

Parenting practices in the community

Tool

Topic	Guiding principles/ questions	1 - very bad	2 - bad	3 - fair	4 - good
Physical					
Q1. Parents in the community feel able to provide their children with the basic necessities on a daily basis (e.g. daily nutritious food, clean water, shelter and health care).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often a day do children in the community usually eat? • Is there enough food all year long? • How is the access to clean water? • How is the state of the houses? I.e. are many homes leaking? • How is the access to health facilities? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely
Q2. Parents in the community know how to protect their children child against harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of harmful risks are children in the community facing? • What can parents do to protect their children? • How are parents informed about child protection? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely
Social-Emotional					
Q3. Parents in the community know what to do when their child is sad or scared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much time do parents have to spend with their children/to talk with their children? • What do parents consider a good response when their child is sad or scared? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely

<p>Q4. Problems are hindering parents in the community to react in a good way to their children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do problems/stress influence parents' reactions to their children? • Are parents easily angry, or can they control their problems/emotions? • How do parents deal with their problems? Do their problems influence their daily functioning? 	Yes, completely	Most of the time	A little	No, not at all
Cognitive					
<p>Q5. Parents in the community are able to send their children to school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an ECD center in your community? • Is there a primary school in your community? And a secondary school? • How is the school attendance of children in the community? What are the reasons that children are not attending an ECD center? What are the reasons that children are not attending primary school? What are the reasons that children are not attending secondary school? • Are parents in the community able to pay the school fees? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely
<p>Q6. Parents in the community know how to stimulate children with school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do parents help their children with schoolwork? • How do parents encourage their children to go to school? • What makes it difficult for parents to stimulate their children with school? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely

Spiritual/moral					
Q7. Parents in the community feel able to share positive cultural and spiritual norms and values with their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of cultural norms and values do parents in the community share with their children? • What kind of spiritual norms and values do parents in the community share with their children? • What kind of cultural practices are passed down in the community to children? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely
Network & personal wellbeing					
Q8. Parents in the community know where to go to when they need advice on parenting issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What people in the community can parents go to when they need advice on parenting issues? • What can make it difficult to ask for help on parenting issues? 	No, not at all	A little	Most of the time	Yes, completely



Instructions

Sample

Because it is not possible to include all beneficiaries in the data selection, a sample is taken. These are the guidelines for making a sample:

- Each group should consist of approximately 12–15 members.
- If the group is bigger (e.g. a SHG of 25), a random sample can be made.
- For **children groups**, a smaller group of **8–10 children** can be selected if preferred.
- The aim should be to use this tool with the same groups throughout the project. The group name gets recorded in the datasheets.
- When it is not possible to use the same group, another group is selected.
- By selecting the same groups throughout the whole project phase, it is avoided that later founded groups affect the results.
- Most groups in the community are bigger than 15 members. The 12–15 members selected for the exercise may differ from year to year as long as the same group is selected.
- Make sure that both genders are included in the group, if possible.
- Take a random sample of 10% of the total number of groups, with a minimum of 8–10 separate groups. If there are fewer than eight groups, all groups should be included in the sample.
- Try to include various groups in the sample if that fits the tool. For example, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) or Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), youth groups or children's groups, could be included in the CSI. This doesn't apply to group-specific tools like the Family Farmer Statement and the Youth Statements.



Facilitation

The facilitator or enumerator has an essential role in conducting the focus group discussions. The tools are participatory by nature, as groups come together to discuss different topics. The facilitator is responsible for explaining the tools well, guiding the conversation, making the participants feel at ease, and encouraging them to speak out to give their honest opinions. The facilitator does the exercise together with a note-taker. The facilitator introduces the questions and leads the discussions. The note-taker records the scores and takes notes of the reasons for giving certain scores.

All the participatory tools use the same methodology; therefore, the same instructions apply to all tools. Be aware that the target groups are not the same for every tool. The facilitator and the note-taker can take the following steps to prepare and conduct the focus group discussion:

Preparation:

- Make sure that the tools are translated into the local language.
- The facilitator and the note-taker prepare a printed version of the tool and data form or Kobo to record the data.
- If applicable, last year's average scores can be prefilled on the data form.

Facilitating the group exercise:

- The exercise should take approximately an hour and 15 minutes to keep everyone on board. Long discussions may need to be ended if time runs out.
- First, the facilitator introduces the tool to the group and explains what it is about and what topics it entails.
- Second, the facilitator explains the meaning of the scores. For each topic, there is an “*ideal situation*” (or “nearly ideal situation”) or a “*good situation*”(4). The highest rating implies that for this aspect, no further improvements in the situation are needed or even possible. The lowest rating is a “*far from ideal situation*” or a “*very bad situation*” (1). A lot of improvements are needed to move towards the ideal situation. In between, there are two other scales: “*first steps*” or “*bad*”(2) when the situation is better than the “*far from ideal situation*”, but there is still a long way to go. And “*moving on*” or “*fair*”(3) when steady progress is made toward the “*ideal situation*”, but one or more



serious issues are still lacking to consider the situation “*nearly ideal*” and clear further action points can still be defined. The exact meanings of the scores are described in the tools (e.g. Food Security (CSI), score 4 = Children are consistently well fed and eat regularly). For some of the tools, the two “in-between scales” are not precisely defined but should be used intuitively; the group can discuss if the situation is still closer to the “*far from ideal situation*” or closer to the “*(nearly) ideal situation*”.

- Every group member receives four stones or beans (or something similar). After introducing the statement for rating, the facilitator invites the members to put 1, 2, 3 or 4 stones/ beans in front of them, representing their opinion.
- Most tools have **guiding principles/ questions** (considerations) for each topic or category. These questions can help the facilitator guide the conversation and clarify the topic and can help the group to determine what score they want to give. The facilitator does not need to use all questions. **The group does not have to answer all the guiding questions.** They can be seen as helpful tools in having a good discussion.
- For most tools, the statements ask about a reflection of the community instead of the individuals, except for the Farmer Family Statements (PIP). This allows the participants to better reflect on sensitive issues without becoming too personal. The facilitator should keep this in mind.
- The stones/ beans should be **placed at the same time** to avoid participants copying each other. The facilitator could count down.
- When everyone has placed their stones/ beans, the facilitator can ask people why they gave this score. In this way, there can be a discussion about the positive and/ or negative remarks that help people determine their end score. Group members are free to add or remove stones during the debate.
- Please note that the participants are not obliged to give a reason.
- The note-taker makes notes of the reasons for the partner’s reflection.
- The note-taker can also make notes of possible actions that need to be taken by the implementing partner. This is for the partner’s reference.
- When doing the scorecards repeatedly with the same groups, the scores can be compared to the score of the previous discussion. The facilitator should bring the old scorecards or write the last score on the form. Comparing the scores can be helpful for the discussion; this is up to the facilitator.



- During the discussion, the participants are invited to give their ideas to improve the situation for the coming year. This is how group members play an active role in data collection, sensemaking and planning for the next steps.
- Sometimes, participants give an answer or reason to their score that does not fit the question (it may serve another question better). In that case, the facilitator can help the participants by explaining the question or referring to another question. The facilitator must be very familiar with the tools.
- The facilitator should listen well to the stories being told and see if the score corresponds to that score. The facilitator should not tell the participants to change their scores but can help decide the appropriate score by asking questions and guiding the conversation.

Scoring:

- When the discussion is finished, and everyone is satisfied with the number of stones/ beans placed, the note-taker or the facilitator writes the number of participants who scored a one, two, three and four and the total number of participants (because people may leave during the session).
- **For example: 1 participant gives a 1, 4 participants give a 2, 5 participants give a 3 and 3 participants give a 4. The total number of participants is 13. The total score is 36 ($1 \times 1 + 4 \times 2 + 5 \times 3 + 3 \times 4$), divided by 13 gives an average score of 2.8. (The calculation can be done later at the office and is done automatically in the datasheets and Kobo).**
- Kobo sheets and MS Word forms are available to collect the scores.

Additional guidance for facilitating children groups:

- The session with children should be led by a facilitator who knows the children and who is trained as a children's group facilitator.
- The facilitator should ensure the group is a safe space for children to speak out.
- A group of **8-12 children** should be sampled for the tool. Because most children's groups are bigger, a random sample from the group can be drawn every time the tools are conducted to avoid the same children getting selected every time and because children leave the groups when they get older.
- It is essential to take note of children who influence other children and to avoid that from happening.
- The facilitator should keep explaining the scoring to the children during the process, not only at the start.
- The facilitator should explain to the children that giving a score of 1 is okay to prevent children from thinking they score poorly themselves.



- The facilitator explains to the children that the information they give is safe and that their names are not mentioned.
 - It is essential to include enough breaks to keep the children's attention. Games, dances, and songs can be helpful to keep them engaged.
- The facilitator and note-taker should be alert to see if children need after-care after the session. This should be noted to ensure that follow-up is provided.