



3.2.3 Simple maturity model descriptions



Living faith

Our faith in God and the way our daily lives are shaped by it

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	Faith does not have a place in people's daily life and people do not spend time on activities that develop or outwork their faith, eg they don't take part in acts of worship or serve the local community. People in the community do not see faith groups as a source of support. There may be conflict between faith groups.
Level 2: Aware	People may acknowledge and respect the value of faith but it does not have a significant place in their daily lives, eg they do not spend time in acts of worship or serve the local community. Some people are interested in investing more in their faith and building relationships between faith groups, but no actions have been taken.
Level 3: Active	There are some people in the community who see faith as important in their lives and they take some actions to build and practise their faith personally and collectively, eg through acts of worship, relying on God in times of difficulty or decision-making, and serving the wider community. There is a general view that faith groups have a positive influence within the community and the relationship between faith groups is mostly peaceful.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people see faith as important to their lives and community, and make time for activities that deepen and outwork their faith, eg acts of worship, and working together with their own faith group and others to serve the community. Different faith groups collaborate to respond to community needs.
Level 5: Advancing	Faith is viewed as something that should underpin every aspect of life and everyone in the community commits to putting their faith into practice, eg through acts of worship, serving the community and collaborating with others. Faith groups often work together and are seen as key contributors to positive change in the community and beyond.



Social connections

The extent to which we connect with and support each other as a community

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People in the community have very bad relationships with each other but they do not see this as an issue and nothing is being done to address this, eg there is mistrust and exclusion between different groups of people, they do not work together or support each other, and people do not feel safe living in the community.
Level 2: Aware	People recognise the value of having good relationships in the community, but they are not taking any actions to overcome the issues causing bad relationships, eg mistrust and exclusion, lack of collaboration or support networks, and people feeling unsafe in the community.
Level 3: Active	There are some people who are taking steps to build good relationships in the community, eg taking part in community groups and working together on collective projects. People are aware of the need to include people from marginalised groups and support one another. Most people have others they can rely on in times of difficulty and mostly feel safe in the community.
Level 4: Achieving	People in the community have mostly good relationships with each other, eg most (but not all) people take part in at least one community group, they are actively trying to be more inclusive, and they have a support network they can lean on in times of difficulty. Most people feel safe living in the community and trust those responsible for protecting them.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community is committed to maintaining strong and positive relationships with each other, eg most people are members of community groups that work together to benefit the community. Differences are valued and everyone feels included and supported.



Personal relationships

The love, security and respect we find in marriages, families and close friendships

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People are deeply dissatisfied with the quality and number of close personal relationships they have, eg they don't feel respected, they don't have a say in decisions affecting them, there is a lot of disagreement and conflict, and people do not trust each other. But people show no desire to change this.
Level 2: Aware	People are dissatisfied with their close relationships but there is a desire to improve them, eg people can see the importance of shared decision-making, better conflict-resolution and more open communication. But at the moment they are not taking action towards this.
Level 3: Active	People can see some good things about the number and quality of personal relationships in their lives, eg they receive some respect, some decision-making power and some satisfaction from how disagreements are resolved. However, they feel there is still room for improvement, eg to feel even more respected, to have more involvement in decision-making, or to be able to talk more openly about difficult topics.
Level 4: Achieving	Many (but not all) people feel they have good personal relationships and are committed to investing time and effort to maintain and improve them, eg most people feel valued and respected, households make decisions together and resolve conflicts well, and people have others they can talk to openly and discuss difficult subjects with.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community feels happy with the personal relationships that they have in their life and these relationships are deeply meaningful to them, eg people feel respected, they make decisions together as a household, disagreements are resolved constructively, and people feel they can trust each other and talk about difficult subjects, for the common good.



Participation and influence

Using our voice to influence decision-makers and make our communities a better place

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People in the community do not voice their opinions or have their views taken seriously in community spaces, eg they do not speak with decision-makers or advocate for their needs. They are not really concerned by this situation and they are not taking any action to change things.
Level 2: Aware	People in the community are aware that their voices and views are not being heard or understood by decision-makers. They believe they have legitimate views, needs and rights that they should be able to talk about. But they are not aware of the steps to take to engage with decision-makers, or they are not confident to do so.
Level 3: Active	Some groups of people feel confident to share their opinions in community spaces, although marginalised groups do not. Some people in the community feel confident they can create change and know how to engage with decision-makers, but usually decisions are still made by a few powerful people.
Level 4: Achieving	Many (but not all) people feel confident expressing their views in community spaces and believe that they can create the changes they want to see. Most people are aware of the steps they can take to engage with decision-makers, and all different types of people are involved in decision-making. As a result, decision-makers are usually good at responding to the needs and requests of the community.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community feels confident in sharing their views, and the voices of people from marginalised groups are always included. People are empowered and aware of how to raise their requests with decision-makers, and people in power seek out these views and work to meet the needs of all community members. There are many examples of where community advocacy has led to changes in policies and practices.



Emotional and mental wellbeing

How we feel about ourselves and the opportunities we see in our future

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People feel low in their mind and their mood, but they see this as normal and do not see it as a problem, eg they might be dealing with painful memories from the past, feel isolated or unsupported, or feel stressed or overwhelmed by their responsibilities. As a result, people feel their future is hopeless or that they have no worth or value.
Level 2: Aware	People are aware of feeling low or sad (as in Level 1), but they have a desire to feel differently. They believe that their future can be better than the past, and they are aware of things that might help them feel better, eg doing activities that interest them, and sharing struggles and fears with others. As yet, however, they have not taken actions to improve things.
Level 3: Active	People in the community know the importance of having good emotional and mental wellbeing, and some people are taking steps to improve how they feel. Most people have at least one person they can talk to about their fears or stresses, and there is a sense of optimism for the future. However, some people still struggle to talk about their mental wellbeing, and have mental health challenges that are not being addressed.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people are taking daily actions to help them have good emotional and mental wellbeing, eg they do activities that make them happy, they have a support network to share any worries or stresses with, and they have dealt with past traumas. As a result, most people feel positive about the future, have strong self-worth and believe they make a meaningful contribution to the lives of others.
Level 5: Advancing	People in the community have good emotional and mental health and everyone takes actions on a daily basis to maintain this and to support others. People are emotionally supported by their friends and family, are able to talk openly about feelings, and can cope with their responsibilities and stresses. As a result, people feel optimistic for a better future. Everyone has a strong sense of self-worth and believes they can contribute positively to the community.



Physical health

Looking after our bodies and having access to good-quality health services

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People in the community have poor physical health (eg they are often sick, they are malnourished and there are high levels of mortality), but people are not aware of the causes of this, eg drinking unsafe water, having poor hygiene, not accessing healthcare and not having a balanced diet.
Level 2: Aware	People in the community have poor physical health (as in Level 1) and they are aware of the issues that are causing this (eg drinking unsafe water, having poor hygiene and not eating a balanced diet), but they have not yet taken any actions to change this.
Level 3: Active	Some people are taking small steps to address the issues they face in relation to their physical health, eg treating water to make it safe, washing their hands and eating a balanced diet. As a result, the physical health of the community is improving and most people do not get sick from preventable diseases. There are still issues, though, such as not being able to access or afford good-quality healthcare.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people are taking steps to have good physical health and tackle the health challenges they face, eg most people have access to clean water, and have good hygiene practices (eg handwashing) and a balanced diet. Most people (but not everyone) can access healthcare services. As a result, people rarely fall ill from preventable diseases.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community has good physical health and most health challenges have been resolved, eg everyone has access to safe water, observes good hygiene practices and eats a balanced diet. Everyone has access to good-quality healthcare when they need it and as a result people rarely fall ill – and very rarely from preventable illnesses.



Material assets and resources

Using our creativity to make the most of our resources, make new resources, and share our resources with others

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	Most people in this community do not have many material assets or resources, eg very few people have land, good homes or savings. This means most people have to resort to negative coping strategies to meet unexpected costs, eg selling assets or taking high-interest loans. People are unaware of the resources that exist in the community, and are not willing to share the little they have.
Level 2: Aware	Most people do not have many material assets or resources, but they would like to improve this and they are aware of some steps they could take, eg obtaining title deeds for land, saving money and taking out insurance. People are aware of resources that exist within the community, but they are not taking steps to use these or share with others.
Level 3: Active	Some people are exploring ways to make their material situation more secure, eg proof of land ownership, saving money and accessing formal financial services (such as mobile banking). This means some people have material security and can meet unexpected costs, but there are still some people who are financially insecure. People are using community resources in creative ways and sharing what they can with others.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people feel their material assets and resources are secure and sufficient. Most people own land, have secure livelihoods and can save money. This means most people can afford unexpected expenses and have access to formal financial services, such as banking. Many people are creatively multiplying resources in the community and building reserves so that they can share with others.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community has the material assets and resources they need to feel secure and achieve their goals, eg everyone has the chance to own land, and people have secure income sources and regularly save money. This means all households are resilient against shocks, eg they have savings, bank accounts and access to credit. Everyone is able to identify and creatively use the resources around them. It is common for people to share their resources, even outside the community.



Capabilities

Developing and using our gifts and skills to make a living, serve others, and bring about positive change in our lives

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	Levels of skills and knowledge within the community are low or unrecognised, many children do not go to school, and schools are of poor quality. People do not see this as an issue and there is no desire to improve the situation. People rely heavily on external support and they do not have a vision or desire to bring about change.
Level 2: Aware	Levels of skills and knowledge in the community are low (as in Level 1) but people are aware of this. They want to develop their capabilities further, but have not yet taken action. People recognise their dependency on external support, and see the importance of developing autonomy, learning new skills and improving education. Some people have ambitions, but don't believe they can realise their goals.
Level 3: Active	Some people are finding creative opportunities for learning new skills and sharing their knowledge with others. There are people in the community with valuable skills and expertise. Most children are in education, and some schools are of satisfactory quality. Some people have a vision for the future and are taking actions to bring about change using their resources. However, there are still some people who have a low level of education and skill, and rely on external assistance.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people have a good level of education and the skills they need to make a living and create the changes they want to see. Most children are in good-quality education, and there is support for families who need help sending their children to school. Most people have opportunities to develop new skills and share their knowledge with others. Most people have ideas for the future and believe they can realise their goals.
Level 5: Advancing	People in the community have a range of valuable skills and knowledge, and they continue to develop their expertise. They regularly share their skills with each other and others outside the community. All school-aged children attend good-quality schools. People in the community have a clear vision for their future and they are making progress towards their individual and collective goals using their own resources.



Care of the environment

Looking after and enjoying the natural world, easing the risks and protecting resources for future generations

Levels	Description
Level 1: Avoid	People in the community are not aware of the issues in their natural environment. They have no awareness of the need to protect the environment or manage the impact of climate change, environmental degradation or disaster risks. They are not taking any actions to look after their environment, eg rubbish, pollution and deforestation are common. People use the environment to meet their own short-term needs and there is conflict in the community over access to natural resources.
Level 2: Aware	The local environment is in a bad state (as in Level 1) but people in the community are aware of this. They recognise how changes in the natural environment are causing challenges in their daily lives and want to manage and mitigate this. However, they haven't taken any action yet. There is conflict in the community over access to natural resources, but there is a desire to resolve these tensions.
Level 3: Active	People in the community are aware of the challenges caused by changes to the climate and the environment. Some people are working together to adapt to these changes, manage disaster risks and care for the environment, eg informal disaster risk reduction plans, waste-disposal sites and tree planting. There are some conflicts over natural resources, but actions are being taken to resolve them and agree on a sustainable and equitable use of resources.
Level 4: Achieving	Most (but not all) people are aware of the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risks. Most people are taking action together to preserve and restore the environment, eg formal disaster risk reduction plans, public waste sites, recycling and tree planting. These actions are improving the quality of the community environment. Most issues related to access to natural resources are resolved peacefully.
Level 5: Advancing	Everyone in the community is aware and committed to reducing the impact of climate change. Everyone takes actions to preserve and protect the environment for today and for future generations, eg all community members are aware of disaster-risk reduction plans, there is a good waste-collection system and the environment is free from pollution. Everyone has equal access to natural resources and can enjoy spending time in nature for their wellbeing.