

CHECKLIST: USING STORYTELLING IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Producing a story

The following are issues to discuss when holding activities of production of stories.

- Think about the main characters in your story and why you included them.
- Consider the advantages and disadvantages of including yourself in the story.
- In your story, identify the event that 'happens' to the characters in the story and discuss why this event is important for the lives of the characters and their community.
- Ask yourself in what ways the story reflects your own life and/or the reality of your community.
- Reflect on any ways in which your story can offer an alternative to how things are now. For example, can you think about what the characters would need to do for a positive end to your story or for their future? The key here is to ask, "What if?" and see where your answer takes you.
- Ask yourself what you want people to think about after listening to or reading your story. How can you achieve this?

Telling stories

The following are issues to discuss when holding activities aimed at disseminating stories.

- Venue.* Make a list of all the potential outlets to tell others about your creation. Some examples are:
 - community centre;
 - streets, which are useful for theatre and other performing arts;
 - shared spaces such as parks or squares.

Ask yourself what would be the ideal outlet to convey your story and, if such a space is not available, consider the possibility of lobbying for the enablement of common spaces.

- Materials.* Consider the resources you need for telling your story. These do not need to be complex and you can start with materials at home (pencil and paper, coloured pens, musical instruments made of recycled materials).
- Promotion.* Ask yourself why people need to know about your story or the story that you want to tell them.
- Follow-up action.* Reflect on possibilities to extend the exercise of storytelling further by acting upon the reasons you identified for promotion. For example, if you and a group of other youths are performing a piece of street theatre with a message on hygiene when preparing food, it might be worth following up with a discussion group later on to check the effects of your performance on the community.