

## **Pairwise ranking**

**Description:** A comparison tool to understand which issues need to be

addressed first by the community.

Goals of the session: To prioritise and select the most important issues that need

to be addressed by the community.

Target group: Men, women, elders, youth and children.

The groups can be mixed, however children (8-13 and 14-18 years old) will be in their own groups. Groups should not

have more than 10 participants.

Preparation time: 15 minutes.

Duration: 1 hour.

Materials: Can be drawn on the ground using symbols or it can be

drawn on a flipchart.

Copyright: Freely usable.

## For the facilitator

It is very important for this session that Help a Child Country office staff is invited. It helps to understand the priorities of the community and to manage expectations. On the one hand, the aim is to align the Community Action Plan with the vision of the CCCD program. On the other hand, the aim is to see what external linkages are needed to meet the needs of the community. The introduction of Help a Child towards the community (and vice versa) is also a very important element in this final step of the Community Challenge.

## **Process**

Within previous exercises, community members have already thought about the issues at play in the community. Once again, think about these issues and make a list of things that the community really would like to change. These can be issues that have been discussed before in other exercises, but also new issues can come up. It is important, however, that these issues are issues that the community feels they can do something about. After you make a list of the things you feel you can, as a community, do something about, choose 10 of them and plot them in the *Pairwise* graph to show the priority of what you need to do first. The items in the *Pairwise Ranking* are arranged horizontally and vertically. But before making the graph, you do it on the ground for those who cannot write to be able to understand.

The 10 issues are plotted horizontally and vertically. Then they are compared with one another. Write down the issue that is more important to the community. After the entire table is filled in, the frequency of all the issues is counted. Based on the frequency, the issues are ranked from 1 to 10, with 1 being the top priority (and mentioned most often) and 10 the



lowest priority (mentioned the least). The community facilitators are expected to go through this process at the community level with the community itself and not in their offices. It is also important to note that issues will differ across communities (and even within the same community across different groups) and so will priorities.

For the children: the same procedure can be done in the children's groups. However, the facilitator brings a list of issues that came from previous exercises to give the children a clear overview. This is not done with the adults. Do give children the space to come up with other issues. The issues from previous exercises plus any new issues raised by the children, will then be reviewed to decide which are the ten most pressing issues. These 10 issues will be subjected to the *Pairwise Ranking*.

After the rankings are made, compare the rankings from all the groups, including the children's group and discuss the similarities and differences. The output from this exercise can serve as input for the Community Action Plan session later on in the process.

For more tools and information, go to our <u>Participatory Toolbox</u>.

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