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## Success ranking in Garba Tulla, Kenya

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### • Introduction

Success ranking is an adaptation of the wealth ranking technique and was first used in the evaluation of a restocking project in Garba Tulla in Isiolo District in north eastern Kenya. The Catholic mission had initiated a restocking project to help displaced families go back to a 'traditional' pastoral way of life, by giving them goats. ITDG was asked to evaluate the project.

Formal monitoring had failed to yield useful information on the success of the project due to the distances that pastoralists move and also the low literacy levels of the people involved in the monitoring. To get a clearer picture of the actual impact of the programme it was necessary for the evaluation team to use PRA techniques as well as to continue to analyse the formal data already collected. Success ranking was one of the PRA techniques used.

### • Success ranking

The objective of the success ranking was to determine each individual household's level of success and to elicit the local people's perception of success. In addition, the findings were used to select a stratified random sample for conducting a flock census, and also to give the evaluation team an idea of the levels of success of the individual restocked families.

The procedure was as follows:

- A list of all restocked households was obtained in each of the four *manyattas* where restocking had taken place (*manyattas* are town residential areas based loosely on traditional units);
- Informants (both men and women, most of whom had been restocked) from these *manyattas* were then asked to rank households according to their perception of the household's success;
- The informants were asked to say what criteria they had used for deciding the level of success and also the most important determinants for success and/or failure;
- Piles were reviewed with each individual or group informant, and cross-checking was done;
- Final ranks were worked out by taking an average rank of each household (each household was ranked by at least four different informants). Discrepancies were investigated and final scores were worked out; and,
- The households were then grouped into four ranks, with rank one being the most successful and rank four the least successful.

The results from two of the *manyattas* were as follows:

**Table 1. Number of restocked households in each success rank by *Manyatta***

Success Rank	Dhemo <i>manyatta</i>	Prison <i>manyatta</i>
1	9	5
2	12	5
3	9	4
4	9	9
Total	39	23

The criterion most commonly used for success was the number of animals a household had left. Sometimes this was precise and sometimes it was an estimate - within a range of plus or minus 5 to 10 animals. Other criteria included the health of those animals and the distance from town that those households had settled (it was assumed that the further one was from town, the more successful). Other determinants of success included whether the family had another source of income; the knowledge and skills of the shepherd and the size and maturity of the family (families with very young children were deemed unlikely to succeed).

The success ranking enabled the evaluation team to see how effective the programme had been, and also what the constraints had been for those families who had not been very successful.

Other sources of information confirmed that an alternative source of income was a very important factor in the success of individual families in the restocking. One of the conclusions of the evaluation team was that although restocking was a good idea, restocked families either needed food for the first year of being restocked, or they needed to be restocked with more animals if they were to resume successfully their pastoral way of life (households in Garba Tulla were restocked with 40 goats and one transport animal per family).

## • **Conclusions**

The main advantage of using success ranking was that a lot of useful information was collected and analysed on the spot. It was an easy technique to use in this case, as the pastoralists all knew about each other and were able to accurately assess each other. Apart from the information on how many livestock the people had left, we were also able to learn about local people's perception of success and their analysis of failure. In both cases their analysis was very logical and contributed to the conclusions drawn by the evaluation team.

Another advantage of using ranking as a way of collecting information is that informants are more in control of the process of collecting

information. People handle the cards themselves, they decide the criteria they want to use and they justify why each criterion is important. Because it is very relaxed, people enjoy doing it, which makes the whole process of collecting information easier and it generates a great deal of information very rapidly.

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