

PP4SD Financial Sector Programme - Spaceship Exercise Notes

Participants should be divided into groups of 5 or 6 for this exercise.

Part 1 of Exercise:

Congratulations - you are going away for a long weekend in space with everything provided – think ‘the Paris Ritz’ in space.

Food, water and spacesuits are provided. What other ten things would you take with you?

Give the group time to create a list and then invite groups to report back. Many of the items may be frivolous, luxury goods rather than essentials.

Part 2 of Exercise:

Disaster strikes! The situation has changed - you are now being evacuated from Earth for 25 years in a spaceship that has its own propulsion and large windows but nothing else.

What ten things do you take with you?

Give the groups a little longer to form their lists. Now the items are likely to be essentials that are needed for survival.

Issues to draw out in feedback:

- What about waste?
- Food or systems to provide food?
- Energy from where?
- Justice systems?
- Weapons or not?

Issues to draw out in wrap-up:

- What is the difference between the two lists?
- Highlight short term / long term.
- We take much for granted / priorities are very different.
- Who / how do you make decisions on the spaceship? Examine potential rights and responsibilities.
- Who would you want on the spaceship? Lawyers or doctors?
- Who do you think would get on the spaceship?
- Who has the right to decide who goes?

Key last question:

- Does the spaceship already exist? Yes, it's the Earth.