# A group of children in blue uniforms Description automatically generated

Community Group Capacity Scorecard Manual

## January 2024 Version 1.0

Community Group Capacity Scorecard

The functioning and the ability to be effective in specific objectives of the groups is very useful information for the implementing partners, as well as Help a Child. This information is captured in the Group capacity scorecard. With the Community Group Capacity Scorecard, groups reflect on their own performances. They look at the functioning of their own group and the capacity of their own group. It is an inward-looking perspective, in contrast to the Community Empowerment Scorecard, which is often conducted in one flow with the Group Capacity Scorecard (not necessarily simultaneously). This tool can be done with the same group as the Community Empowerment Scorecard. The participants score 1 to 4 per question/ statement (1= far from ideal situation, 2= first steps, 3= moving on, 4= (nearly) ideal situation). The tool focuses on seven topics:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Domain | Explanation |
| Independence |  |
| Maturity of the structures |  |
| Resilience | This implies that households are capable to deal with shocks and changes. If market prices are lower, or some crops fail, or weather conditions are unfavourable, households have ways to cope with these adversities. On a personal level, people can cope with sickness and even death of family members. |
| Participation | This implies that the community has several groups and structures through which people can voice out and influence decisions that affect their lives. Such groups are respected and functional. Community leadership stimulates the participation of members, and there is attention to the voices of all groups of people. |
| Social support |  |
| Political |  |
| Networks and partnerships | The community has several groups that are linked up with wider networks. These include churches, civil society groups, linkages to NGOs, but also linkages with politics and government departments, and with business or market actors. |

## Independence

*Key issues: CBOs plan and initiate activities at community level*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| CBOs are existent but not present at all-in the community. Community members doubt the relevance of these CBOs. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | CBOs play a key role in organizing activities at community level. Without the existence of CBOs, development in the community would be far much less than it is now. |

## Maturity of the structures

*Key issues: Structures reach their maturity stage*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| Even though structures are existent, they really rely on external organisations and community facilitators to conduct their activities. They only do what they are supposed to do according to the project, and don't walk an extra mile.q | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | Community structures are able to conduct their activities without support from external organisations. The structures take initiative in organizing meetings, identifying opportunities, and strengthening themselves |

## Resilience

*Key issues:*

1. *Dealing with changing market issues (incl. prices)*
2. *Coping with sickness and death*
3. *Dealing with adverse weather conditions*
4. *Dealing with natural hazards*
5. *Dealing with other shocks*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| If negative shocks occur, such as lower market prices for crops, bad weather, poor harvests, disaster, sickness or death, community structures lose their relevance and find it difficult to play a role in overcoming these difficulties. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | Community structures are capable to play a valuable role in dealing with shocks and changes in the community. If market prices turn out to be lower, or some crops fail or weather conditions are unfavourable, community structures support households in coping with these adversities.  Especially in times of difficulty, community structures have proven their relevance in the community. |

## Participation

*Key issues:*

1. *Internal functioning of community group structures*
2. *Added value of interventions with group structures*
3. *Stimulation of participation by leadership*
4. *Attention for inclusion (gender, special needs)*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| Even if there are groups in the community, there is no real participation in them. Leadership dominates and does not really listen to voices. Certain groups of people are completely left out of all platforms for decision making. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | The community has several groups and structures through which people can voice out and have influence. Such groups are respected and functional. Community leadership stimulates participation of members and there is attention for the voices of all groups of people. |

## Social support

*Key issues: Groups are capable to support others*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| Community groups come together, but only fulfil their minimal roles and do not really take an extra effort in terms of giving others extra support. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | Community groups actively support their group members, and community groups are perceived as important social safety nets. Furthermore, groups also actively look at the larger community, to see what role they can play of others that aren't members of a community group. |

## Political

*Key issues: CBOs collaborate with government*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| The community groups have no active relations with government institutions or representatives. Trust in government is low. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | There is active collaboration between government institutions and representatives. Community groups have realistic expectations of the role of government, and are actively involving them in community affairs. |

## Networks and partnerships

*Key issues:*

1. *Functioning of churches*
2. *Functioning of CSOs, NGOs*
3. *Linkages between community (groups) and government and politics*
4. *Linkages with economic actors*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Far from ideal situation (1)** | **First steps (2)** | **Moving on (3)** | **(Nearly) ideal situation (4)** |
| Community groups have few active relations with the outside world. Churches and other groups are mainly inward looking, relations with government departments are minimal and economic linkages are few and only individual. | *Not defined, use intuitively* | *Not defined, use intuitively* | The community groups are linked up with wider networks. These include churches, civil society groups, linkages to NGOs, but also linkages with politics and government departments, and with business or market actors. |