

RURAL DEVELOPMENT through DECENT WORK

FOR GROWTH, PRODUCTIVE JOBS, INCOME, FOOD SECURITY, GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, RIGHTS, VOICE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CRISIS RESILIENCE

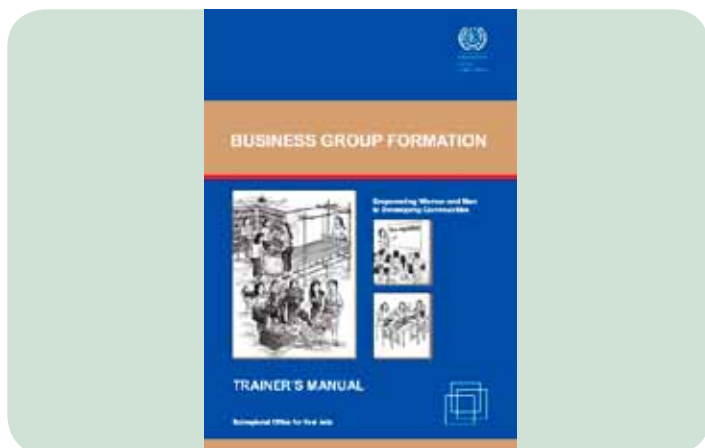


International Labour Office

Rural-Relevant Tools

People

Business Group Formation: Empowering Women and Men in Developing Communities



What is the Business Group Formation manual?

A trainer's manual, in use since 2008, designed to support organizations working with different producers' groups in order to help them increase their economy of scale and address common challenges

For whom?

- **Direct beneficiaries:** Trainers from organizations working with women and men in developing communities to start or strengthen business group formation initiatives
- **Ultimate beneficiaries:** Women and men in developing communities

For what purpose?

- Enhance women and men in poor communities' income generating activities and thereby improve the quality of life of their families and communities
- Help trainers promote group formation as a way to empower women and men in low income communities
- Facilitate the process of group formation and development for joint production, business and/or social activities, such as buying raw materials together, sharing business premises, joint marketing and mutual assistance in coping with family emergencies
- Address inequities and power imbalances between men and women of various income classes by helping to strengthen members' self-confidence, status and voice

How is it delivered?

- Training of trainers
- Training
- Used in workshops



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What are its components?

Fourteen Sessions:

- Introduction
- User Guide
- Session 1: Introduction of participants and expectations
- Session 2: What is Business Group Formation?
- Session 3: Self-assessment and needs inventory
- Session 4: Gender equality in business groups
- Session 5: Advantages and disadvantages of working as a group
- Session 6: What can we do together? Identification of common activities
- Session 7: Who does what?
- Session 8: Group rules and principles
- Session 9: How to be a good leader
- Session 10: Working together
- Session 11: Communication
- Session 12: Problem solving
- Session 13: Financial aspects of doing business together
- Session 14: Action planning

Which technical areas are covered?

- Gender
- Entrepreneurship
- Core work and life skills

Can it cover more technical areas?

Yes, the training materials can be used in interventions addressing livelihoods improvement



Where has it been used?

In 3 countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Mongolia

Successfully mainstreamed into Cambodian national policy

Which languages?

Available in 3 languages: English, Khmer and Laotian

Is it suitable for rural areas?

- Yes, it can be used for all producer groups

What are its strengths?

- Easy to use
- Can be used by a wide range of agencies reaching out to different marginalized groups (indigenous and tribal peoples, people living with disabilities, people with HIV/AIDS)
- The modular approach, which allows partner-agencies to adapt the training programme to their target groups
- The participatory learning approach, which aims to enhance the capacity of trainees –members or potential members of informal business groups – to set up, manage and strengthen their groups
- Combines well with other skills and enterprise development tools

Is there a training course in ITC-Turin?

No



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Where to find more information?

- Webpage:
<http://www.ilo.org/wed>
- The tool is available at:
http://www.ilo.org/empent/Whatwedo/Publications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_116164/index.htm

Who to contact?

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