

# Tool 5. COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

## Background

People and Community Oriented Planning entails for UNHCR and partner staff to be aware of context, characteristics, important aspects and diversity among the refugee community in their particular settings in order to tailor protection and assistance adequately. The framework builds on three specific areas:

1. Refugee community profiles and context (including composition of refugee group before displacement, composition under displacement conditions, reasons for displacement and factors affect displacement situation, short country of origin profile, cultural and diversity background) can be based on survey, registration and other data sources.
2. Activities analysis (including livelihood activities analysis but also other activities and tasks including men, women, children, older persons of concern, their location and duration)
3. Resources analysis (including assets, skills and knowledge, community structures (see asset mapping) and culture, control over and access to resources, lack of resources, appropriateness and degree of resource utilization by group, associated risks for individuals through resource and service distribution)

## Community Asset Mapping

The Community Asset Mapping Process entails the following steps:

1. Develop a multidisciplinary team, training on community asset mapping
2. Describe the community profiles
3. Select density areas to be mapped (usually at district and sub-district level)
4. Select a focus for a mapping (e.g. a challenge/objective, a theme or a mapping level)
3. Source a list of identified resources, services and networks
4. Contact individual and community resources from respective areas and invite to community asset mapping sessions
5. Conduct and facilitate mapping sessions (ideally using printed maps)
6. Reflect on process and debrief after sessions

7. Prepare, visualize and share community asset maps for review with community
8. Finalize and distribute community asset maps
9. Regularly examine, assess and verify current list of identified resources, services, and programs, and identify new ones (at least once a year). Track different developments and dynamics
10. Develop and maintain a community resource guide, and map the assets

Note: Visualization information is only used offline and cross-checked to ensure that no risks are associated with respective sharing and publication.

## The Community Asset Mapping Group Session Guide

Facilitation: 2 trained facilitators  
1<sup>st</sup> facilitator documents on Flip Chart  
2<sup>nd</sup> facilitates documentation on Map  
Participants: ideally 8, max. 12, min. 4 participants

### Preparation

- Select a neighborhood
- Invite key persons living and working in this neighborhood (alternatives can be mixed or targeted groups)
- Select key themes (e.g. SGBV or CP) or challenges
- Collect applicable already available information (i.e. inventories from different media)
- Use charts and visualization (i.e. combined flip chart and maps)

### Introduction

- Welcome
- Explaining purpose (consider using selected training slides, i.e. slide 4, purpose also embedded in aim of continued dialogue) and methodology / structure of the session
- Introduction of participants

### Community Asset Mapping

Go through the different levels of assets and

- a) Document on flip chart (facilitator 1)
- b) Facilitate the marking on a printed map of location and name where applicable (facilitator 2)

Only record names of persons if this is not a breach of confidentiality and the information if shared would not pose any risk!

1. Individual assets / local residents
  - skills
  - training/education
  - specific talents (artistic for example)
  - networks
  - monetary resources / income levels
  - occupations (different from CoO)

- Note: well-known local business owners, community leaders (and why they are considered community leaders), active parents, artists, home-based enterprises
2. Community associations and networks range from fairly informal (e.g., a group of like-minded meeting every week at a coffee house) to the formal (e.g., registered CBOs).
- Neighborhood meetings points
  - Sport places and teams
  - Religious and spiritual places
  - Clubs, cultural organizations
  - Community organizations
  - Association of businesses
  - Financial Institutions
  - Communications organizations
  - Community care arrangements (i.e. for children, elderly)

Note: ask if there are any particular community dynamics that are important to understand the neighborhood (i.e. within the community or between communities)

3. The institutions that reach into the community (locality, state) of public and private organizations and agencies.

Public Institutions and Services:

- Hospitals, disability and medical services
- Public schools and higher education
- Vocational and livelihood institutions
- Local businesses
- Authorities (police, fire departments, FCPU)
- Libraries
- Parks and recreational locations

Note: can include ratings and comments on access and quality, document access barriers and suggestions

Private / Non-profit institutions

- Private schools or higher education
- Hospitals
- Social services
- Cultural services

#### 4. Other areas that are of interest

- Is there anything particular about the neighborhood
  - o i.e. arrival points for newcomers
  - o i.e. areas where children are at higher risks of certain protection risks
  - o i.e. areas where adults are at higher risks of certain protection risks

Complementing methodology:

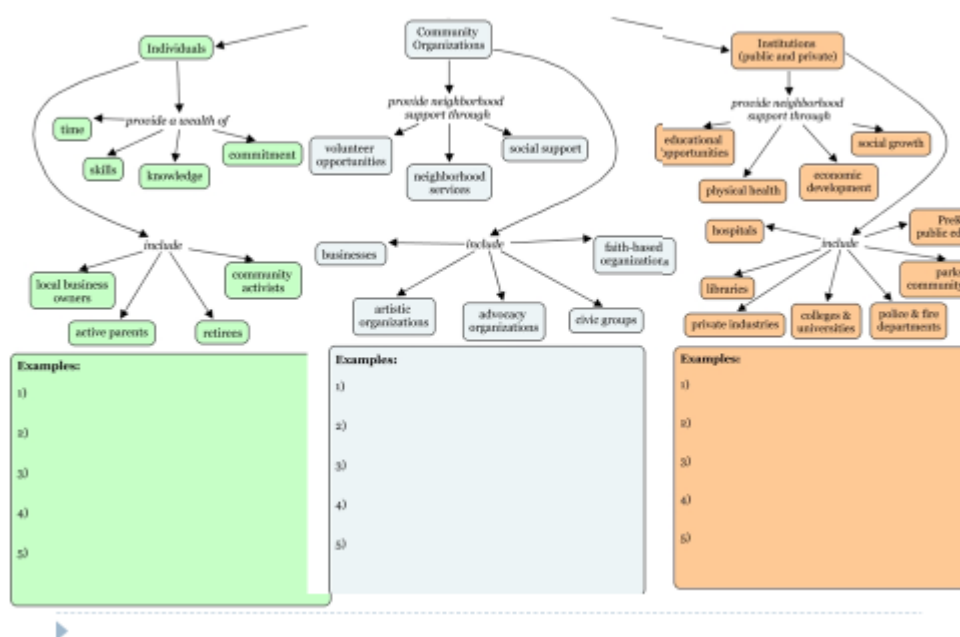
Group sessions can be complemented by individual stakeholder interviews (sometimes also surveys)

Documentation

- Document the outcomes, format the documentation (ideally in form of a map, offline) and make them available
- Update regularly

Source: levels are based on materials from Kretzmann and McKnight and other associated sources

Flip Chart Example:



Source Graph:

Florida Institute for Education at the University of North Florida

Neighborhood Round Table Meeting, Asset Map