4.4 The Secret Box

Purpose: to appreciate the importance of getting in touch with local community groups, which forms a basis for mutual cooperation, trust building and affects long-lasting change

Participants: representatives from different groups in the community

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Materials: a box, and 10-12 different objects that fit in the box and a cloth to blindfold a person

Process: Three people are chosen for this role-play (at least one of them a lady). A card box will be filled with different materials that vary in color, shape and function.

The three participants step in front of the audience one by one. The first participant (who represents someone from the area who travels a lot, is often gone) is blindfolded and can only shake the box to determine what is in the box, the second person (who represents someone who travels once in a while) is blindfolded but can also feel what is in the box and the third person, a female person (who is a local person who travels little) can see and feel the items. Each of the participants needs to say what he/she thinks is in the box. They get marks for the number of items they mention correctly.

Reflection: Why did the locally traveled lady get more marks than the widely traveled person? Why did the widely traveled person get few marks? Give examples of these people in development, people who just listen? Give examples of people who just touch. Give examples of the last person who was able to see, touch, hear, engage in consulting etc. What does the box symbolize? Who knows what is happening in the community? Who often makes plans for the community? Who should be making the plans?

Conclusion: Community members should participate in the development process as they know the context best.