

## A comparison of church mobilisation and church and community mobilisation

Church and community mobilisation involves mobilising a local church to act as a facilitator in mobilising the whole community to address their own needs.

This approach is different from the 'church mobilisation' approach because once the local church is mobilised, it becomes a facilitator rather than a provider. The local church seeks to envision and empower community members to identify and respond to their own needs, rather than meeting needs for them. The local church therefore works with rather than for the community. The community is in control, but it is not necessarily left on its own after mobilisation. The local church can provide ongoing support to the community, and Christian organisations may need to provide technical support at the request of the community if needs are to be met.

Church mobilisation, as we have seen, can be useful in a crisis to respond to a particular need. However, where there is no specific urgent need in a community, but there is ongoing poverty, the church and community mobilisation approach is preferable. This is because it is more likely to be sustainable due to increased community ownership. The initiatives developed are more likely to be priorities for community members because the approach encourages community members to identify their needs and respond to them themselves. Community members will therefore value the initiatives more than if the local church simply acted as a provider.

While this approach and the church mobilisation approach both involve mobilising the local church, this approach involves an additional mobilisation process, as the table below shows.

	<b>Church mobilisation</b>	<b>Church and community mobilisation</b>
Mobilise church	Envision pastors and members to carry out integral mission	Envision pastors and members to carry out integral mission
Train church	Train church to identify needs and provide some technical training in responding to a particular identified need	Train church to envision and mobilise the community
Church action in community	Church meets a need in the community	Church envisions and mobilises community to meet its own needs
Community action	None or may work with local church in a limited way	Community identifies needs and responds to them with their own resources where possible

Source: *ROOTS 11: Partnering with the local church*, Tearfund 2007, page 33