

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

Semi-structured interviews include a wide range of techniques - focus groups, key informants, and mapping, visualization, and ranking methods. Remember, the point of these exercises is not to produce maps, but to gain insight into a community by the issues raised as the map is constructed.

- When setting up interviews, be sure to consider:
- How are you choosing your participants?
 - Who is doing the interviews? What is his/her role in the community? How does that affect responses?
 - In what context is the interview occurring?
 - Whose turf? How are you making it easier?
 - Avoid leading, closed, and ambiguous questions.
 - Be sure to cross check with other interviewers and respondents.
 - Keep asking “but why?”, “please tell me more about that”, and “anything else?”
 - What? When? Where? Who? Why? How?
 - Who are you *not* talking to?
 - Who’s not talking to you?

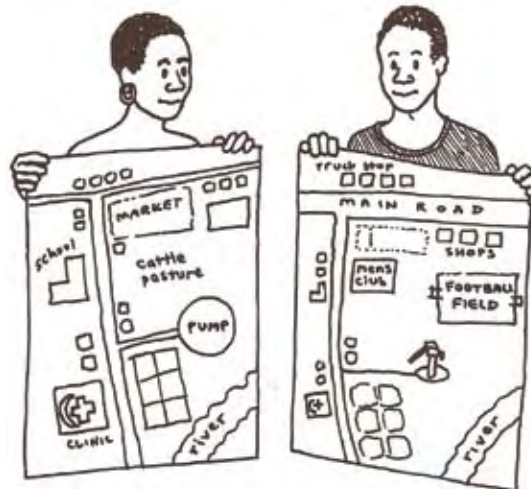


COMMUNITY MAPPING



The major techniques of community mapping are **Collaborative Maps, Mental Maps, and Transect Walks.**

To make a Collaborative Map, you ask different people to add to a single, large map in a public place in a community. Mental Maps are individual exercises, meant to bring out differences between the way people utilize the same space. Transect Walks involve walking a specified grid through a neighborhood, taking note of different attributes at specific intervals (for example, every 100 steps).



RANKING PRIORITY

Issue/Type	Water	Health	Education	Other
1	X	X		X
2		X	X	
3		X	X	X
4	X	X	X	X
5		X	X	X



Interviews and Maps are great ways to generate ideas, and get a sense of the issues at hand. **Preference/ Pair-wise Ranking** and **Matrix Scoring** are two ways of helping decide which issues are most important to the community.

Ranking allows people to compare and choose favorites, while scoring helps elicit a set of criteria to grade. They are two different ways of getting at the same goal, which can help ensure the results are not unfairly skewed by any single factor.



CREDITS

All illustrations from this pamphlet were drawn by **Regina Faul-Doyle**, and were reproduced from the International Institute for Environment and Development's Participatory Methodology Series **Participatory Learning and Action: A Trainer's Guide**.

Funding for this workshop was provided by the **Work Projects Administration 2010**. To initiate a community-driven project in your own neighbourhood, please contact your local field officer or visit wpa-2010.org,



WPA 2010

During the last Great Depression, the WPA (Work Projects Administration) employed millions of people, repairing roads, building parks, and other public works. It reached out directly to people who needed it most, creating projects way outside the Government's usual remit.

Now, the WPA-2010 brings back small-scale, community-driven neighborhood recovery and action. We hire local people from the communities in which the projects take place, source locally, and focus on projects chosen by the community itself.

We're putting us back in the U.S.

A QUICK PRIMER TO SOME ACTION RESEARCH TECHNIQUES



To initiate a community-driven project in your own neighborhood, please contact your local field officer:

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or visit www.wpa-2010.org



PRA Also known as Participatory Rapid Appraisal / Participatory Learning & Action / Action Research, PRA offers ways of exploring a community from the varied perspectives of the people in that community, without having to rely on the "official" perspectives put forth by those who already have a voice.

This workshop will cover techniques that include collaborative mapping, transect walks, semi-structured interviews, and preference ranking, and is meant as a catalyst to spur community-driven action in your own neighborhood.