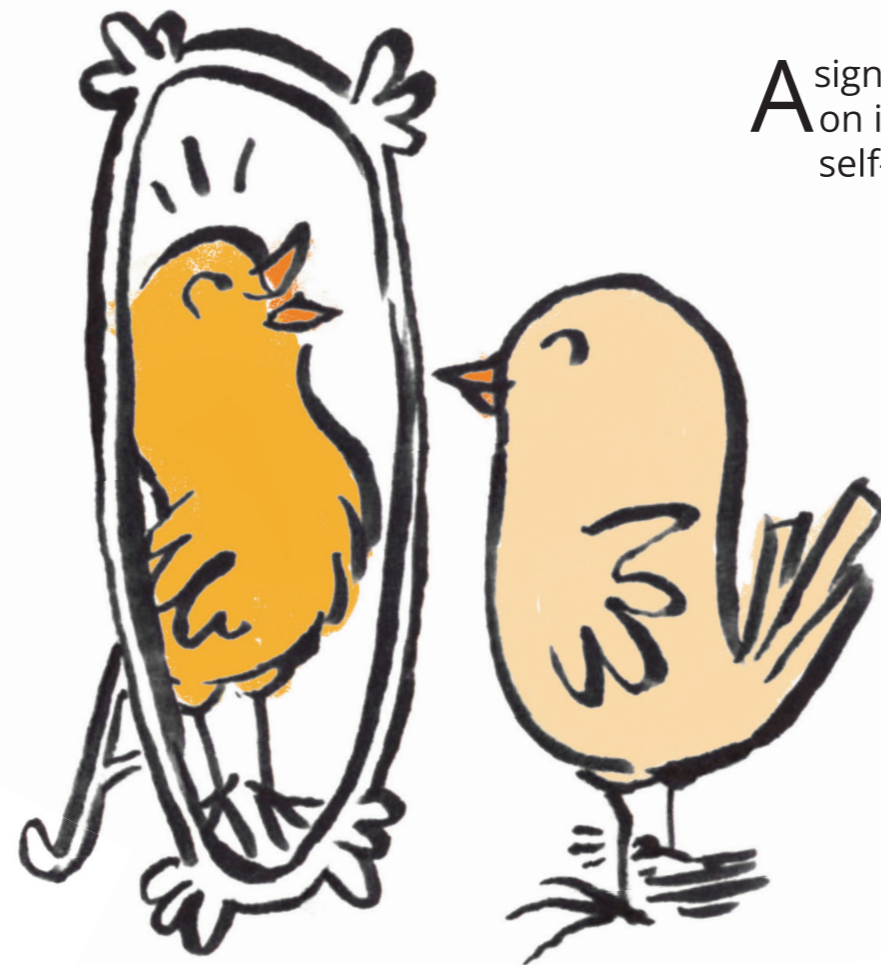
An improvement in levels of individual material comfort



The development of new social interaction skills



Want - State of mind, psychological resilience, ability to reach out to others,



A significant effect on increasing self-esteem

Be able to - Critical awareness and capacity for political influence

Stronger links between members of a group or between groups: community funds, community canteens, improved social cohesion within groups...



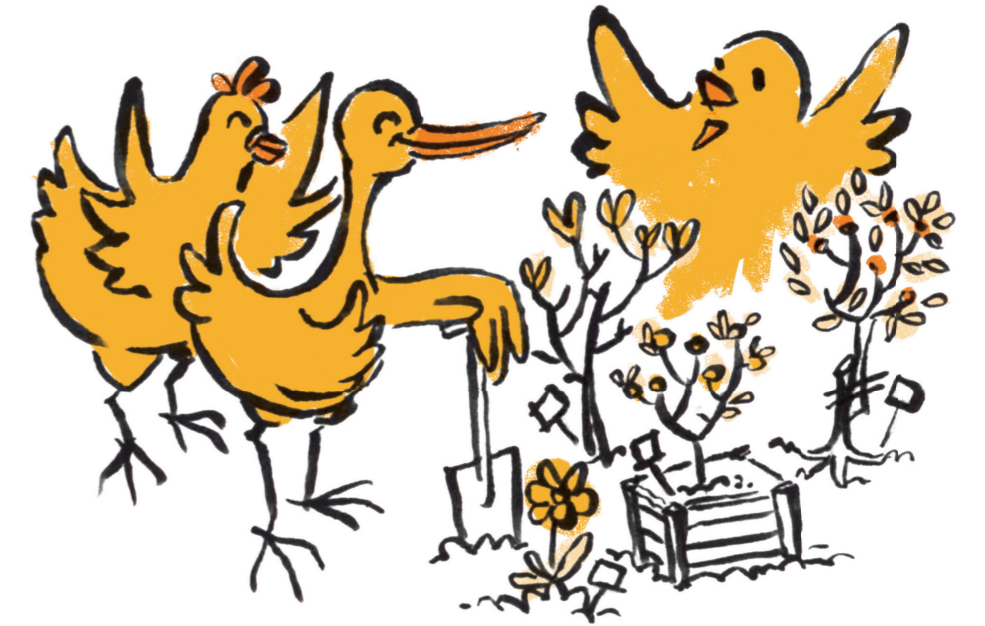
Actions to help other vulnerable people outside the group : donation of livestock, meals, training, housing rehabilitation, gardens, etc.

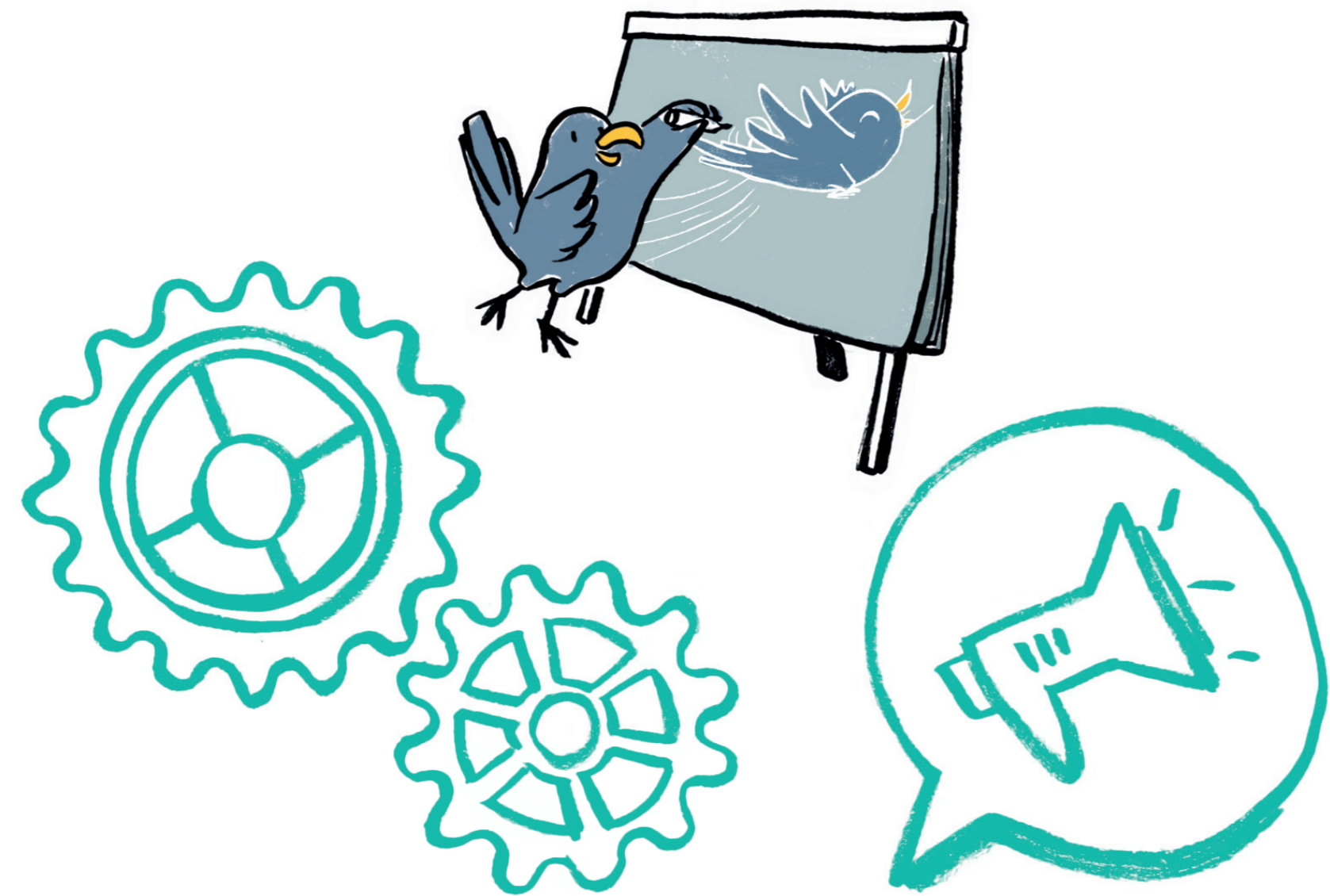


Recognition or even collaboration with public authorities or other local players.



Project activities are themselves experiments in creating alternatives for social change.

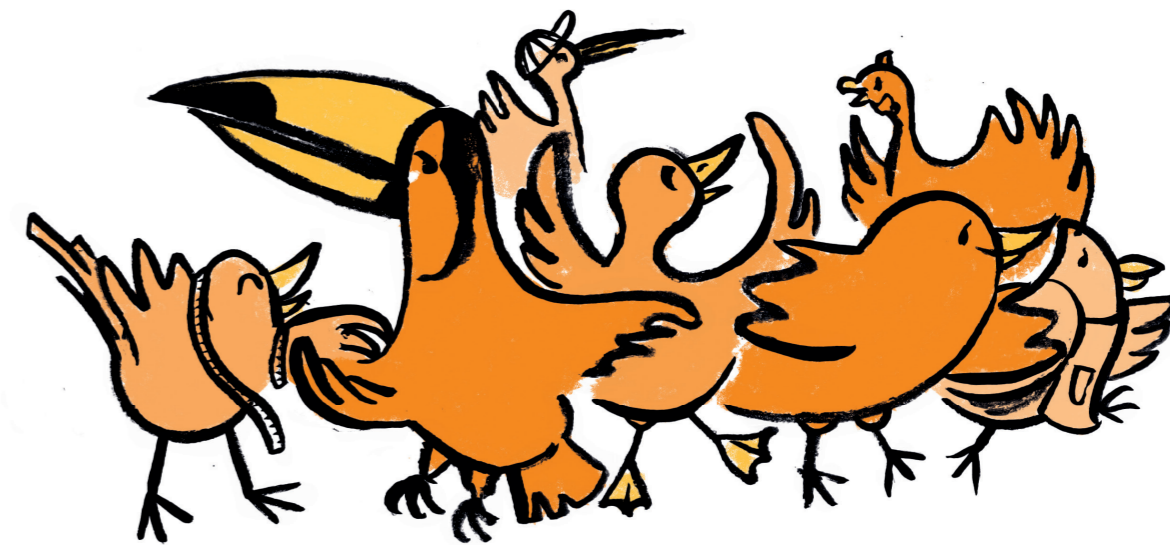




KEY FINDINGS TO IMPROVE THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS

PRIORITY BY PRIORITY

The aim of these intersecting studies is to nurture the priorities and bring them to life, drawing on project experience and the effects identified.





DECIDE TO USE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION WITH POPULATIONS IN SITUATIONS OF VULNERABILITIES

The improvement in living conditions (increase in economic capital!) is a key expectation for people in vulnerable situations and those around them, and **has a leverage effect on their commitment** to the dynamics of social change.



1. Increased income, access to credit, home improvement...

Nevertheless, considering the economic and material dimension as a lever for the participation of vulnerable people in a perspective of social transformation must lead us to be more **attentive to the effects of participation for the person and those around him/her**, so that those around him/her are in a position to form an alliance with the person (to compensate for his/her lesser availability, to give him/her social value...).

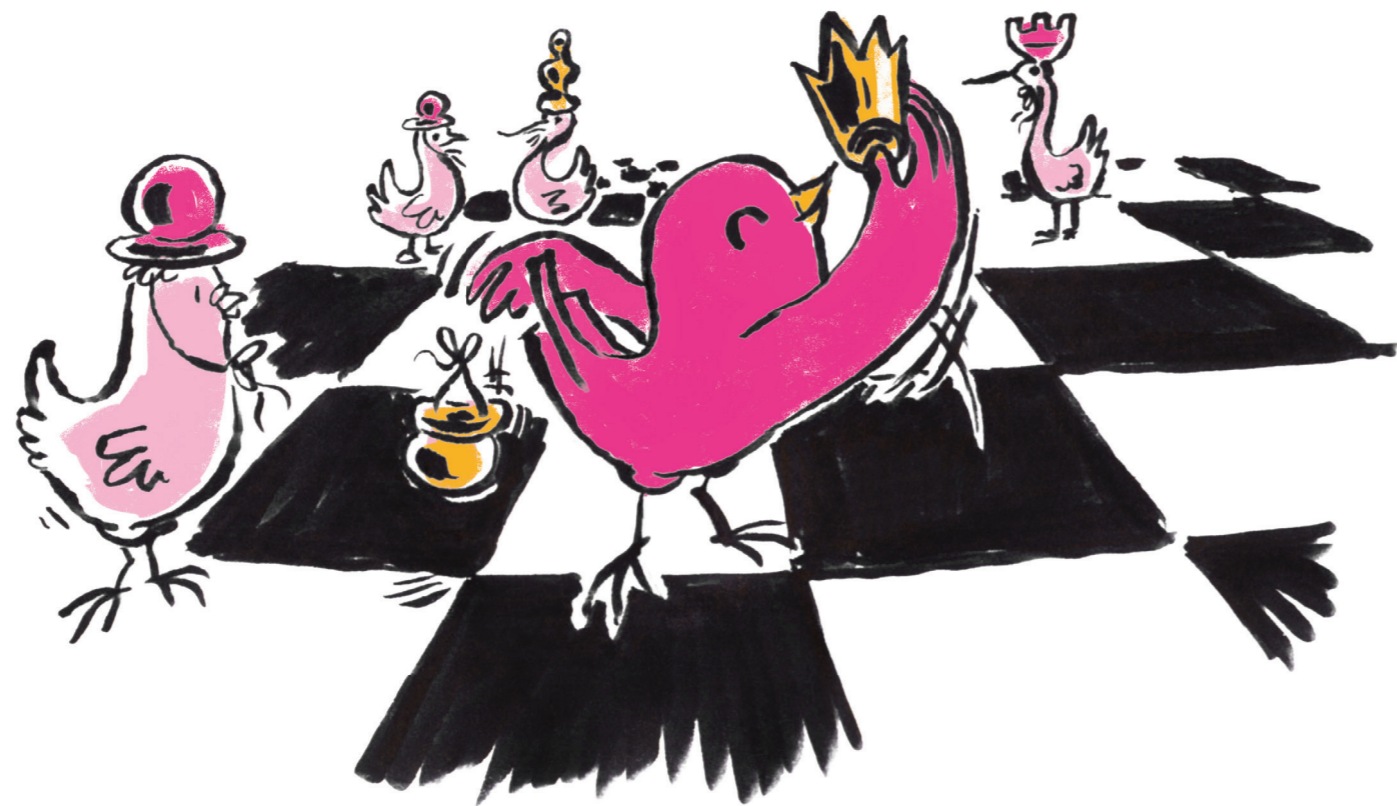
Improving living conditions (i.e. increasing economic capital) **must not be seen as an end in itself, but in relation to its social context**, otherwise it can lead to conflict.



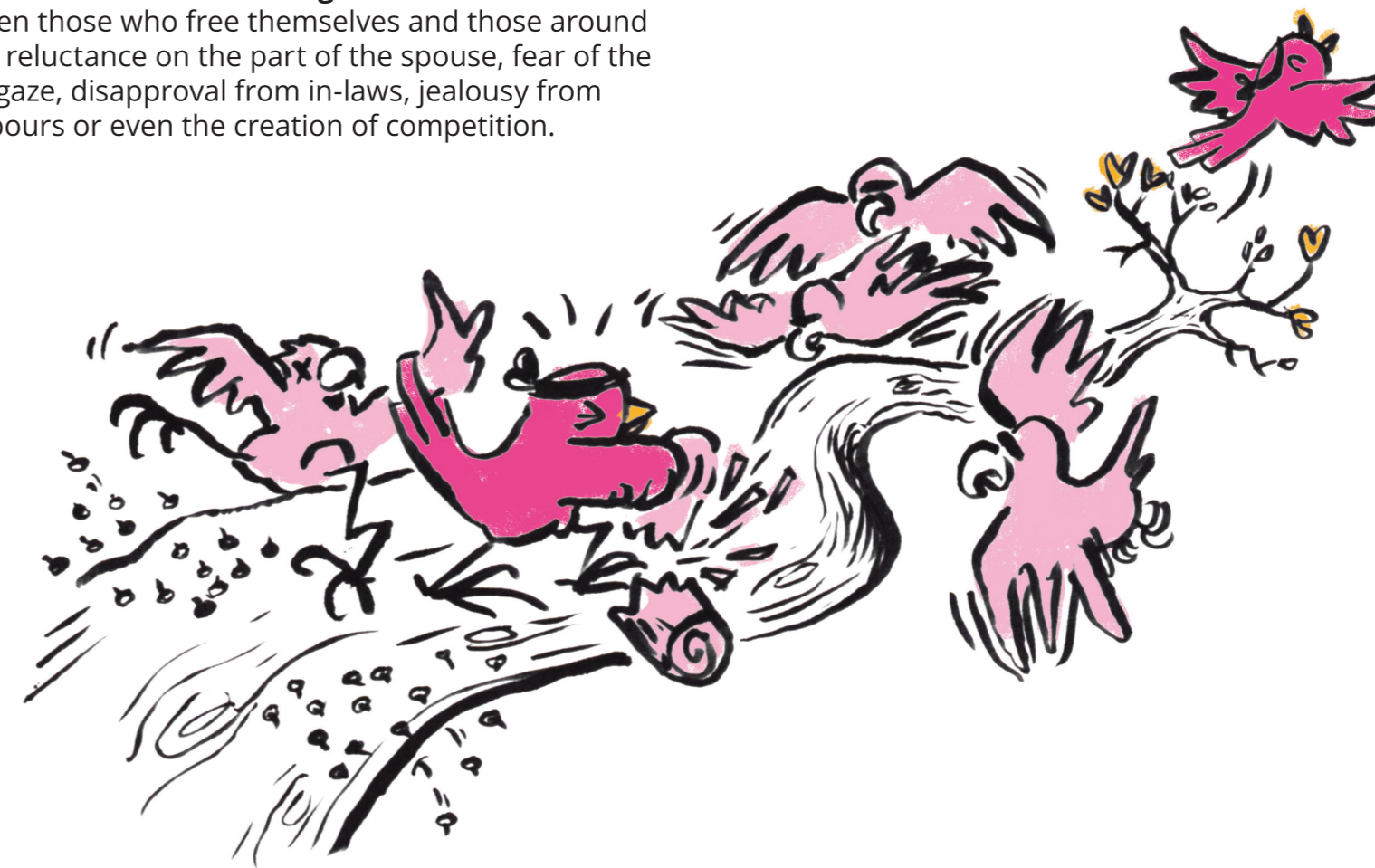


BE LIBERATED FROM RELATIONSHIPS OF DOMINATION TO TRIGGER THE POWERS TO ACT

As people's abilities evolve, so does the way they relate to others (children, families, neighbours, communities), calling into question the (sometimes highly unequal) pre-existing balance, i.e. the way in which the relationship was established.



Working on relationships of domination is a process that can lead to a certain degree of relational violence between those who free themselves and those around them : reluctance on the part of the spouse, fear of the social gaze, disapproval from in-laws, jealousy from neighbours or even the creation of competition.

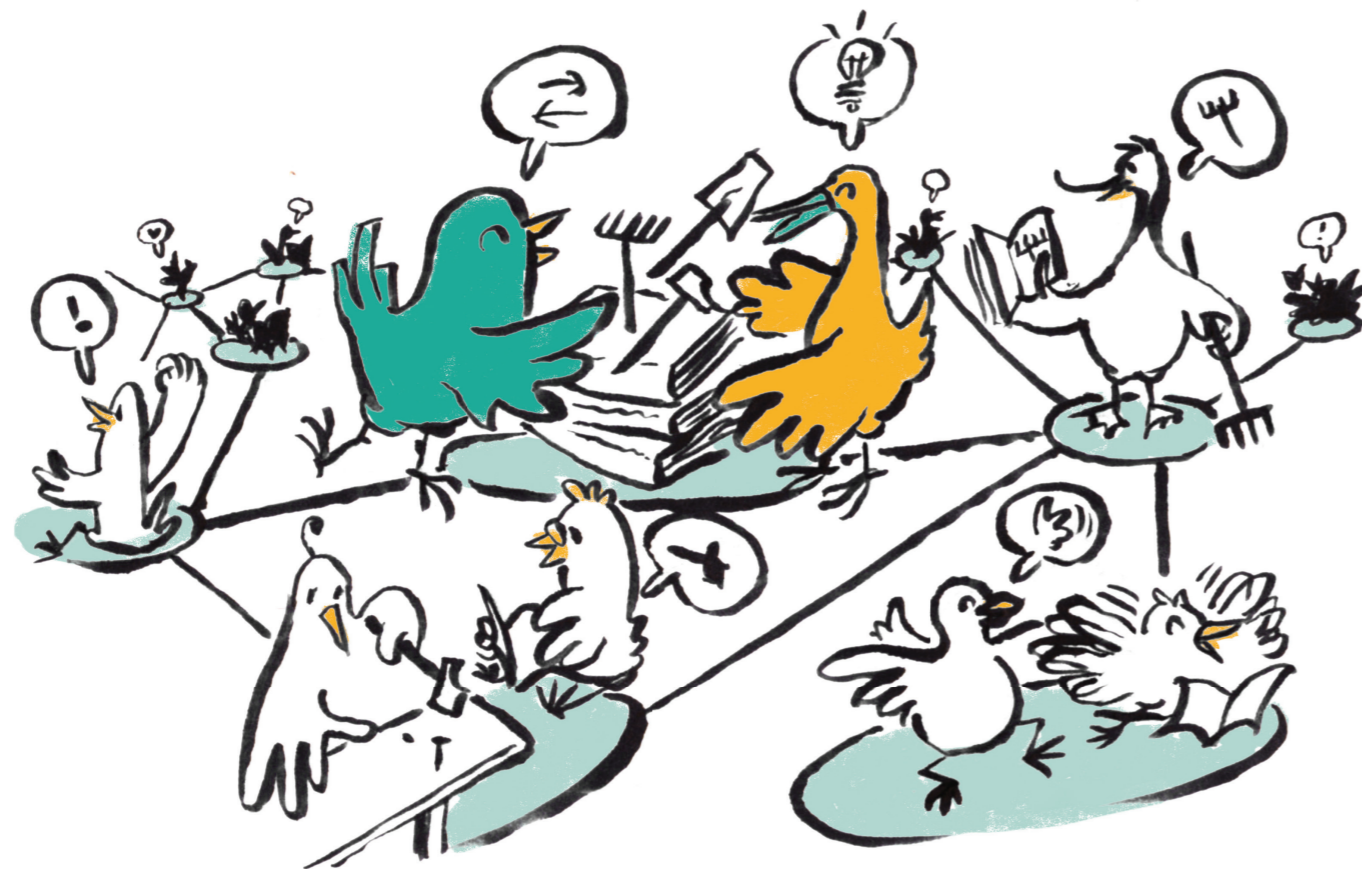




TRAIN FOR EMANCIPATION

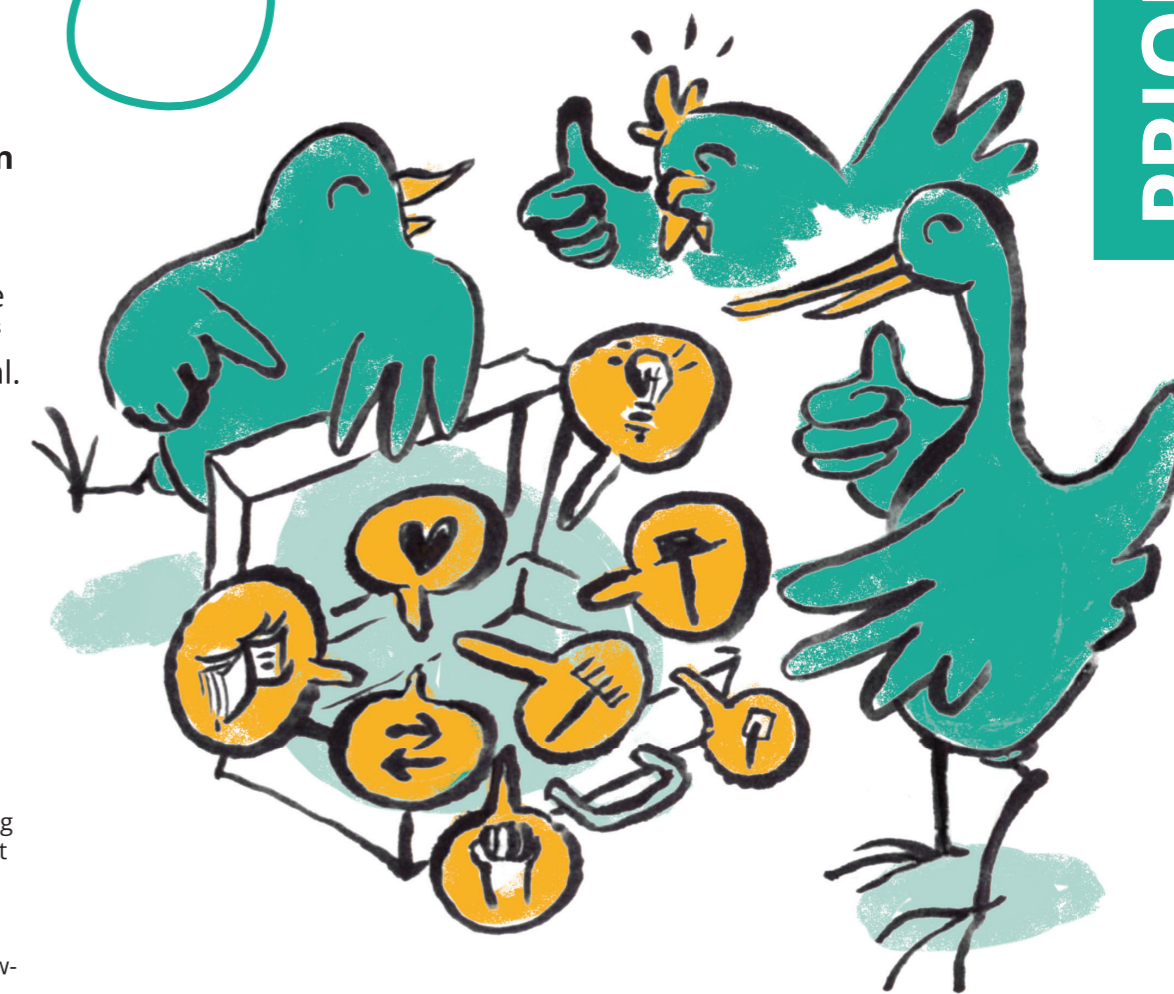
Acquiring knowledge, according to studies, enables us to develop resources that can be passed on or exchanged, and thus to better integrate into society.

The fact that people share what they have learned on their own can be used as an indicator the study of impacts, since it demonstrates that the training content is relevant and appropriate, on the one hand, and that people have reached a level of mastery of the content that enables them to disseminate it, on the other.



This logic places people in a "give-and-take" relationship² and helps **to establish less unequal social relations, based as they are on greater reciprocity of exchanges.**

The acquisition of new, more specific knowledge enables people to increase their cultural capital³ which they can use to develop their social capital.



2. Concept by Marcel Mauss, who defines gift-giving as a form of social contract, articulated around the triple obligation of "giving-receiving-giving back", and based on reciprocity, which creates a state of dependence that authorizes the permanent recreation of the social bond, in "Essai sur le don" (1925)

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



STRUCTURE AS A COLLECTIVE TO HAVE MORE POWER TO ACT

Before an alliance can be established, i.e. a relationship with a group of different people (in the heterogeneous sense), there must first be a movement **to form a** (homogeneous) **peer group**. This preliminary stage enables people to gain in confidence, ability and security through peer support.

But there's a risk that people who have found a place of reassurance will remain among themselves, and the group will operate in autarky. **Forming a dynamic peer group is not an end in itself**, but a step in the right direction when the aim is to forge an alliance.



In this case, the group has a dual function: as a resource and as a base from which to **develop other relationships, either individually or collectively**.



The two functions can be in tension within projects, whose objective **of structuring and strengthening a cluster tends to overshadow that of encouraging cluster members to join networks or relationships** other than those facilitated by the project.

So, while the projects have developed considerable expertise in creating and leading peer groups, it seems that the function of opening up to the outside world still needs to be developed and strengthened for some of them.



BUILD ALLIANCES BASED ON THE NON-REPRODUCTION OF RELATIONS OF DOMINATION

Studies showing that alliances have been forged in the course of projects show that the relationship between groups of vulnerable people, local authorities and the community evolves when these populations demonstrate that they can have a positive impact on the situation of other vulnerable members of the community. This creates a virtuous dynamic rather than competition between vulnerable people. **The groups not only defend their own interests, but also contribute to social progress.**



This outward sharing of peer groups greatly modifies the perception of local authorities, or the community, of the social role that these populations are able to assume. **These populations gain legitimacy**, which in turn increases their symbolic capital⁴.



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



EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

According to the study reports, political involvement (aimed at modifying public policies as such) by the general public remains rather low.

However, these reports show a **high level of commitment when it comes to taking action on concrete, everyday issues.**

This reverses a certain intervention logic which assumes that political awareness of the militant kind is required before taking action, whereas commitment can be achieved through action on the living environment, and **then, for some people, lead to the assumption of political responsibility.**



It's interesting to work on the different scales of citizen mobilization: geographical perimeters, objectives, levels of concern, and so on.

For example, intervention at neighbourhood level will enable households to discuss their day-to-day difficulties; whereas intervention at district level will take greater account of systemic factors that can be the subject of advocacy.



QUESTIONS TO ASK OURSELVES

To guide our thinking, here are a few avenues to explore when setting up and monitoring/evaluating our projects :

PRIORITY 1

- Are the people who take part in the project's activities improving their material situation in a direct and concrete way ? Who benefits from the income generated by the project ?
- How do family and friends perceive changes in people's material situation ?
- How is the entourage taken into account in the project ?

PRIORITY 2

- Do people encounter "relational obstacle" to the evolution of their position ? How did they overcome these obstacles ?
- How does the project address the question of the evolution of social status, with a view to creating a space and activities that will help develop relationships with those around us ?

PRIORITY 3

- Is the training designed in such a way that at least part of it can be put into practice immediately and shared easily ? Has the trainee shared what he or she has learned with others ? If so, what type of content and how ?
- Has the trainee developed new social relationships ? If so, what kind ? What do these new exchanges bring ?

PRIORITY 4

- *For civil society organisations* : How can we encourage members of a peer group to develop relationships with people outside the group, either individually or collectively ?
- Have the groups you support opened up to the outside world ? If so, how and why ?

PRIORITY 5

- Does the project include activities for meeting other stakeholders, identifying common causes, and formalising these collaborations, categorising the types of stakeholders, the methods of collaboration, and the objects ? How do these «alliances» work, and what are their social effects ?
- How would you describe the attitude of the authorities (local, regional, national) towards the group before the project, during the project, after the project: ignorance, tension, nuisance, recognition, cordiality, invitation, solicitation... ?

PRIORITY 6

- Are the people involved in the project engaged in local actions for social change aimed at transforming community life ? If so, in what way and on what scale ?
- Are these initiatives being replicated by other stakeholders and in other regions ?



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