



“Empowerment is a process that enables people and their organizations to be, make and decide by themselves”

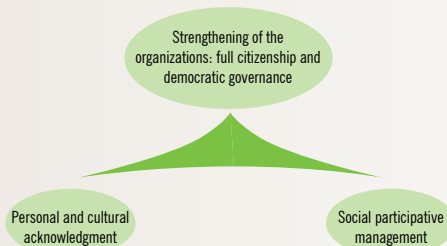
From 2005 to 2007, ASOCAM Network generated a regional process of experiences and good practices sharing about Empowerment Practices, with the participation of twenty seven social organizations, development organizations and public institutions in Latin America. A Latin American Seminar on the topic was organized, for which ten experiences were systematized in five countries. Important orientations for improving the practices of this subject were collectively generated.



Social Empowerment

Oriented to build a solid social and institutional tissue that promotes an approach of actors' leadership.

Levels of social empowerment



Strategies for implementing it

- **Personal development:** formation cycle for the capacity valorization
- **Organization strengthening:** towards a policy of alliance and synergy
- **Social participative management**
- **Cultural respect**

Politic Empowerment

Aimed at the transformation of excluding power relations, so that social groups build, in a democratic and equitable way, the decisions regarding the improvement of their lives' quality.

Levels of politic empowerment



Strategies for making it operative

- Citizenship strengthening
- Sensitization and information
- Political will
- Organizational and Institutional strengthening
- Construction of a vision and common agenda.
- Participative planning
- Joint management
- Accountability, social control, monitoring and evaluation.



Economic Empowerment

Oriented to extend the opportunities so that each person is able to provide him/herself and the family his/her livelihood, by means of his/her own effort.

Empowered popular or peasant economic organizations Characteristics

- Economic-social benefit
- Entry to the market
- Entrepreneurial organization
- Business management
- Appropriate tools for the strategic and operative management
- Future vision
- Good flow of information and communication
- Shared values

How to build them...

- Identification of the potential of the small producers
- Business idea
- Market opportunities survey
- Feasibility analysis
- Organization and strengthening of the enterprise
- Productive chains analysis
- Strategic plan and business plan
- Capabilities development
- Implementation of the economic initiative
- Support services
- Control, follow up, measurement and evaluation

Empowerment and interrelations between its political, social and economic dimensions



Contributions to Empowerment monitoring

Indicators for social, politic and economic empowerment available in the document: "Empowerment: concepts and orientations" (see link for downloading it, below)

Available documents on the topic:

"Empowerment: concepts and orientations". Series "Reflections and Lessons Learned"

www.asocam.org/biblioteca/ASO_RA_Empoderamiento.pdf

Thematic Synthesis

www.asocam.org/biblioteca/ASO_SIN_Emp.pdf

Power Point Presentation of Key Orientations

www.asocam.org/biblioteca/ASO_Empoderamiento.ppt

"Empowerment: taking the reins?" Debate Series

www.asocam.org/biblioteca/ASO_DEB_Empod_completo.pdf

"Empowerment practices" Seminar Synopsis

Document www.asocam.org/biblioteca/ASO_SEM_Empoderamiento.pdf

CD www.asocam.org/CD/CD_Empoderamiento/index.html

Empowerment Thematic Library

CD www.asocam.org/CD/CD_Empoderamiento_biblio/index.html

Empowerment Thematic CD

CD www.asocam.org/CD/CD_Emp_tematico/index.html



Acknowledgments

A special acknowledgment to Patricio Crespo, Philippe de Rham, Glenda González, Pablo Iturralde, Byron Jaramillo, Lorena Mancero, Martha Moncada, Artemio Pérez, Carlos Soria and Ana María Larrea, for their contributions to the proposal.