

ACTIVITY 3:

Movement ecosystem: sample responses for 'organise and educate'

Materials: Display a large copy of A movement ecosystem, and provide copies as a handout; flipchart paper, six large strategy cards for each work table. Plus, for Step 2, dot stickers of different colours

Plenary: Refer to the definition of strategy:

Strategy is a collaborative process that guides people, organisations and movements towards achieving systemic, structural, and material change for justice and belonging.

Any strategy includes short- and medium-term actions in pursuit of long-term goals. A movement-building strategy specifies how organising, leadership-development, alliances and joint action build capacity over time to advance the values and vision. In a context of constant flux, think of strategy as the compass that orients decision-making and informs short-, medium-, and long-term actions and processes.

Step 1: World café

Plenary: Place one of the six strategy cards on each of six work tables. Invite people to group themselves by strategy, ensuring equal numbers per table.

Small groups: Each group appoints a note-taker who stays at the same table. The rest of the group moves from one table to another for three rounds of 10 to 15 minutes per round. At each table, the group discusses:

- WHAT does this strategy accomplish in relation to building and changing power?
- WHY is this strategy critical in relation to the others and for achieving change?
- HOW is this strategy carried out? What does it look like in practice?
- WHEN is this strategy most useful?
- WHO should be involved and how?
- WHERE is this strategy used?

The note-taker summarises the first round and adds new points from subsequent rounds.

Plenary: The whole group moves together from one table to the next. Each note-taker summarises the key points from that table.

Movement ecosystem: sample responses

WHAT?	Shared understanding and analysis of the issues, a space for re-imagining the future, and a collective vision of change
WHY?	<i>Power within, to, with and for</i> ; a base of activist leaders and a broader interconnected 'meshwork' of organisations in alignment to expand reach and navigate risk and opportunity; validate and celebrate values, vision, agendas, joy, and critical connections
HOW?	Popular education, community organising, storytelling, joint analysis, dialogue and collective planning; mutual learning around lived experience, identifying common problems; building collective and individual leadership, agendas and coordination; care and healing; dancing, creativity and joy
WHEN?	Ongoing: to build trust, coordinate capacity at all levels
WHO?	Centring those most affected; ensuring they are at the heart and in the forefront of organising, leadership, and representation
WHERE?	Local and national levels, with cross-border connections and networks

Step 2: Where are we in the movement ecosystem?

The Movement Ecosystem helps us to situate our organisations and our change strategies in a given context and moment in time, and in relation to the many other different actors, groups, and forms of activism and influence that contribute to the change we are seeking. No single organisation or activist can do every strategy, so the ecosystem guides us to think about our identity, niche, and strengths along with the possible gaps in our strategy and alignment, and to consider where we can build alliances and coordinate better.

Plenary: Hand out three different colours of dot stickers to each person (or use three colours of markers to draw dots). Thinking about the identified strategies, and allowing for overlap:

- Place a dot of one colour on the strategies you are most engaged with (use more than one dot if you work in more than one area).
- Place a dot of the second colour on areas where allies or others you know are engaged.
- Place a dot of the third colour areas where there seem to be gaps, or where you may need to stretch or adopt strategies.

Review the results and ask:

- What are your main assets, resources and areas of strategic focus?
- In what areas are others working? Who are they and what are they doing?
- With whom are you in relationship or alliance? With whom are you not connected?
- Where are the gaps or areas you (or others) may need to stretch into?
- Where do you need to build capacities, relationships, and alliances to move your agenda forward?

Use lines to connect the groups and efforts where relationships and alignment can be strengthened or developed; a dotted line for areas of coordination and a solid line to show formal alliances or collaboration to develop.