

Seasonal Calendar

Description:

Goals of the session:

A tool to identify recurring patterns of life in a community. Initiate a discussion about patterns of life and regularly occurring events within the different community groups and how they influence the community's wellbeing, in particular that of children.

Target group:

Separate groups of 8-10 men, women, youth, and children.

Preparation time:

30 minutes.

Duration:

45-60 minutes.

Materials:

Use flipcharts, pens, markers,

Copyright:

Freely usable.

Process

Start off with a discussion on the different seasons recognized by the community. These can be 3-4 seasons. Discuss in which months they take place. When the seasons, their timing and order is agreed upon, discuss what characterizes these seasons. Questions to consider include:

- What are the weather patterns in the different seasons?
- What do community members/the different groups in the community do in the different seasons?
 - o At home?
 - o In the field?
 - o At school?
- What do children do in each season?
- In what way does the season affect the health of the people in the community?
- How do the seasons affect household income?
- What social, cultural, religious activities do they have?
- When does planting and harvesting take place?
- During which season do natural hazards occur? Flooding, drought, wildfire...?

Depending on the focus of the development activities, the questions can be more focused on a particular thematic area such as health, education, disaster risk or food security.

Reflection: With regards to the wellbeing of children, the group can be asked when are the children happiest? What is the most difficult season for children? What makes life hard for children? What is done to address the hardships? How do children respond to changes in season?