

8.3 Empowerment Scorecard for Groups

Purpose: to measure the level of empowerment of a group and to see progress over time. In a positive scenario, conducting the tool by the group will also trigger empowerment of the group, since they become aware of their own process.

Participants: a formal group such as a SHG, a producer group or a CLA. This can include groups of youth, women, men, farmers, teachers, parents or others.

Duration: 120-150 minutes

Materials: Empowerment scorecard, pens, documentation of previous exercises

Rationale:

The interventions of organizations supported by Red een Kind often include working with groups of people. Groups of youths, farmers, community members, women, parents or others. While such groups often have specific purposes, they often also have the objective to contribute to empowerment of the members. Getting insight in this process of empowerment is not easy and is therefore rarely done. The scorecard offers an instrument that can be used to get insight in the status of empowerment. And while groups discuss their empowerment, such discussions may themselves be empowering and lead to further improvements in people's situations. The intention is that the use of this scorecard leads to direct benefits for the group that spends its time on it, while it also provides useful information to Red een Kind and its partner organizations. The approach is most useful when the exercise is repeated regularly, such as every six months.

Process: Groups can do this exercise with an external facilitator, who guides them through the process and provides some explanations where needed. But groups can also decide to have this discussion without external facilitation. In this case, one member must be familiar with the design of the scorecard. During the discussions, it would be best to work with negotiated consensus as much as possible: group members put their arguments forward until they reach an agreement over the score.

The group itself determines how they define empowerment. The empowerment scorecard itself has 8 dimensions of empowerment identified: *Enabling a safe environment, Resilience, Self-esteem, Participation, Knowledge, skills & practices, Ownership, Networks and partnerships, Access to public services*

Each dimension is discussed in the group. The group discusses whether the dimension is applicable or not. If not applicable, the group records the reasons why it isn't. If applicable, the issues related to this dimension are discussed, as well as the "(nearly) ideal situation" (or it is developed when using the empty scorecard). These specific issues can be included or skipped and other issues can be added as relevant. The group then rates itself for this dimension and discusses what can be done to improve the situation. The focus of such discussion should be on what actions the group can take, so that there are real possibilities to indeed perform the action. This can also include actions, where group members stimulate others to take actions.

In the same way, each of the dimensions is discussed and rated or skipped over. After discussing all dimensions, other dimensions can be added as well and when the group feels this is relevant to their empowerment. These dimensions are rated in the same manner.