



Tools to support community transformation

C1 REVEALING WAYS OF WORKING

Community action groups (summary)



Why use this tool?

Community action groups can be an excellent way of bringing about change and transformation within a community. This tool helps **existing** community groups (eg savings and credit groups, livestock groups, disaster management committees) to be even more effective, and provides guidance on establishing **new** groups.



You will need

- A group of people committed to meeting regularly.
- Someone who can support the group as they learn, plan and take action (the facilitator).



What to do

- Find out what groups already exist within the community. Could these groups be supported in becoming more effective in bringing about community change and transformation? If there are not already groups in the community, could new groups be established?
- Facilitators play an important role in supporting groups to develop their own vision for their community, to gain knowledge and learn for themselves, and to take action. The facilitator's role reduces as the group establishes itself.
- As a first step, the facilitator helps the group to decide their own rules. These are usually simple and relate to attendance at meetings, respecting each other and membership. Meeting together regularly is essential for group members to build trust and relationships.
- The facilitator then supports groups to review what they have achieved in the past, and to think about what they would like to achieve in the future, for example addressing different causes of poverty such as sanitation and hygiene, education or health, or bringing about local social change, such as reducing domestic violence, advocating for women's rights or reducing the incidence of female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Over time, groups often realise that there are many needs in their community which are not being addressed. Then can then decide which they will address, and how.
- As groups decide to address different issues, they may want to learn new things. Are there local experts who could provide advice? As well as learning from experts, it is also important to learn by doing. A facilitator can help a group be intentional about their learning by reflecting on what went well, and what could have gone better.
- As the group learns by doing they will become more effective at working together. They can start to think about bigger changes they want to make such as reducing domestic violence or advocating for women's rights.

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene



Finding out more

The full version of this tool can be found in Section C2 -**Tool C2: Community action groups**. Community action groups can be used to address many different issues. See the **Introductory tool: Contents** to see the different topics that Reveal covers.

Awareness-
raisingChildren &
youthClimate &
environ-
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sexual
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sanitation &
hygiene