

# Power Mapping

## Objectives

To identify stakeholders who might be supportive, neutral or actively oppose an activity or project, and to reveal important linkages and constraints according to the perceptions of different groups and participants, either within an organisation and/or within a certain institutional context, for example a village structure or an institutional environment.

## Materials

A flipchart, chalk on a concrete floor, a stick in the sand or pens, paper, scissors, tape/glue.

## Time

45 minutes–1 hour

## Procedure

The exercise is quite similar to the Venn Diagram. However, this time the paper (or whatever background material is used) is divided into two areas: support and opposition, both separated by a line indicating a neutral zone. You should write down the different stakeholders on different types of paper (i.e. using different colours and sizes, etc.; photos and pictures can also be useful) and arrange them in relation to the objective/target you want to achieve, and in relation to each other. Their size should vary according to the importance of the particular stakeholder or institution. The distance between the different circles (or their overlapping) indicates the intensity of contact and mutual influence.

## Group methodology

- **One group:** Conducting a Power Mapping exercise together may facilitate discussion between members of an organisation or ones acting in a certain environment about linkages, constraints and the structure in general as well as about stakeholders that may support, be neutral or actively oppose an activity or project.
- **Several groups:** Participants should join a group either according to what they know about an organisation or according to hierarchy/department. Each group then conducts a Power Mapping exercise for their organisation. The different diagrams are then exhibited, and key differences and underlying causes are analysed and discussed.

## Example

**Objective/Target:** Improve the accessibility to schools for children with disabilities

