Possible Barriers to Mobilisation

Note: The barriers encountered depend upon each specific context; the history, culture, power and governance structures. Therefore, carrying out the initial baseline studies and assessments are essential for a greater understanding of how these different issues affect the citizens; their participation in governing processes and access to services.

B1. ***The fear of the possible risks that go hand in hand with political empowerment***. If the citizens think that they may be victimized or otherwise harmed by the local elites or those holding power in the area, they could be reluctant to be part of a group.

B2. ***The time to engage in SA group work because citizens could be preoccupied with trying to earn a living***. Many poor people exist from hand to mouth. Subsistence farmers have to work hard on their farms just to grow enough food for themselves. Such people could well find it hard to give time to a SA initiative.

B3. ***Economic status of the beneficiaries***. If being part of a group meaning reserving time that could have been spent on other duties and tasks.

B4. ***Group dynamics***. These may alienate some people and prevent them from feeling comfortable enough to become members. For example, if a group consists of many elites or powerful people in the area, the poor may feel inadequate in their presence and therefore not join (negative self-perception).

B5. ***Gender perspectives***. The different gender roles that exist in an area could present a barrier to who can join a group. For example if the socio-cultural norms specify that women cannot relate with men or that they may not be seen in public without a chaperone, this might present a challenge in these women's ability to join and participate in groups. This would call for a different approach to group formation.

B6. ***Lack of capacity among the citizens***. Because of poverty and marginalization, citizens might lack the capacity to organize themselves into groups without intensive facilitation from the outside.

Sum: By having discussion sessions about possible challenges they might encounter during mobilization, citizens would be better prepared to deal with them. Failure to do this could lead to disillusion and failure of the mobilization process.