

## 8.2 Most Significant Change (MSC)

**Purpose:** Hear from the community members what changes in the community are considered the most significant through storytelling.

**Participants:** groups of people who feel comfortable to share stories amongst each other (these can be men, youth, women and children).

**Duration:** about 60 minutes for collecting significant change stories at community level, another 120 minutes in selecting the most significant one.

**Materials:** pens and paper

**Process:** A group of people is asked in advance to think about what they feel are the most significant changes that have taken place in the community. This can be on a particular topic such as hygiene, child protection or agricultural production. A question is formulated, which can be specific or more general, such as “what is most significant change that has taken place in the area of food security over the past year?” The question is asked during the meeting with that particular group. The facilitator uses probing questions such as “why?” and “how?” to get a clear understanding about the change that has taken place.

Essential in the MSC approach is the methodology of the selection of stories. Since many significant stories are collected in the data collection phase, there is a large pool from which to pick the most significant one. First, community members themselves can select 10 of the most significant stories, the ones that from their perspective are most representative of the program.

After people have had the opportunity to share their stories, the group splits into smaller groups which decide on most significant story among all the stories. A total of 2-3 stories will come forward describing the most significant changes.

When selecting stories for program M&E, a group of program staff can make a selection of 3 stories out of the 10 to add their own perspective. Finally another final panel of program managers/ directors can select the most representative one, which can be published and shared.