

Waiting to be Heard

Preliminary Results of the 2012 Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings



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Initiative for Equality (IfE)

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Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG) - Hungary

Szeged Group of Protect the Future - Hungary

Energy Environment and Development Society (EEDS) - India

Rural Women's Association (ALGA) - Kyrgyzstan

Sustainable Rural Community Development Organisation (SURCOD) - Malawi

Young Professionals in Local Development (YPLD) – Mauritius

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) – Nigeria

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Center for Community Development, St. Paul University, Quezon City – Philippines

Sentrong Kalinangang Pangkalikasan - Philippines

Bulacan State University – Philippines

Human Sciences Research Council – South Africa

Women's Academic Solidarity Association – South Africa

Masimanyane Women's Support Centre – South Africa

and numerous individual volunteers

Waiting to be Heard: Preliminary Results of the 2012 Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings

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Initiative for Equality (IfE)

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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY



Chapter 1. Introduction to project and report

Deborah S. Rogers

“Ask us what we want.”

Forty-five years later¹, this simple request is still rarely met. Understanding what people need and want is the most basic prerequisite to intelligent collaborations, interventions, and assistance. It is relatively easy to discover. Yet so often this step is skipped, as governments impose their agendas, international agencies carry out their mandates, businesses look for profitable relationships, and NGOs rush in to help. The *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* project was designed to rectify this omission by taking one simple step: asking people what they want.

Why this Field Hearings project?

Initiative for Equality (IfE), a global network of advocates for social, economic and political equality among the world’s peoples, undertook the *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* project motivated by a deep desire to see a transformation of the world’s societies and relationships in the direction of meaningful equity and deep equality. We believe that strategies to achieve this vision must be based on an understanding of what currently disempowered communities need, want and think—which can only be ascertained by asking.

Our goals included: (1) effectively channeling the voices of disempowered communities into the Rio+20 and Millennium Development Goals dialogues and other multilateral processes; (2) learning what people in currently disempowered communities are thinking, so that we can develop effective, collaborative, grassroots strategies for moving towards greater equity and equality; (3) gathering input from these communities to help direct the writing of a global civil society *Equity & Sustainability Treaty* and a *Post-Rio Action Plan for Equity*; and (4) developing long-term working relationships with others who share some of these same goals.

“...participants of Hearings were really glad to know that their voices would be presented at Rio+20 and Millennium Development Goals dialogues. The idea that their opinions will be listened to at international events inspired them very much.” (Kyrgyzstan)

Our long-term vision for the *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* is to build a well-organized and sustained global network of partners, reaching broadly across civil society and deeply into grassroots communities, as part of an unstoppable people’s movement for equity and equality.

Project organization and governance

The *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* Project (hereinafter called the “Project”) was coordinated by *Initiative for Equality* (IfE) and ultimately conducted by 18 Field Hearing Partners (“Partners”) in 34 communities. The Project was launched in January of 2012, with a global call for partners. Initially, more volunteer Partners were identified, but by the time of this writing, only the 18 Partners were able to complete the Field Hearings, while others dropped out because of lack of resources. Initially, IfE’s *Equity & Sustainability Steering Committee*² provided direction and decision-making for the Project, developing

¹ The photo on the preceding page shows Aboriginal Australian men on strike for better conditions in 1968.

² Deborah Rogers, Anthony Akpan, Zhiyuan Song, Nazmul Huq, Lizzy Mabotja, Uchita de Zoysa, Marilyn Cornelius

the preliminary questionnaires and reaching out to organizations and individuals whom they knew might be interested in collaborating. Once the Partners were identified and the Project was underway, individuals from the partnering groups came onto the Steering Committee to finalize the questionnaire and make needed decisions for the Project. Deborah S. Rogers was the coordinator of the project, editor of this full report, and author of Part One of the report.

Field Hearing Partners

Field Hearing Partners included research groups in university programs (Bangladesh, China, Hungary, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda) and government programs (South Africa), as well as organized civil society groups (Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mauritius, and Nigeria). In three cases (China, Hungary and South Africa), researcher groups collaborated with civil society groups. Some partners had as many as 20 people working together to conduct the interviews and discussions, while others had only one or two people to gather the information.

Communities surveyed

A total of 34 communities were surveyed through paper or on-line questionnaires, one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions, or open public meetings. These communities were distributed as follows:

ASIA

- Bangladesh: Barisal District, Dhaka university students
- China: Kunming
- India: Bhopal, Raisen, Jhabua, Panna, Shahdol, Hoshangabad, Sehore Districts (Madhya Pradesh State)
- Kyrgyzstan: Chui, Ysyk-Kol, Osh and Talas oblasts
- Mauritius: island-wide survey
- Philippines: Mountain Province, Benguet and Pangasinan; Zambales Province; Bulacan Province

AFRICA

- Malawi: 11 villages in Nsanje District
- Nigeria: university students; Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi communities (Abuja), Makurdi (Benue)
- South Africa: Kenton (Eastern Cape); Manenberg (Western Cape); Khayelitsha (Western Cape); and Diepsloot (near Pretoria)
- Uganda: Busoba Sub-county (Mbale District), and Wanale Division in Mbale Municipality

EUROPE

- Hungary: Cserepes sor segregate, Árpá utca segregate (both in Szeged)
- African immigrants in Edinburgh, Scotland

Methodology

The method of the Project was to ask questions and gather direct input from a broad range of communities in different parts of the world, to better understand both the common and differing circumstances that people are experiencing today, and their perceptions about these experiences. It is important to recognize that this was not a scientific, statistically valid survey undertaken for reasons of academic research, but was instead a form of outreach to solicit input from individuals and communities in order to accomplish the goals outlined at the beginning of this chapter.

To accomplish these goals, a questionnaire was developed by the Steering Committee with input and revisions from the Partners. Individual Partners were then given the task of ensuring that the questionnaire was both linguistically and culturally appropriate for their own communities. In other words, they were asked to translate it into the local language(s), as well as to make any necessary modifications to make sure that it made sense to the people who were interviewed, in the context of their lives and circumstances.

The Basic Questionnaire (developed jointly in English) included questions on the following matters. See Annex B for a copy of the full Basic Questionnaire in English.

Assess Trends:

are things getting better, worse, or staying the same in a number of important dimensions of life, including health, education, economy, political, conflict, families, circumstances for women, and happiness?

Speculate About Causes:

to what do you attribute these trends?

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies:

what is needed in order to develop a good life for your family and community, that can last in the future?

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation:

how are privilege and deprivation experienced in your community? in which group do you consider yourself?

Articulate Wishes for the Future:

what do you want for the future of your family and community?

Partners were also given wide latitude in how to conduct the Field Hearings. Methods ranged from on-line questionnaires to one-one-one interviews, and from focus group discussions to open public meetings. Each partner chose a method that they felt would work best in their community. Some Partners used different methods in different communities, depending on the nature of the community. Each individual Field Hearing Report (Chapters 3 - 15) describes the approach taken by that group of Partners.

Problems and how they were solved

The primary problems encountered by this project were those that plague any voluntary, unfunded project: lack of adequate resources and staffing. Many of the original Field Hearing Partners were forced to drop out for this reason. However, those who were able to persist did so through heroic volunteer efforts by dedicated individuals. It should be noted that the entire coordination of this project and production of the report was also undertaken on a strictly unfunded, volunteer basis.

“Field facilitators really sacrificed to make it possible for the Field Hearing to take place.”
(Malawi)

Another common set of problems revolved around the difficulty in finding sufficient numbers of representative interview or discussion participants. For the most part, the Field Hearing interviews and

focus group discussions were undertaken in communities where these Field Hearing Partners (researchers or NGOs) were already working. But even in these communities, many new relationships were established in order to accomplish the project. The Partners who completed the project and report were the Partners who were successful in establishing the level of trust in communities necessary to persuade individuals to open up and share their views.

“Besides traditional qualitative research methods (personal and group interviews) we are also in a continuous personal relationship with local Roma leaders in order to help them in many field actions different from our main research activity...” (Hungary)

Finally, particular problems encountered by the local Field Hearing Partners are mentioned in the individual reports.

Conducting the Field Hearings

Many of the Field Hearing Partners were themselves strongly affected by the process of conducting these Field Hearings. In emails and teleconferences, they talked about their feelings of responsibility to the communities in which they conducted discussions. Several expressed the concern that it was not ethical to show up, raise the discussion of profoundly important problems, and then just disappear. By talking about these things, we are raising hopes that we will help them do something about it, they said.

“We also faced a dilemma regarding to what extent we as researchers (should) influence the research process and outcome? Is our role limited to unfolding community needs or should we act as consultants aiming to empower people who we work with? In this latter case do we direct “participatory” research based on our own views or are we really just consultants? These are questions we continuously face during our work.” (Hungary)

Several Partners were surprised, but pleased, by how eager participants were to share their views and feelings. One project coordinator told us, “once they started talking, we couldn’t get them to stop!” Another said, “this was literally the first time someone had asked these people what they think.”

In some cases, Partners themselves were forced to rethink assumptions and open themselves to new understandings. Information passed both ways during these interviews and discussions, and required much creative thinking in the moment.

“Second, the process of interviewing was a big step, as this facilitated reflection not just on the part of the respondents but also the interviewers.” (Philippines)

Privacy considerations

It is well-known in the research sciences that interviews of individual people can uncover sensitive information, and thus the identities of these interviewees should be kept private. In the US, there are many laws that govern privacy in the context of research. Although this was not an academic or scientific research project, but was instead a way of gathering input from individuals and communities, we still wanted to follow the best practices available in order to protect the privacy of the respondents. This was accomplished in several ways:

1. No individual was questioned, photographed, or filmed unless they first agreed to it. Any individual shown in a photograph or film from one of the Field Hearings gave their consent to having their face shown.

2. No individual names were turned over to the coordinating office for the Project (that is, to *Initiative for Equality*).

3. No community or organization (where people were interviewed) having a population of less than several hundred is identified in this report (with the exception of one group of university students). This is because it is far too easy to guess who someone is, based on their responses, in a small community.

4. No individual interview forms or notes are provided in this report.

Integrity of results

The question of data integrity is also raised in a voluntary collaborative project, especially when the direct verification of individual data is both impossible and sometimes prohibited by law. Our policy on data integrity, adopted by the IfE Board of Directors, is as follows:

In the event of collaborative projects that involve the publishing of reports or other information by IfE, we will only publish information that is based on verified data. IfE Project staff may request any information needed to verify the report or data.

For this Field Hearing Project, we did not publish any report unless we were able to view at least two sources of confirmation concerning the validity of interviews or focus group discussions (for example, photos, data forms, numeric data, or detailed descriptions of individual interviews). However, IfE cannot vouch for the complete validity of any given study.

Another related issue was that of how the reports presented their opinion content. Some Field Hearing Partners wrote reports which clearly distinguished between summaries of statements by participants versus opinions of the report authors. Others tended to mix these two voices in their report, making it difficult to tell what represented an actual finding of local community viewpoints. During the editing process, primary authors were asked to clarify whenever this issue was detected. However, for a variety of reasons this did not always happen; thus, readers are advised to be aware of the distinction.

Editing process

The editing of this report consisted of three processes: choices of what to include, format and layout, and actual line-by-line editing.

Choices of what to include were made based on two guiding principles: data integrity (discussed above) and privacy (discussed above). Any specific identifying information or information that could reasonably lead to the identification of a participant was left out. Photos included in the report were taken with explicit verbal (and often written) consent. No reports were left out due to political perspectives expressed or concerns about the voices and views included. Opinions expressed in the various Field Hearing Reports are those of the Field Hearing Partners or of the participants who spoke at the Field Hearings, and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *Initiative for Equality* (IfE).

The format was planned in advance by the Steering Committee in consultation with Partners via skype teleconference and email. Each Partner was provided with the Basic Questionnaire and the format in advance of submitting their reports. Layout was accomplished by copying sections of each submitted

report into the agreed format. If sections were missing, the Partner was contacted with a request for additional information. Usually this was forthcoming, but if not, it was left out.

Very minimal line-by-line editing for clarity (grammar, punctuation and word usage) was done by Deborah Rogers, an experienced editor. If any information was unclear, authors were contacted with questions. If the information was relatively clear, language was generally left intact. Edited reports were returned to Partners for their revisions and final approval. The end result retains its original flavor, with voice and expression remaining largely the same as when submitted.

Future plans for project

Most of those who participated in this project to the end were very excited about the process and its potential for establishing good working relationships with local communities based on careful listening. Community members themselves also expressed support for continuation of the project.

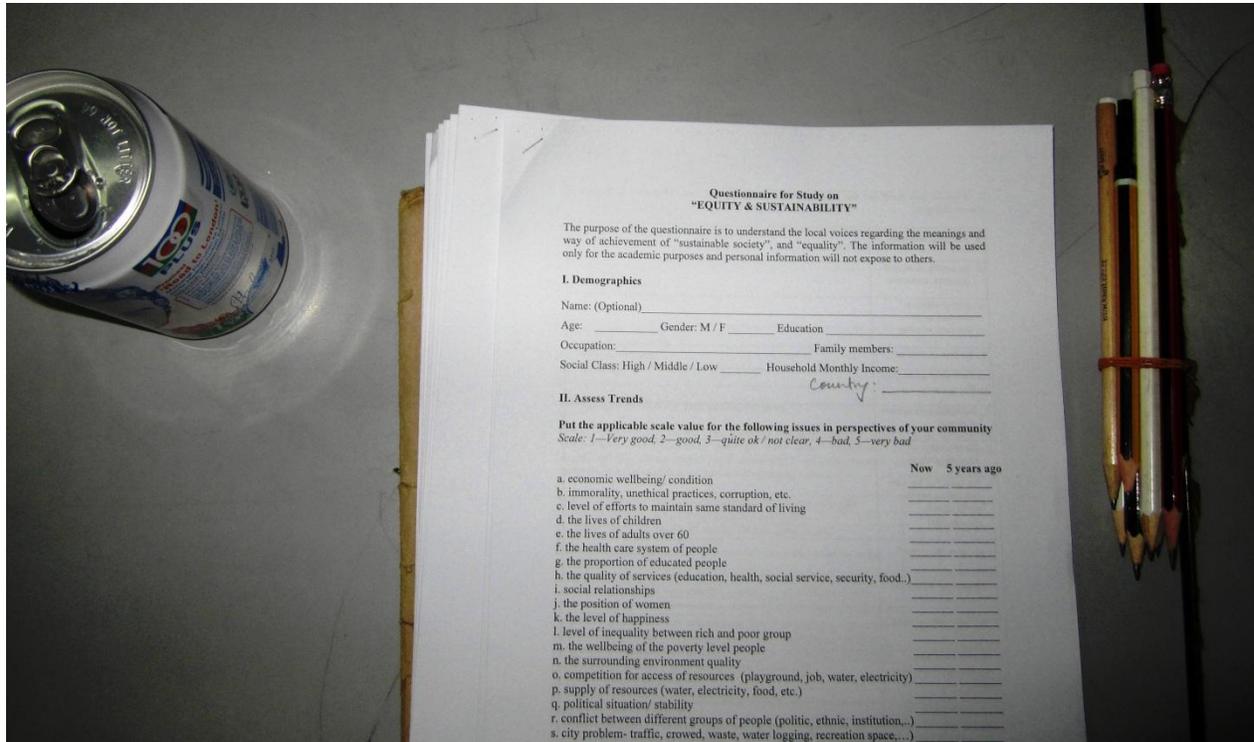
“The communities are looking for these hearings to be conducted in most of the areas and with a wide range of people. ... we would like to request Initiative for Equality (IfE) to take a leading role in fund-raising for this big initiative so that we can target more communities in the country.”
(Malawi)

“These kind of gatherings are important... because we listen to and learn from each other... This is a good networking session.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“I just want to say that we should have more meetings like this one and stand up as a community. So we hope that this group discussion won’t just end here; that there will be concrete things coming out of it.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

Initiative for Equality and many of the Field Hearing Partners plan to seek future funding in order to continue a coordinated effort at conducting Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings over the upcoming years. We plan to extend the effort by drawing in new Partners and conducting Field Hearings in more communities, including expanding to Latin America, North America, and across Europe. A final, more extensive report will then be published. We also have plans for a documentary film based on video footage taken during the original (and upcoming) Field Hearings. Please contact Deborah S. Rogers if you are interested in participating in this on-going project: deborah.rogers@initiativeforequality.org.

###



Chapter 2. Summary of Results

Deborah S. Rogers

2.1 Assessing Trends

In every Field Hearing, participants were asked to talk about what was getting better, getting worse, or staying the same in their community. They were prompted by a list of areas for discussion (see Basic Questionnaire in Annex B). They were also asked to compare the lives of children and young people today with the lives of people who are now in their 50's or older.

What is getting better?

In many of the communities, people reported that the position of women is better now than in the past. Women are more likely to be able to own property and get an education now. This was sometimes attributed to the promotion of women's rights by organized civil society. However, significant problems still remain, especially in relationships between men and women; thus women's rights shows up in the column of problems as well.

"...the families are still male-dominated, although women are now given more freedom. There is still a long way to go." (India)

"Although women in the communities are better placed than they used to be in times past, much more needs to be done to empower and protect them." (Nigeria – Abuja)

“The increase of NGO/CBO activities in the country has contributed to the awareness of rural women of their rights and opportunities.” (Kyrgyzstan)

A number of communities reported improvements in the area of health care, education, and technology access. As with women’s status, there also remain problems in these areas. Some communities reported an improved political situation in their country; others reported the opposite, so this is not a trend but instead a specific local historical circumstance.

What is still bad or getting worse?

The list of worsening problems is very long indeed, but there are some common themes that emerged from almost all of the communities.

* **Environmental degradation:** almost every community mentioned this as a serious concern. Specific problems ranged from water contamination (industrial, agricultural or from sewage) through deforestation or declining soil fertility to impacts of climate change (changing rainfall patterns, desertification or flooding).

“Considerable arable land has been lost because of increased salinity, water-logging and loss of fertility as a result of outdated agricultural and irrigation systems.” (Kyrgyzstan)

“They complained about poor soil fertility which keeps on dwindling the harvest each and every year.” (Malawi)

“The city or urban problems are unmanageable. Due to urbanization and urban migration, the problems like traffic, overcrowding, unmanaged waste, flash flooding, and reduced recreation space are increasing over time.” (Nigeria – Students)

“It’s particularly worrisome for parents since their kids play outside. They say sewage pipes always burst and flow onto the streets, exposing people’s excrement. The situation is so bad that sewage flows right past the front door. Hence most people fall ill.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

* **Corruption:** most of the communities condemned government officials for high and increasing levels of corruption, and blamed this for many of the economic problems experienced by lower-income citizens.

“... unethical practices and corruption showed an increasing trend, which has placed Bangladesh in the list of most corrupt countries quite a few times in recent years.” (Bangladesh – Students)

“Participants perceive that the worse trends occurring in their community are driven by factors which include high levels of corruption which is leading to poor public service delivery...” (Uganda)

* **Inequality:** most communities said that levels of socioeconomic inequality are growing, even if improvements have been made in helping the poor or the overall economy. Many expressed concern that growing inequality wipes out the gains made in economic development. Women in many communities reported that they still have problems with access to decision-making within the family, economy and politics. **See section on inequality, below.**

*** Economic security:** almost every community worried about the growing lack of economic security. Jobs are difficult to find and may not last. Economic opportunities are scarce and generally available only to those with connections. Young people do not feel hopeful.

“According to the interviews, 90% of the marginalized Roma population is affected by unemployment. Low level of schooling, social prejudices and the lack of opportunities make employment nearly impossible.” (Hungary)

“The living space is generally very small; 8-15 people are cramped into 20-30-50m² apartments. At least 20% (some say more) of the inhabitants in one segregate live there illegally. Many families are behind with their payments for the utilities, and the rent for the houses is relatively expensive.” (Hungary)

“This group is mostly uneducated, unemployed, and poor. They cannot develop any employment opportunity for themselves due to lack of knowledge and education.” (India)

“High levels of energy poverty were also discussed, exacerbated by price increases and supply problems. Many households are spending 50% of their income on heating in winter.” (Kyrgyzstan)

“The threats of forced evictions and demolitions stare community dwellers in the face on a daily basis.” (Nigeria – Abuja)

“Overall quality of services for health care systems, education, social services, security, etc., is deteriorating day by day. The supplies of resources such as electricity, food, water, etc. are not adequate to meet the increasing demand due to population growth and lopsided distribution. People need to put out more and more effort just to maintain a certain standard of living.” (Nigeria – Students)

“Most people go hungry over here. The only community gardens are the ones found in schools. So you are lucky if you have a school-going child, because they give them some vegetables once in a while. If you don't have a school-going child and you don't get a food hamper, the situation gets dire for you.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

*** Social problems:** a substantial proportion of the communities mentioned that they are experiencing growing social problems, covering a diversity of issues such as breakdown of traditional social structures, lack of respect by youth for their elders, inappropriate sexual behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, loss of family and leisure time, or lack of community solidarity and unity in tackling problems.

“The social values, morality, and ethical practices are falling very sharply due to corruption and immorality (social vices, juvenile delinquencies, corruption, etc.), which are increasing day by day.” (Nigeria – Students)

“...social relationships are breaking down because of the changes happening in terms of labor migration... Before, we (family, relatives, friends) saw each other on a daily basis because we belonged to a specific place. Because of the resettlement, some of us took on different jobs that required them to be away for a long period of time. Some of us became maids and house helpers, and the unfortunate ones were forced to live in the streets and became beggars.” (Philippines)

"...the important customs practiced before are gone, and the children are learning new things and are getting hooked on gadgets and modern songs. They have less regard for their elders as well, and they speak rudely sometimes." (Philippines)

"Youngsters don't have respect for the elderly. If an elder reprimands a young person, they rebel because they don't even respect their own parents. This problem is caused by the whole "rights" focus; when you reprimand someone they'll tell you about their rights. So the rights issue has broken down the element of respect in the township." (South Africa – Diepsloot)

*** Conflict:** many communities reported that conflicts between ethnic groups or political factions are growing more frequent. Some attributed this to competition for increasingly scarce land or resources.

"Differences between ethnic groups are increasing rapidly due to the increasing economic problems in the families, leading to conflicts. Conflict between individuals is also growing due to increasing prices and difficulties in keeping their families and maintaining life." (India)

"One participant says she has seen people fight each other for food at the soup kitchen; that they run and she sometimes finds herself being mobbed by people looking for some more food." "We would love to help more people but it's impossible. There's just too much demand." (South Africa – Diepsloot)

Intangibles: happiness and hope

It is difficult to interpret the meaning of responses on trends in happiness and hopefulness. Although these qualities are extremely important to the functioning of a community, their presence or absence reflects a complexity of current circumstances interpreted in the light of past history and anticipated future. Here are some of the responses we received on these feelings:

"With great regret, respondents stated that in spite of new technologies and information accessibility, the lives of children and young adults in communities are becoming worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been. One of participants said 'It seems to me that children smile even less than we did in our childhood. Our children cannot have all new computers, internet and other facilities of modern life; thus, having no opportunities to give them it, we also help to kill their dreams.'" (Kyrgyzstan)

"Based on current developmental challenges, a majority of the community dwellers have less hope for the future." (Nigeria – Abuja)

"The level of happiness and community living is decreasing, basically as a result of the enormous challenges of surviving in a harsh and hostile world where the inequality between the rich and the poor continues to grow on a continuous basis." (Nigeria – Abuja)

"Happiness in the community is hindered by individualism rather than communal association." (Uganda)

2.2 Speculating About Causes

In every Field Hearing, participants were asked to speculate about the underlying causes of the various problems they are experiencing. They were not prompted in any way; this was an open-ended question. While many explanations were offered, of course, there were certain themes that turned up repeatedly. It was often difficult to know whether a particular concern constituted a “problem” or a “cause.” In reality, the various problems and causes are probably related in a vicious cycle. Explanations cited included:

* Corruption, cronyism, nepotism, lack of accountability and transparency, and impunity on the part of government officials: this cluster of concerns was a strong complaint in most (but not all) communities. It is viewed as being a major driver of lack of economic opportunities for lower income people, and one of the primary mechanisms by which inequality is perpetuated and increased.

“Chief amongst these factors are the political representatives of the community. People whom they hardly even have access to exhibited bad governance. Corruption is also an endemic causative factor, as persons in leadership positions steal and loot so much from the public treasury, to the disadvantage of the entire community.” (Nigeria – Abuja)

“Greed, selfishness, and lack of sincerity among the political class has rendered ineffective almost all government interventions meant to improve the lot of citizenry.” (Nigeria – Students)

* Social and economic inequality, unequal treatment of women, prejudice and discrimination, and greed and selfishness on the part of those with money and power: one or more aspects from this cluster of concerns was frequently offered as an explanation for lack of economic opportunities by the poor and by women. It is related to—but not the same as—the “corruption” cluster, above.

“Political intolerance and conflict and poverty are the main causes of declining social relationships among people.” (Nigeria – Students)

“They say most people here are unemployed and it has been like that for years and it doesn't look like it's going to change any time soon.... Hence the plethora of youth doing drugs and being delinquents. The participants are unanimous in saying that another by-product of unemployment is crime. People commit crimes because they don't have money, and they can't be blamed for that.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“Some think joblessness leads to increased levels of abuse as men take out their frustrations on their women. Participants say that because families don't have money and most are unemployed, young girls get seduced by older men who flash money and promise them heaven and earth; and they also prostitute themselves.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

* Environmental degradation, competition for scarce resources, growing populations, changing weather: this environmental cluster of concerns was cited by quite a few of the communities as an explanation for difficulties in the agricultural sector, for conflict between people, or for health problems related to poor environmental quality.

“Competition for common resources such as play-grounds, forest products, grazing areas, fisheries, etc., is increasing over time.” (Nigeria – Students)

“...a greater percentage of the population still live in rural areas and are engaged in low-input subsistence agriculture that hardly sustains them. The soil productivity has continued to decline, and increasingly marginal lands are converted to agriculture. This and the absence of coherent domestic energy policies have force people to cut trees recklessly, which leads to desert encroachment in the northern parts and soil erosion in the southern parts of the country.” (Nigeria – Students)

“Land fragmentation accelerated by increasing populations is also a major cause of environmental degradation and reduced overall agricultural productivity.” (Uganda)

* Lack of appropriate training, education, knowledge resources, or planning: this “intellectual resources” cluster was frequently proposed as an underlying reason for failures by governments and communities to manage environmental and sustainability challenges properly.

“The main findings were that people started valuing trainings and extension as they understand that they lose many opportunities because of lack of knowledge.” (Kyrgyzstan)

“The environment of Dhaka and Chittagong has been polluted more compared to the other divisions in Bangladesh due to lack of organized urban planning.” (Bangladesh – Students)

“Urban problems are increasing due to poor infrastructure, improper transportation system, improper planning of cities, high rate of urbanization, inadequate extension of services, and lack of awareness for waste management.” (Nigeria – Students)

* Lack of sufficient unity among community members: people in a number of the communities felt that the group solidarity and unity of purpose needed to tackle and solve difficult problems was lacking. Several attributed this to divisions created or aggravated by growing levels of inequality.

“The period when Kyrgyzstan obtained independence and started its transition to a market economy came with significant shocks, both for the country and for each citizen. The consequences of this shock were an increase in unemployment, the reduction of social protection by the state, and the deterioration of living standards for the main part of the population, especially for rural women and their families.”(Kyrgyzstan)

2.3 Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Field Hearing participants were asked to identify the changes they thought were needed in order to move their community towards sustainability. Respondents were prompted with a list of potential areas to be addressed (see Basic Questionnaire in Annex B). Many communities answered “all of the above,” not because they were not interested, but because after lengthy discussion, they agreed with the necessity of all the items on the list. For communities which emphasized particular solutions, the emphasis was generally on fixing the items they had identified as “Causes” (see above).

“Participants called for a move towards sustainability.” (Bangladesh – Students)

“Don’t take more than what you can carry... tell our children to live simple lives like we have done since the beginning...people should live simple lives.” (Philippines - Aeta)

Given the above, common themes were identified as follows:

- * Governance: end corruption and commit to good governance in all regards

“Good leadership, good governance, strong middle class society, community-based social participation, and practicing religion and charity can reduce the inequality problem in the society.” (Nigeria – Students)

“To put the country back on track, good governance must be entrenched. This can be done if only the electoral process is improved and the independence of the electoral body guaranteed. Rule of law also must be entrenched so that corruption, lack of discipline, and impunity can be checked. If this is done, then social justice will improve and people will have opportunities to improve their social and economic lives, thereby tackling poverty, ill-health and ignorance themselves.” (Nigeria – Students)

- * Better planning: urban planning, resource management

- * Meeting basic needs: food, health care, education and training, knowledge resources

“For the children, the respondents stated that they would want to see free education for them, the creation of recreational parks and developmental programs which would enable their development, and the provision of free medical services.” (Nigeria – Abuja)

“The most obvious trend is that all the interviewees expressed their urgent need for access to education of children and health care.” (China)

“Yes, it is important because most people will develop skills to be sustainable and learn to do things for themselves. They will produce their own food. People can't afford to buy enough food anymore because it's expensive. And we have that resource already in the community, because a good number of people work or used to work as gardeners and in similar fields. So we can use them to impart skills on how to become sustainable.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

- * Economic opportunities: redirect resources to create economic opportunities for all, rather than accumulation of wealth for the few

“All the participants agreed that there is a need to increase the opportunity for micro-finance services to the poor community.” (Malawi)

“...[there was] skepticism around the ‘Green Economy,’ with many of the respondents saying that their perception of it was that it was just another mechanism for business to carry on in the same way as it had before, just with a heightened awareness of environmental constraints.” (South Africa – Western Cape)

* Social: better relationships between men and women, between community members, and between groups in society will allow people to work together to solve problems

“Social and professional relationships among several groups (gender, ethnicity, economic class, political, social, business groups) need to be close and friendly through more social interaction, tolerance, volunteering, cooperation, corporate social responsibility activities, and more involvement of social enterprises like charity, clubs, NGOs, Waqf (charity of property for society), Zakat (mandatory charity by religion), etc.” (Nigeria – Students)

“...the responsibility for sustainability is not a one-sided affair, since it needs a strong partnership between the government and the governed, between the leaders and the constituents, between the privileged and the deprived, regardless of gender, race or nationality.” (Philippines)

“If we have a problem, we must fix it ourselves. If we have a problem, we must consult our councilor or the relevant stakeholder and find a solution. We must unite and take our community forward.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“Others emphasize the preservation (or even strengthening) of cultural and ethnic identity... the socially more integrated (intellectuals, artists, musicians, etc.) circles have a special responsibility to serve as catalysts for the less successful members of the community by strengthening their cultural and ethnic identity.” (Hungary)

* Access: the poor, women, and marginalized groups want to have social and political access to participate in developing and implementing solutions for society

“All of the community dwellers across the surveyed communities did support the development of new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment, the protection of natural resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction, new energy sources that do not harm the environment, and other environmental protection.” (Nigeria – Abuja)

2.4 Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

A series of 10 question was asked related to social, economic and political inequality (see Section V in Basic Questionnaire, Annex B). People were asked to discuss the privileged and deprived groups in their community, whether the gap between rich and poor was growing or shrinking, whether these differences created problems, and if so, what should be done. The specific form and wording of these sensitive questions was developed by Partner groups along with the Project Steering Committee, and each Partner was asked to modify the questions as needed to ensure that they were culturally appropriate and understandable in their communities.

There were certain common responses that we heard in most of the communities:

* The gap between wealthy and poor is perceived as increasing greatly almost everywhere.

“The level of inequality has increased drastically over the years, which has led the well-being of people at poverty level to a much worse situation.” (Bangladesh – Students)

"...the gap between the rich and poor is observed to be increasing with time. The causes given to us were corruption and exploitation of the poor by the rich in various forms." (India)

"The wealth inequality among the rich and poor is very high, so the income gap is widening. The well-being of the poor people is very low, and their economic and social deprivation is increasing day by day." (Nigeria – Students)

"Participants perceive that the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing... The urbanites are more concerned about the growing gap between the rich and the poor but the rural participants greatly feared the stinging poverty, which they perceived as increasing." (Uganda)

* Wealth and poverty are seen as directly associated with access to political decision-making and to economic opportunities; thus the disparities in these are also increasing greatly.

"They do not feel they have chance to influence the decision-making." (China)

"The unethical practice of power is identified as the cause for the difference in wealth and influence." (Bangladesh – Students)

"Villagers can participate decision-making processes through participation at public meetings or public hearings, but privileged groups can informally influence the decision-making process." (Kyrgyzstan)

"...most of the time the policies are made without consulting the local communities who are affected much by these policies." (Malawi)

* The rich and politically-connected are blamed for this problem; no one blamed the poor themselves for the situation. Several groups cited racial or ethnic discrimination as a root cause, while others blamed the greed and selfishness of the rich or cited the entanglement of political power and business opportunity.

"The privileged group believes it is their divine right to possess all they want. Deprived groups are left in a helpless situation and cannot escape it without monetary help, which is only accessible from wealthy people. Unfortunately, privileged and rich people are only concerned about their own situation and what they "need". This creates a condition where the rich try to ignore the poor, have trouble doing so, and therefore isolate themselves from the poor." (Kyrgyzstan)

"They complained that the rich are not creating a favorable environment for the poor to graduate from one level to another economically...The participants also complained about the greedy mind of the politician, on accumulating riches on their own at the expense of the poor people." (Malawi)

"With more than half of the nation's resources hijacked by a very few elites, political cronies, and psychopaths, the majority of the population remains poor. So, while the country happens to be the seventh largest crude oil exporter in the world, eighty percent of its citizens live on under one dollar a day!" (Nigeria – Students)

“Corruption, poor governance, wrong economic policy, and political unwillingness are responsible for the wealth inequality and income disparity. This also works as an obstacle to economic progress and social harmony and happiness.” (Nigeria – Students)

“These people are often exploited by the rich and educated section of society.” (India)

“Negative discrimination, as a direct link to human rights violations, appears in every aspect of life; especially in employment and education, as well as in the relationship with the public service providers.” (Hungary)

“They attribute this to the ability of rich to access better services such as health and education; engagement of the rich in activities that make worse the conditions of the poor such as land grabbing, and degradation of wetlands which would support the livelihoods of the poor; public opinion by the poor often being ignored in planning and decision-making; and unfair competition.” (Uganda)

“Thus the economic conditions are worsening among the poor, who are exploited by the rich through unfair trade, unfair competition in access to resources for production including land, degradation of environmental resources including wetlands by the rich as they expand their investments; and injustices.” (Uganda)

* Although progress has been made in some places, the perceived disempowerment of women in most (but not all) communities continues. It plays out in families, in business, in politics, and in lack of personal safety. It is, perhaps, mentioned more now than it was in the past, due to global efforts to build awareness and promote women’s rights. Many women expressed very strong feelings about the situation.

“Unempowered women still suffer from men exploiting them over land, food and domestic responsibility.” (Uganda)

[They wished for] *“...men to participate equally and be more cooperative in the family and the home environment; they abhor abusive masculine behaviours...” (South Africa – Red Tent)*

“Women have so many problems here in Diepsloot...And women are the most affected by HIV/AIDS. Most women here are abused by their men.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“Women get targeted a lot when they go to work in the early hours of the morning.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“The growing commercialization and rising costs of education, however, are forcing parents more often to make a choice between children for schooling. In a majority of these cases, parents’ decisions are not in favor of their daughters.” (Kyrgyzstan)

2.5 Articulating Wishes for the Future

Participants were asked, “In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation?” They were prompted to consider 12 areas, from children, women, and men through education and environment (see Part VI in Basic Questionnaire, Annex B).

“But all the people feel that if given chance they can contribute to very good policies as well as initiatives which can assist in the achievement of most of the goals.” (Malawi)

“All the communities we interviewed wish that the world could be made a good environment to live in.... Most of them said that for this to be achieved, it should start from the political will to have a desire to work with all, disregarding whether they are poor or rich, whether they live in town or in the villages, whether they belong to loyal families or from vulnerable families, since the world belongs to all.” (Malawi)

“With regards to government and political leadership, respondents stated their wish for good governance and leadership, adequate security, transparency, and accountability, and a corruption-free society.” (Nigeria - Abuja)

“For water, land and forest resources, the respondents reported their desire for sustainable use of resources, the protection of resources and preservation of resources. With regards to the environment, the community dwellers wish for adequate and timely waste collection and disposition, laws to protect the environment, regular sanitation, and the planting of more trees in the community. “ (Nigeria – Abuja)

“...commanding heights of economy controlled and owned by working class people, shared surpluses, equality between men and women, creative and flexible parenting...” (South Africa – Red Tent)

“Emotionally healthy men and women who show solidarity towards each other -- Green communities, with food gardens, farms and healthy children -- Space to live, breathe, play and express themselves.” (South Africa – Red Tent)

“The youth should be made to understand and love the value of agriculture, and do away with the perception that it is for old people.” (South Africa – Diepsloot)

“...participants call for the approaches and technologies that ensure that production activities are environmentally benign; equity between the rich and the poor is enforced; the views of the poor are heard and addressed; and corruption is curtailed.” (Uganda)

The wishes articulated by most members of these communities were simple and basic. They want stable income and a secure future. They want food, health care and education for their children. They want more responsive and accountable governments that work to create opportunities for all, regardless of ethnicity or economic class. They want to have access—to opportunities and to decision-making.

They are waiting to be heard.

2.6 Interpretation of Differences in Findings

Field Hearing Partners were asked to assess the differences in responses they received based on differences in ethnicity, religion, gender, economic class, and other characteristics and life circumstances. There was actually a surprising amount of unanimity in responses among the different communities within each given country—perhaps partly because a particular socioeconomic class of individuals was solicited, but also because perceptive people tend to observe many of the same problems. In cases where both poor and well-to-do people were asked their opinions (such as in Bangladesh and in Nigeria), the responses were surprisingly similar. Highly educated students from middle or upper class families may have been more articulate about the causes and solutions, but they saw the same basic problems and wished for many of the same outcomes in the future.

Several Partners identified the following differences in responses observed in their Field Hearings:

- * Women were more concerned about health and education issues, while men were more concerned about access to jobs (China).
- * Poor respondents clearly described the benefits of privileged groups in their communities, while the well-to-do pointed out that there is no difference in privileges or access to recourse among different groups (Kyrgyzstan).
- * Many Roma who manage to get out of poverty do not stay empathic towards the less lucky members of the group (Hungary).
- * The youth had greater sympathy with governments positions, and a strong belief in education as the solution, whereas the migrants had extreme distrust of political processes, a deep sense of isolation and alienation from all formal process, and a perception of great abundance that was being unfairly withheld from them (South Africa).

2.7 Conclusions

The findings of this *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* project are very preliminary. Clearly, a much more comprehensive effort needs to be put into place before we can draw firm conclusions on the circumstances and views of common people across the globe. Despite this fact, the answers we heard were amazingly similar, with common themes that are easy to identify. Apparently, the reality of peoples' lives in many parts of the world are both *similar* and *similarly understood*.

A massive project called "*Voices of the Poor*," undertaken by the World Bank in the 1990's¹, compiled interviews from a total of over 60,000 people (in some cases taken from other sources). Their results were similar to ours, although much more comprehensive. Key findings emerging from that project included the following:

¹ The research findings have been published for the World Bank by Oxford University Press in a three-volume series: (1) [Can Anyone Hear Us?](#) analyzes the voices of over 40,000 poor women and men in 50 countries from participatory poverty assessments carried out by the World Bank in the 1990s; (2) [Crying Out for Change](#) pulls together reports on fieldwork conducted in 1999 in 23 countries involving over 20,000 poor men and women; and (3) [From Many Lands](#) offers regional patterns and country case studies.

- The poor view well-being holistically: poverty is much more than income alone. For the poor, the good life or well-being is multidimensional, with both material and psychological dimensions.
- Insecurity has increased, and violence is on the rise, both domestically and in the society.
- The poor feel they have been bypassed by new economic opportunities.
- Gender inequity is widespread, domestic violence pervasive and gender relations stressed: Loss of traditional male "breadwinner role" and female "caretaker role" (because of changing economic circumstances) is traumatic for both genders, and family breakdown, domestic violence and increased alcoholism among men are often mentioned.
- Corruption emerges as a key poverty issue: the poor want governments and state institutions to be more accountable to them.
- Health care is unavailable or too expensive.
- Education received by young people is inadequate.
- NGOs are seen as important but many unaccountable
- The poor rely on informal networks and local institutions to survive, including the local holy man and the local nurse.

Perhaps the most important dimension to our *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* project, and the element that sets us apart from the World Bank study, is that these Field Hearings were conducted by Partners who have an on-going relationship to the people and communities in which the Field Hearings were held. This means that there is a strong sense of expectation on the part of Field Hearing participants, and sense of obligation on the part of the Partners (including IfE), to do something more than just talk about the identified problems. This project is seen as the first step in a larger effort to address underlying causes of the difficult circumstances afflicting poor, disempowered, marginalized, and common people across the globe. We invite your participation and support.

###

PART TWO: INDIVIDUAL FIELD HEARING REPORTS





Chapter 3. Bangladesh - Farmers

Nazmul Huq, Syed Iqbal Ali, Sarder Alam and Saqib Huq

Part 1. Introduction

The field hearing provided some important aspects of the general perception of the sustainability on many different issues. Conducted on a traditional agricultural community, the hearing yielded a very important aspect of sustainability perception, in that the community does not involve social, political and environmental factors in recognizing long term sustainability. They do think about the future of their next generation, although their definition hardly exceeds the border of economic elements.

Field Hearing Partner

The field hearing was conducted under the regular stakeholder dialogue programme of Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB). Please visit www.arcab.org for more information on ARCAB, a long term action research programme on community-based adaptation to climate change in Bangladesh.

Primary Individuals

The hearing was conducted by Nazmul Huq and his ARCAB colleagues, namely Syed Iqbal Ali, Sarder Alam and Saqib Huq. Nazmul was also very instrumental in developing the Basic Questionnaire used by all the Field Hearing Partners.

Methods, problems and considerations

The field hearing followed a methodological procedure such as:

1. Field visit
2. Informal discussion with people (one to one)
3. Meeting with larger group of people in a public place

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Location: Bisahl Kandi village of Banaripara subdistrict of Barisal District. The area is situated in lower Ganges basin in Bangladesh. See Map 1 at the end of the document. The area is a flat topographic area with an average on 1-2 meters above from the sea level. This is a unique geographic area where most of the time of the year has natural flooding.

Number of participants

The numbers of participants were 8 - 10. The number varied throughout the session, as some people left the session while some new joined.

General age category of participants

Their age group ranged from 25-50 years.

Economic sector of participants

Community members were dependent on traditional farming. The general socio-economic composition of the village is also agriculture dominant. The uniqueness of the agriculture is that they cultivate on a floating agriculture bed. Their annual income was between \$1500 - 2000. Two female key informants who sold their labor in farm lands were also interviewed separately.

Gender breakdown of participants

In the general group no woman was available. However, women talked in informal discussion sessions.

Population size of communities

The community of Bisharkandi has a population of approximately 8,000.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The community that has been interviewed viewed themselves as a progressive community in terms of their holistic development perspective. They consider that people have been developing their lifestyle over the last 10-15 years without interruption. They ranked following trends:

- Education – getting better
- Health – getting better
- Income – getting better

Social values – getting worse
Traditional institution’s role - diminishing
Life expectancy – developing
Production – developing
Natural calamities – getting worse (coupled socio-ecological factors)
Technology and its usages – developing
Role of elderly in the society – getting worse (their roles are not valued as previously)

(Facilitator reflections: The facilitator of the session found the discussion really interesting in terms of general trend assessment of the physical and social resources. It is really important to see the sharp difference of the perception on social institutions and values. All of them acknowledged the role of societal institutions for sustained social relations; however, the younger people wanted to see it in a new form, or an elected form where they will have more participation space. The young people were also very keen on IT and they were taking advantage of it for their agricultural production. The interviewed community is an emerging agricultural community. They are farming in the most challenging area using floating beds. However, they kept their development indicators progressive, and they are aware of the sustainability of the positive trends. The most important thing is that the community rightly identified the right trends to be assessed, and their trend assessment followed reality.)

Speculate About Causes

The group was asked about the underlying causes for many different things, causes which make their life difficult to sustain, among others. The participant groups provided a wide range of answers, among which the following causes achieved maximum support:

1. Lack of Marketing opportunity
2. More Population
3. Less land
4. High price of agricultural input
5. Less supportive government officials and institutes
6. Political instability, and
7. Inadequate Education

(Facilitator reflections: This section of the interview mainly deals with the challenges that an emerging community faces. As this community is developing their profile, as stated above, most the causes written down in this section are not significantly worsening any of their listed assets and trends. Rather, some of the causes are intertwined with existing challenges.)

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

As stated in the earlier section, the community hardly de-couples the terms “causes” and “challenges”. When they were asked about the changes necessary for sustainability, they repeated the challenges which need to be managed to sustain their progressiveness. However, the woman interviewed added two other necessary changes. These are listed below:

1. Reducing Corruption (all)
2. Higher government role (all)
3. Ensure education (mentioned by young and women)
4. Ensure agricultural input (all)
5. Technical education (mentioned by women)
6. High yield varieties (not hybrid variety)

7. Ensuring role of social structure
8. Taking IT advantage (mentioned by young)
9. Respect to woman labour (mentioned by women)

(Facilitator Reflection: most of those who responded are really worried about what would be sustained over the longer time horizon. It is a very common trend among the people that they DON'T think about the environmental or social sustainability of their community for their children and next generation. What they are doing is only for a secure income and/or education for their next generation. However, at the end of the session they identified the above changes necessary to sustain their on-going development. These communities are transforming themselves from very agro-dependent communities to a diverse livelihood community, and they are trying many options invented or modified on their own; e.g. floating farming, creating marketing channels, etc.)

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Age/sex	Privilege—opportunities they enjoy	Deprivation—opportunities they lack
Younger	Local level election/administration	Social institution access
	New business enterprise	
	IT opportunity	
	Political membership	
	Information	
Elderly	Political ownership	New business opportunity
	Local administration	Micro finance
	information	Government agri-loan
	IT (mobile)	
Woman	Job	Family decision-making
	Education	Social institutions
	Income	Political ownership
	Health	mobility
	Micro-finance	
	Local administration	
	Information	
	Mobile phone	

(Facilitator Reflection: in terms of privilege and deprivation, opinions differ according to age and sex classification. Young groups are vibrant and they enjoy more privileges than any other groups, e.g. IT privileges. However, they also feel deprivation, e.g. lack of access to traditional social institutions which are mostly reserved for the elderly. It would be interesting to see how these institutions are sustained in coming decades, as these are very much part of social life despite their diminishing role. Like everywhere, Bangladesh women now have greater access to all sorts of available facilities. However, their decision-making role in family is still really negligible, regardless of social and political boundaries.)

Articulating Wishes for the Future

People are wishing a lot. In most cases, their wishes again are just limited to three words:

- Good income
- Peace
- Secure future

When asked about a “secure future,” their answer is again linked to materialistic properties rather than environmental and social aspects of sustainability. The common examples are:

- Education for family
- Greater income
- Available agricultural input
- Good price
- Good health

Interestingly, none is concerned about politics, environment, equity, access or rights. This is due to the skewed nature of the decision-making in Bangladesh. Decisions are made in centrally, so for communities at the end of the beneficiary group or stakeholder level, all these political or economic discourses and decision-making never reach down to them.

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Map showing location of Field Hearings in Bangladesh



Chapter 4. Bangladesh - Students

Md. Mahmudul Alam, Mohammad Mashnun Hossain

Part 1. Introduction

The focus group discussion was held to discuss the issue of equity and sustainability from the perspective of Bangladesh. Participants talked about the various aspects of sustainable development. Not only they discussed the reasons behind it, but also they have put forward some policies for the betterment of the existing situation in Bangladesh.

Field Hearing Partner

The focus group discussion was organized by the members of Young Economists' Forum, which is one of the students' clubs of North South University. This club promotes economic thinking among the students. To know more about the club, please visit www.yefonline.net

Primary Individuals

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We are two Bangladeshis who conducted this study. Moreover, we would like to thank the executive body of Young Economists' Forum, especially Mr. Michael Shirsho Das (President) and Tahsin Azmain (Vice President) of Young Economists' Forum. Credit also goes to all the participants who participated in the focus group discussion.

Methods, problems and considerations

The focus group discussion was held in three phases. The first phase included a small presentation to let the discussants know about the project. Then discussants were given the questionnaires which they filled out. After that, the discussion was held. It was held in a class room of North South University where there were all kinds of facilities (projectors, seating arrangements, board) etc.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

This focus group discussion was held at North South University in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 14th May, 2012.

Number of participants

15 respondents

General age category of participants

The general age category of the participants is around 20-24.

Economic sector of participants

Most of them belong to middle class with participation from upper class as well. Their parents are mostly in business. Some of their parents work in defense. Others' parents profession include doctors, development professionals, etc.

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

All of the discussants are the undergraduate students of North South University.

Gender breakdown of participants

Out of 15 participants, four of them were females and 11 were males.

Population size of communities

Currently over ten thousands students are enrolled at North South University.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The concept of Equity and Sustainability in Bangladesh captures the various social economic aspects of the country. The condition of economic well-being has not improved much over the years. At the same time, unethical practices and corruption showed an increasing trend, which has placed Bangladesh in the list of most corrupt countries quite a few times in recent years. Due to the worse economic condition, the standard of living has decreased. People need to put in more effort to ensure the same standard of living. The lives of children and lives of adults over 60 showed almost stagnant condition with very few improvements. The health care system has been characterized as having made some development, and the proportion of educated people has increased as well. The quality of services for the most part either remains unchanged or showed a pattern of decrease. However, women's stance in society has been improved over the years because of the government policies and increased opportunities for women in the private sector.

Regarding the concept of level of happiness, they were not able to provide satisfactory answer as most of them are not acquainted with it. The level of inequality has increased drastically over the years, which has led the well-being of people at poverty level to a much worse situation. The surrounding environment has been degraded. Conflict between different groups of people has been increased, which is mostly due to political instability in Bangladesh. This political instability arises from power struggles between economic classes, ethnic conflict and party politics mostly. The cities are becoming places where the condition of living deteriorates at a much faster level. Here cities include the capital Dhaka and the port city Chittagong.

Speculate About Causes

The system of governance is identified as one of the main underlying factors causing problems in the communities of Bangladesh. The reason is that the level of accountability is very low for government officials. The issue of well-being was discussed in terms of purchasing power, where discussants remarked that rise of income is insignificant. Politicians and Bureaucrats are the two main entities who play major roles in the cultivation of corruption. Big scale corruption leads to small scale corruption. Though Bangladesh has not been ranked top in the list of most corrupted countries according to Transparency International (Bangladesh topped the list from 2001-2005), the reason might indicate an increasing level corruption in other countries compared to Bangladesh, rather than a decrease in corruption in Bangladesh.

Income inequality has increased, as most of the investments took place in city areas. So people living in urban society enjoy a higher income compared to people living in rural areas. Urbanization has been indicated as a cause which is depriving childhood for children, as children are not able to play in cities due to lack of fields. However, for the people who are aged over 60, their condition is better than the old people in developed countries because they are taken care of by their children here. The environment of Dhaka and Chittagong has been polluted more compared to the other divisions in Bangladesh due to lack of organized urban planning. However, environmental degradation is seen as a cost of development. As Bangladesh is underdeveloped currently, environmental degradation is expected to take place as a consequence of development—unless funding from other developed countries is available to tackle the issue. For the issue of city problems, traffic jams were pointed out as an example. Participants pointed out that lack of new roads and infrastructures has been creating traffic jams. Lack of proper leadership and weak resource management are other issues that were discussed by the participants.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Participants called for a move towards sustainability. They indicated some of the factors which are required for the moving towards sustainability. Steps need to be taken to protect resources from pollution. Among the resources, water and agricultural lands got the most attention. Natural sites and wild animals got the priority but not adequate in terms of protecting resources. Currently, the electricity supply is available only for 40% of population. At this moment finding new energy sources and using the current energy sources in very essential for sustainability and economic growth. Ensuring education and job security are other top priorities for sustainability. Gender inequality and relationships between different ethnic groups of people got a weak response, as most of the participants think other more important issues prevail which need to be taken care of first before them. Among them, income inequality tops the list. Sustainability issues should be addressed in academic text books. The role of social enterprises is important, as charities, clubs and NGOs can play a major role to create a sustainable society.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

All the participants identified themselves as privileged. They identified the privileged category as consisting of civil service officials, expats and those who are in politics. On the other hand, deprived communities are comprised of people who are in the lower income basket as money is the main indicator of influence. Privileged communities enjoy the benefits of increased security, good health care and other services. They have opportunities to amass more wealth. The opposite happens for deprived communities, as they are not allowed to have any opportunities to develop themselves, limited access to basic services, and lack of opportunities outside of illegal activities. The unethical practice of power is identified as the cause for the difference in wealth and influence. Differences in wealth and influence create harmful impacts in the community. Social awareness about equity, more strict treatment of corrupt practices, and increased zakat (Islamic tax system) and good use of taxes need to be ensured to solve these problems. These steps will increase tax collection, which might be then spent on development expenditure that would improve the situation of poor. For that to happen, government must take necessary steps.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

For a better future, some policies need to be taken. From the perspective of education, English proficiency needs to be improved for the masses of people, as language skill plays a dominant role in job market. There is a need to increase the number of high skilled teachers in urban areas and in rural areas. Participants call for a unified education system (there are different types of education in Bangladesh based on the medium; i.e. Bangla medium education, English medium education, Madrasa system, etc.). The need for application-based studies has been pointed out, as the current education seems out of the touch with reality. Emphases also need to put on moral and ethical education as well. The health issues for children also need to take care of to ensure awareness of vaccination programs and fighting against malnutrition.

For old people, voluntary jobs should be created so that they do not feel left out of the development process. In addition, their retirement benefits should be increased. The issue of child labor was also raised. Though children should not work under age (minimum below 13), there are some dire situations where there are no other options. Thus, better work conditions should be created for children, and also provisions should be made so that, gradually, children will not have to work in future. Resources should be priced according to their value. For example, the price of water is very low in Bangladesh; thus there is misallocation of resources due to the low price, which causes wastage. Coal policy needs to be finalized which is a very debatable issue in Bangladesh as people are divided about the ways to extract

coal. Surface water quality needs to be improved. The skill level needs to be increased for those who are working in the resource management sector. There is a need for more ethical people in the government. Also political parties are more focused on unproductive and political issues rather than development or betterment. Leadership training in the academic system needs to be included. Also the issue of good governance as well as political accountability needs to be addressed. At the same time, the concept of direct democracy system was discussed, where voters can vote for each issue rather than the current representative democratic system.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

The concept of Equity and Sustainability in Bangladesh assays the various social and economic aspects of the country. The condition of economic well-being have not improved much over the years. At the same time, unethical practices and corruption showed an increasing trend in all sectors, which has placed Bangladesh on the list of most corrupt countries quite a few times in recent years. The surrounding environment has been degraded. The competition for resources such as access to water, electricity, and common resources is a highly increasing trend. Conflict between different groups of people has increased, which is mostly due to political instability in Bangladesh. This political instability arises from power struggles between economic classes, ethnic conflict and party politics mostly. The system of weak governance is identified as one of the main underlying factors causing problems in the communities of Bangladesh. The reason is that the level of accountability is very low for government officials. Participants called for a move towards sustainability. Steps need to be taken to protect resources from pollution. From education's perspective, there is a need to increase the number of highly skilled and trained teachers both in urban and rural areas. Participants called for a unified education system (there are different types of education in Bangladesh based on the medium; i.e. Bangla medium education, English medium education, Madrasa system, etc.). Leadership training needs to be incorporated in the school education system. Also the issue of political accountability needs to be ensured to have a sustainable community in Bangladesh.

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Chapter 5. China - Kunming

Lei Zhang, Yiwen Hu, Duoyi Peng, Zhuangyue Luo, Zhengyi Feng, Xiaolan Xu, Zhouqing Guo

Part 1. Introduction

All the interviews were conducted in Lianjia community, Wuhua district of Kunming City. Wuhua district is located in the northwestern part of Kunming, covering a total area of nearly 400 square kilometers and having a population of about 880,000 people. Wuhua is one of the major urban districts of Kunming. Lianjia community is the interface of the urban and the rural. Due to the fast expansion of the city, many farmers lost their land and became urban population. Many of them rent out flats, which attracted many floating population to live there (it is estimated that about 30,000 people from other regions live there). This floating population mainly came from rural areas and they made a life in Lianjia community by offering all kinds of services, for example: factory worker, hour-based labor, small business, construction worker, company staff, transportation, waste picker, etc. Since they do not have urban household registration, these people cannot enjoy the same jobs, education and health services and well-being. They are the most vulnerable group in the city.

Field Hearing Partner

This project is a cooperation between Renmin University of China and Yunnan University. Dr. Lei Zhang from Renmin University communicated directly with IFE and translated the instructions and questionnaire for field hearing from English to Chinese language. Her colleague, Mr. Yiwen Hu, worked personally with a team of master students from Yunnan University in the field. The team was also guided by Prof. Duoyi Peng from Yunnan University. In total, 30 interviews with individuals were conducted and videoed in May, 2012 in Lianjia community of Kunming City, Yunnan Province.

Primary Individuals

The field hearing was mainly conducted by 3 master students from the School of Public Administration at Yunnan University, guided by their supervisor, Prof. Duoyi Peng. The following people were involved in the Field Hearing project:

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Conducted interviews in the field

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Methods, problems and considerations

The team worked in Lianjia community of KunmingCity, Yunnan province. Interviewees were approached randomly. The team members explained the purpose and the contents of the interview to them first. Many people the team approached refused to be videoed. Those who were willing to be videoed were selected. No written permission was asked for the use of the video. Names of the interviewees were not recorded. In total, 30 interviews with individuals were conducted and videoed in May, 2012.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

All the interviews were conducted in Lianjia community, Wuhua district of Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China.

Number of participants

In total 30 people were interviewed.

General age category of participants

The interviewees were aged from 16 to 45.

Economic sector of participants

Most of them are farmer workers, which means they were on farms but needed to take up other jobs. They worked as factory workers, hour-based labor, small business, construction worker, company staff, transportation, waste picker, accountant, housewife, etc.

Gender breakdown of participants

19 men, 11 women

Population size of communities

They all live and work in Lianjia community, where live about 30,000 floating population

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The most obvious trend is that all the interviewees expressed their urgent need for access to education of children and health care. The older ones (5 above 40 years) believed that although incomes increased, the political environment became worse. They do not feel they have chance to influence the decision-making. They are more realistic and more concerned about salary levels, prices, health care and so on. Comparatively, younger people have a stronger demand for equity, justice and environmental protection.

Speculate About Causes

The lower level of happiness is mainly caused by health problems, less communication with family members and lack of sense of security. It does not matter whether they enjoy increased incomes or experience decreased incomes, people seem to feel less happy than before. The older ones feel less competitive in the job market and more pressure from the family, with no sense of security for the future. The younger ones are exposed to more opportunities, but they do not feel that they are equally treated.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Better education, health care and access to jobs are the most mentioned needs.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

All the interviewees do not think they can influence the decision-making. Younger people are aware of their rights but they are not sure how to realize them. They think farmers and farmer workers are deprived, and those who have political power and wealth have the privilege.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

For the future, older people wished for better health care, education and reduction of the poor-rich gaps. Younger people also wished for political reforms, environmental protection, job opportunities and social equity.



2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

Due to the high homogeneity of the background of the group, they all expressed strong concern about access to education of children, health care and job opportunities. Younger people, with better education, paid more attention to equity and environmental protection issues. They were also more critical about deprivation and privilege. They all mentioned that those who had political power and wealth had the privilege in the society, while farmers and farmer workers were deprived. Social status of women was considered improved in most of the cases.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

Differences can be observed between groups of different ages and genders. Women were more concerned about health and education issues, while men were more concerned about access to jobs.

Differences based on economic circumstances

There was no information about the different economic circumstances of the interviewees.

Differences based on other factors

Apart from gender, education is the most important factor.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

The most important need is to improve the equity between the rural and urban population, to reduce the gaps between the rich and the poor in China. How to do this is a very big question. Of course, the government has been trying to use taxation to reduce the gaps between the low income group and the high income group, between the developed regions and the less developed regions. However, in my opinion, the problems will not be solved if people, both in cities and rural areas, are not given equal opportunities for education and other welfare. The biggest problem is with the current education system in China. Access to good education becomes a privilege of the rich and powerful people, which leads to wider gaps in future. Therefore, political reforms that aim to improve governance for the interest of the majority of the population will be critical for improvement in these fields.

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

The future depends on how the conflicts between the urban and the rural will be dealt with.

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Chapter 6. Hungary - Szeged

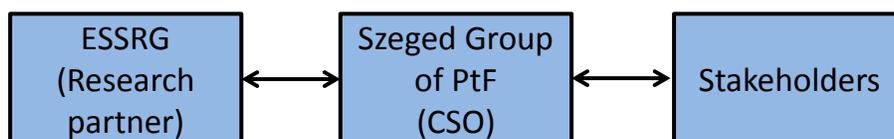
György Málovics, Bálint Balázs, Barbara Mihók, István Szentistványi, György Pataki, Elizabeth Lakatos, László Jakab

Part 1. Introduction

We are conducting a participatory action research (PAR) project on the topic of local human rights with Roma communities in Szeged, Hungary. Our PAR project is part of a larger science-society project called PERARES (Public Engagement with Research And Research Engagement with Society), a four years project funded by the European Community's 7th Framework Programme started in 2010. The PERARES project aims to strengthen public engagement in research (PER) by involving researchers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the formulation of research agendas and the research process.¹

Field Hearing Partner

A research group (Environmental Social Science Research Group, ESSRG) and a civil society organization from Szeged, Hungary (Szeged Group of Protect the Future) joined forces to design and conduct a participatory action research with special focus on local human rights of marginalized groups. ESSRG works as a scientific consultant with a local CSO (Szeged Group of PtF) which works together collaboratively with the local Roma community.



¹ <http://www.livingknowledge.org/livingknowledge/perares>

Primary Individuals

Three members (Bálint Balázs, György Pataki, Györgyi Bela) are from ESSRG and colleagues (Barbara Mihók, István Szentsitványi, Elizabeth Lakatos, László Jakab, Szilárd Ledán and Dániel Takács) are from the Szeged Group of Protect the Future (PtF). Some of us are researchers with PhD degrees, others are activists (indeed, we have people on our team who consider themselves both researchers and activists in the same time) and university students.

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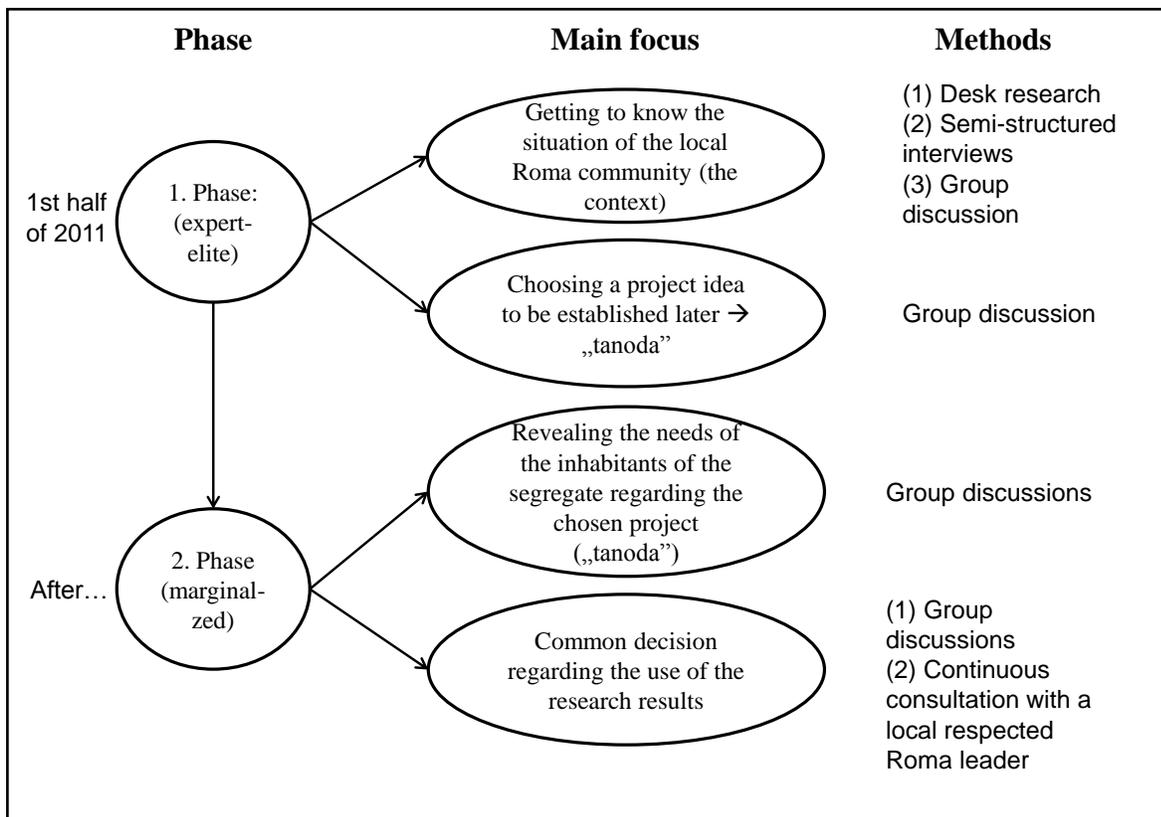
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Methods, problems and considerations

Our project can be divided into two relatively separate phases – see the figure below. The first phase is expert-led, where we built trust with the local Roma community and got acquainted with their situation using our established expert and elite relationships. After 6 month we managed to find our way (through personal contacts) to the really marginalized families, who live in one of the two Roma segregates in Szeged. Our action-oriented approach means that we continuously organized our research toward an action outcome, such as establishing a “tanoda” (a special educational institution for Roma children); this is still an ongoing process.



Besides traditional qualitative research methods (personal and group interviews) we are also in a continuous personal relationship with local Roma leaders in order to help them in many field actions different from our main research activity (such as establishing a tanoda).

Throughout our action research process we faced many problems outlined below:

- We needed to clarify the use of certain terms, when (how) and why we use expressions like *Roma, Roma and the Roma community*. Our experiences show that the members of the local Roma population (as well as the experts working with them) do not entirely agree on the proper terminology within themselves. Some of the participants found the wide-spreading of the term Roma too controversial (implying a private tone and a rather intimate relationship). They repeatedly emphasized that the term, Roma community is ambiguous and it is important to clarify who we mean by it. (For instance, whether they are Carpathian, Boyash or Olah Gypsies.)
- Another basic dilemma was to clarify *what we mean by the term, Roma population of Szeged* (at least during the project) that we defined as the main beneficiary of our project. Originally we intended to contact marginalized people living in segregated areas. *Our first contacts*, mostly from the local Roma elite, preferred not to limit our approach to those living in the segregated neighborhoods because the Roma community also includes integrated Gypsies who do not really differ in their life style/living standard from the majority of the society. *In the second phase of the research* this problem appeared on a different level:
 - we did indeed reach the marginalized people living in segregates, but we cannot be sure that we reached everybody (every relevant group with different perspectives) among them, and
 - our continuous cooperation (on a daily basis) is limited to a local leader, which raises problems regarding legitimate representation even in our case where we feel that this leader is accepted and supported by the whole Roma community in Szeged.
 - This implies further questions, such as what is the “optimal” mix of participation and representation when working together with marginalized communities?
- Another dilemma was to find out *whether we can talk about disadvantaged (or marginalized) group(s) “en bloc” within the context of the Roma population of Szeged*, and if we can, what are the well-defined criteria to do so.
- We needed to decide whether we want to define and characterize the Roma population as a *social category (group) and/or an ethnic (cultural) community*. The members of the community themselves are likely to have diverse views about this question as well.
- Regarding the focal issue of *integration*, or the need for such efforts, we were primarily interested, again, in the views of those concerned: what integration means from the perspective of their own culture and identity. The discussions showed a diverse picture concerning this issue as well: sometimes integration is so successful that people trying to break out of their original environment do regard full assimilation as the key in their mobilization. Others emphasize the preservation (or even strengthening) of cultural and ethnic identity: they claim that the socially more integrated (intellectuals, artists, musicians, etc.) circles have a special responsibility to serve as catalysts for the less successful members of the community by strengthening their cultural and ethnic identity.
- The question of *segregation* is a closely related issue. People tend to view segregation in a negative light if it refers to forcing people into a segregated area/ghetto/camp despite their decision (prison, labor camp, refugee camp, etc.). But when the members of a community choose to segregate themselves (e.g. eco-villages), the term may have positive connotations, too. The fact that the EU does not deny the right of Travelers to lead an unusual life style may be

considered as another example for the positive interpretation of segregation in which it takes place in the interest of the community from a human rights perspective. Some of the participants confirmed that a simplistic approach to (de)segregation often leads to a (more or less inevitable) re-segregation process in education: in the higher grades of primary school most of the Roma students end up in special schools despite all efforts for their integration.

- We also expected the need to reframe the way some of the *classic dichotomies* operate. For instance, how can we properly use the *majority society/minorities* distinction and what are the practical consequences of an adequate interpretation. How does this ethnic divide relate to such broader distinctions as *privileged/marginalized social groups*, or the relationship between the *elite and the majority society* in which the ethnic category is replaced by a social/economic category? The prominent, respected figures of the local Roma population (that we were mostly able to contact in the first phase of our research) have nearly all become members of the social elite (in a broader sense). When we (primarily) focus on the problems of the (mostly) disadvantaged groups of the segregated areas, to what extent can we consider them as a concerned party?
- *The influence of power structures and power relations within the community on the research.* Internal relations of the local Roma population fundamentally influence people's willingness to cooperate. It became clear for us that our interviewees have a long common history that is not free from conflicts (and might inhibit further collaboration between them), as we found ourselves among solid structures of hierarchy and power relations.
- One of the greatest challenges in the forums was *the task of moderating the discussion*. Some of the participants were not willing to keep the time limits and the moderator (a member of our team and not an outsider) could not "discipline" them in this respect. One of the reasons was that (1) these "undisciplined" participants were on the top of the hierarchy of the community with unquestionable authority (or at least position), and therefore, the moderator's efforts to control them would have negatively influenced their future cooperation, and (2) the forum was not assisted by a qualified moderator as a result of choosing a team member and not an outsider who would be not familiar with the internal relations of the group. Certain prestigious/dominant participants were significantly more active than others, and some participants nearly did not say anything. In a group with such a solid power structure and hierarchy, however, it is interesting to consider whether we want to "intervene" (from outside) into the process (and the power relations) to such an extent, and how legitimate and ethical that would be.
- We also faced a dilemma regarding *to what extent we as researchers (should) influence the research process and outcome? Is our role limited to unfolding community needs or should we act as consultants aiming to empower people who we work with? In this latter case do we direct "participatory" research based on our own views or are we really just consultants? These are questions we continuously face during our work.*
- Probably our main dilemma is connected to the *uncertainty regarding the success criteria in a PAR project*. Are continuously ongoing "side activities" (activities we carry out based on our continuous relationship with the local Roma leader) less important than the "main event" (the action on which we decided together with people living in segregates). In many cases we felt that several side activities are more important regarding the well-being of locals than the main event itself. Similarly, can we say that PAR was successful when our project is done in the sense that it is documented towards the EU and its results are published in journals? This question is relevant because occasionally we experienced conflicts between getting a single project done and contributing to the empowerment of the community – e.g. we did have the chance to cooperate with an influential local actor in the establishing of a "tanoda", but this local actor did not want to cooperate with the local Roma – for whom the "tanoda" would have been

established. Thus in this case “the project is done” would have meant that we neglect the fact that local decisions are again made – hopefully - for the Roma but without them.

- It was also a great frustration for us that we experienced that in PAR projects it is easy to get to scientific success without any social success.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

We worked at the city of Szeged (Hungary) with the members of the two local Roma segregates, the *Cserepes sor* segregate and the *Árpa utca* segregate.

Number of participants

It is hard to say, since throughout this fieldwork we experienced that working with the marginalized groups cannot be as formalized as working with elite groups. However, we interviewed at least 2 dozen people from the local experts and Roma elite and reached approximately 40 - 50 people through group discussions and field visits.

General age category of participants

Between 30 – 50 years old.

Economic sector of participants

Experts were mostly social workers. People living in the segregates are mostly unemployed, a few of them are employed in public employment programs (e.g. by the local firm responsible for environmental management within the city) as blue collar workers.

Gender breakdown of participants

It is again difficult to estimate. During our fieldwork we met both women (mostly mothers and partly grandmothers of children of school age) and men.

Regarding the continuous relationship with the local Roma leader and his team, it is made up of 4 men and 1 woman – we are in the closest relationship with 2 men from that group.

Population size of communities

In 1997, the Roma community consisted of 2500-3000 people in Szeged according to local estimates, while based on our interviews the current number is more likely to be 4500-5000. The *Cserepes sor* segregate includes 46 houses and approximately 200 people, while the *Árpa utca* segregate includes 18 houses and approximately 125 people.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Interviewed people emphasized the following most important trends:

- **Housing, housing conditions and related issues of medical conditions.** During our interviews we gathered disenchanted experiences about the housing conditions of the segregated areas in

Szeged. The living space is generally very small; 8-15 people are cramped into 20-30-50m² apartments. At least 20% (some say more) of the inhabitants in one segregate live there illegally. Many families are behind with their payments for the utilities, and the rent for the houses is relatively expensive. The general health conditions of the inhabitants of the segregated areas are very poor, the average age is relatively low, and many people suffer from asthma and pulmonary diseases.

- **Job opportunities, employment.** According to the interviews 90% of the marginalized Roma population is affected by unemployment. Low level of schooling, social prejudices and the lack of opportunities make employment nearly impossible. Changes in the Hungarian “community work program” negatively affected the Roma population, several interviewees pointed out that their situation is typically a “poverty trap”.
- **Education.** Views on education are diverse: our interviewees claim that education cannot provide opportunities for the marginalized families before their basic needs are met – they may only aspire to “learn a trade”. Families need to find income as early as possible and a part of this is helping the child “learn a trade”. While attitudes towards desegregation processes are rather contradictory, almost everybody agrees that segregated schools are not the way forward; however, they are also critical about the “integrated” education. Many Roma children apparently do not get appropriate education due to the lack of appropriate educational programs, capacity and necessary expertise (e.g. Roma teachers). They (and their non-Roma peers) also do not receive any particular community knowledge of Roma culture, literature etc.
- **Security, access to information, perspectives for the future.** A majority of the Roma population in Szeged is facing an insecure future when it comes to long-term housing – many of them do not know whether they will have anywhere to live in the future. This insecurity also characterizes their general outlooks (work, future perspectives), and it is made worse by never being sure how new regulations actually affect the people in the community. This is due to the fact that these people are uninformed and were never asked about their opinion on housing decisions. As an important component of the feeling of security, many of them mentioned the need for a confidential relationship with the representatives of authorities and social organizations.

Speculate About Causes

The main cause, according to the stakeholders, is the *lack of equal treatment and self-management*. Negative discrimination as a direct link to human rights violations appears in every aspect of life, especially in employment and education, as well as in the relationship with the public service providers. The negative discrimination of the Roma population (in Szeged) is probably closely related to poor self-management skills in the Roma population, and the lack of political or civic representation of their interests both locally and in the national context.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

We did not manage to identify specific changes needed in a traditional sustainability sense. What Roma want, according to our research, are basic social improvements and decreasing discrimination in the near future. Sustainability from their viewpoint means that their children can have thoughts or hopes for their future– entirely different from the present situation of their parents, the present adult generation.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

We think that the most important findings are the causes. We totally agree with the Roma that they face lack of equal treatment and negative discrimination which make their situation self-reinforcing.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

It is interesting that we find the local community relatively homogenous regarding the issues we discussed with them.

Differences based on economic circumstances

We experienced that several – not all! – Roma who managed to “get out” of the segregates and manage to live an integrated life, sometimes blame people in segregates for their poor situation. People living in segregates do not blame themselves but rather the neglect and prejudices of the majority society.

Differences based on other factors

We think (but it is really just an impression) that personality is an important factor from this respect. Many Roma who manage to get out of poverty do not stay empathic towards the less lucky groups of the members. It probably also has something to do with people’s own life experiences.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

We think that the majority society should direct more (material and human) resources toward understanding the Roma and helping them to improve their situation.

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

Regarding our work, we plan to go on with our cooperative activities and hope to contribute to the improvement of the circumstances of the local Roma population. Clearly, it is not our activist group which has the main power. Certain political changes (e.g. electing local politicians who really care about marginalized people) would be very beneficial regarding the situation of the marginalized. However, these do not seem likely to come very soon.

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Chapter 7. India - Madhya Pradesh

Shubhee Saxena, Manish Vyas, Shailaish Majumdar, Ashu Saxena, Ajit Kumar Saxena

Part 1. Introduction

EEDS has conducted this project to assess the knowledge of groups and families in various regions regarding environmental issues and to highlight the main problems related to environment and people so that we know the root cause of the troubles faced by various communities and the harm that communities can cause to the environment due to absence of knowledge. With the help of this survey we came to know the trends and factors causing problems which will be useful to us in creating better living conditions while keeping in account the environmental reforms required at different levels.

Field Hearing Partner

Energy Environment and Development Society (EEDS) is a secular, not for -profit organization or nongovernmental organization. The mission of the organization is “to build the capacity of civil society organizations and community based initiatives so that they can leverage their potentials and act as effective change agents.” It is working in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Himachal Pradesh States for 10 years focusing on various developmental issues. It pursues the agenda by capacity building, human resource development, research, communication, field testing, implementation and advocacy especially in the themes of WASH, AIDS, watershed management, rural construction technology, health & hygiene, education, etc. Organization makes conscious efforts in addressing the issues of women, children and marginalized groups (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Dalits and Minorities, etc.). EEDS has been partnered with various governments, donors and NGOs for last 12 years and implemented many various

programs especially that related to WASH sector. It has mobilized funds from various sources such as local, government and donors.

Below are the broad objectives of EEDS:

- It aims for empowerment in comprehensive manner and start with basic issues like education, WASH, health, nutrition, and rural technology, etc.
- It constantly acts to make the development actions live and relevant by supporting the grass root entities. At the same time promotes links between the grass root organization and the donor agencies / policy players.
- Promote / take-up effective and need based approaches like 'lab to land approach', action research in low cost rural technologies, Pan in Van, etc.
- Networking and dissemination for creating knowledge, sharing strengths and avoiding duplication & gaps.

Primary Individuals

1. Shubhee Saxena
2. Manish Vyas
3. Shailaish Majumdar
4. Ashu Saxena
5. Ajit Kumar Saxena

I would like to express my gratitude to EEDS and all the members who made the project possible. Mr. Ajit Kumar Saxena- (Executive Director EEDS) for guiding and helping me in all my difficulties. All my colleagues and the people who helped in the completion of the project. All the people who made this project possible by their support and dedication.

Methods, problems and considerations

The methodology adapted by us was taking one on one interview, public meetings, group discussion etc by going to various places, rural and urban areas and talking to people belonging to various class, gender, race, religion, caste and other distinguished communities, family and groups. We made printed forms containing the zero draft questions and filled it by the data given to us by the communities with their personal information with their permission.

The output data was then translated and compiled.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

India's total renewable water resources are estimated at 1,907.8 cubic km per year. The annual supply of usable and replenish able ground water amounts to 350 billion cubic meters. Only 35% of ground water is being utilized. India receives an annual average rainfall of 1100 mm. 56% of the land is arable and used for agriculture. India's major mineral resources include coal, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite, titanium, petroleum, diamond, limestone and thorium. Problem areas in the country: The country mainly faces the challenges of poverty, illiteracy, corruption and inadequate public health care, overpopulation,

wealth distribution, sanitation facilities, women related problems gender biasing, increasing criminal activities, hunger, and employment. Environmental issues: Pollution, Soil degradation rapidly dropping of water tables poor environmental knowledge, rural sanitation, garbage disposal ,mass deforestation, land degradation, river contamination, air pollution, plastic waste management. India is a secular state with people following various religions. People in India are mainly divided into categories like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes general and other backward class according to their occupation, economic status or culture.

Field Hearing 1: *District- Bhopal* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. State of India having 50 districts. Area - 308252 km sq. population-72697565. Madhya Pradesh means the central province. Climate- subtropical, average rainfall -1370mm. MP is a medley of ethnic groups, tribes, castes and communities. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes constitute a significant portion of the population of the state taking SC-13.14% ST-20.63%. MP has a rich cultural heritage famous for tribal art forms including sculptures, folk music, and dance. Growth rate-3.5%. According to state hunger index compiled by International food policy research institute, the malnutrition situation in Madhya Pradesh is extremely alarming between 1998 and 2008.

Number of participants 656

General age category of participants 18 – 50

Economic sector of participants Description-Urban area where people are mostly middle class section with availability of all kind of amenities like public health and education and water and sanitation to an extent. People are quite satisfied with the income and way of living and environment surrounding them. Economic sector – generally middle class families with people working as clerks in the government office or workers in the factory.

Gender breakdown of participants Females 200, males 456

Population size of communities Wikipedia estimates the population of Bhopal district at 2.3 million.

Field Hearing 2: *District- Raisen* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description of the area-district near the capital of Madhya Pradesh with the population of 1,331,699. Literacy rate 82.45% for males and 65.09% for females. People are satisfied with their profession but are not happy with their standard of living, main problems being lack of facilities such as electricity, land provision and low income.

Number of participants 234

General age category of participants 18 - 65

Economic sector of participants Economic sector-mainly agriculture or small business.

Gender breakdown of participants 100 females and 134 males

Population size of communities population of 1,331,699

Field Hearing 3: *District- Jhabua* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description of the area-population -1, 024, 091, literacy rate average-44.45%.people here are looking for advancement in their lifestyles as it is a tribal area people here are deprived of clean water, electricity and unemployment is the main problem.

Number of participants 138

General age category of participants 18 – 50

Economic sector of participants tribal area with agriculture as main occupation.

Gender breakdown of participants 60 females 78 males

Population size of communities population -1, 024, 091

Field Hearing 4: *District- Panna* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description-population of 1,016,028. People are mostly complaining about the pollution caused by the mines. It is the diamond city but also creates air pollution which causes air borne diseases in the people.

b. Literacy rate-66.08.

Number of participants 134

General age category of participants 18 – 55

Economic sector of participants Most of the population is working in the coal mines.

Gender breakdown of participants 56 females 78 males

Population size of communities population of 1,016,028

Field Hearing 5: *District- Shahdol* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description- Shahdol had population of 1,064,989. Average literacy rate of Shahdol in 2011 were 68.36. The main problem faced by the people is lack of employment opportunities and poverty, corruption.

Number of participants 142

General age category of participants 18 – 50

Economic sector of participants mainly government employees or practicing business and agriculture.

Gender breakdown of participants 67 females and 75 males

Population size of communities population of 1,064,989

Field Hearing 6: *District- Hoshangabad* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description-population of 1,240,975.the main problem faced by the people is poverty and the low sex ratio i.e. position of women. People have also experienced floods resulting in various health problems.

b. Literacy rate-76.52

Number of participants 208

General age category of participants 18 - 48

Economic sector of participants agriculture is the main occupation and government officials, also small businessman

Gender breakdown of participants 90 females and 118 males

Population size of communities population of 1,240,975

Field Hearing 7: *District- Sehore* (State- Madhya Pradesh)

a. Description-population of 1,311,008.the main problem faced by the people is unemployment and the low sex ratio i.e. position of women. People are also looking for advancement in the life styles. b.

Literacy rate- 71.11

Number of participants 232

General age category of participants 18 – 62

Economic sector of participants sector-agriculture is the main occupation and government officials, also small businessman and also tourism.

Gender breakdown of participants 89 females and 143 males

Population size of communities population of 1,311,008



2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

We had conversations with various groups and communities, and we obtained the subsequent result for this assessment, which was based upon the following factors:

Economic status: this trend was found to be stagnant for most of the communities since the past five years were found to have decreasing economic status for some families (due to increasing family size and rising expenses day by day).

Inequality between rich and the poor: the gap between the rich and poor is observed to be increasing with time. The causes given to us were corruption and exploitation of the poor by the rich in various forms.

Health status: there is a considerable increase in this status due to considerable health amenities and facilities provided by the government now.

Position of women: the government is trying very hard to improve the position and lives of women in India, but the families are still male-dominated, although women are now given more freedom. There is still a long way to go.

Weather and environmental conditions: the environmental conditions are worsening with time due to deteriorating water and sanitation conditions and reduction of forest plantations.

Conflicts between different communities: the conflicts between different groups are increasing day by day due to various internal reasons.

The overall level of happiness: this is neither increasing nor decreasing. We can say that the graph of this status is moving with very deliberate pace. There are things which are making one family or community happy, which at the same time bring discontent in other families.

Speculate About Causes

The main underlying factors causing problems to various families, groups or communities that we heard about during our survey are as follows:

Unavailability of basic amenities (food shortage, lack of transportation, grocery etc.)

Depletion of Resources (clean drinking water, forest products, clean air)

Population Growth (increasing family size leading to hunger and poverty)

Education (poor education facilities—primary, secondary and higher education—and lack of employment opportunities)

Corruption at the State, Block, Panchayat, and Central levels, which prevents a poor man from complaining about his problems and asking for help. It also leads to exploitation of the poor and deprivation by the officials.

Water problems and poor sanitation facilities (improper garbage disposal, and lack of knowledge and education), leading to health problems and disorders like water- and air-borne diseases

Lack of communications and technology (rural areas are generally deprived of communications and conveyances such as transportation and road ways; these areas are also deprived of new technologies and changes for betterment, which often reaches them considerably later

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Sustainable development is a pattern of economic growth in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment, so that these needs can be met not only in the present but also for generations to come. There are some changes which are definitely needed for an environmentally sound future. The foremost steps to be taken are as follows:

- Protecting resources from pollution, overuse or destruction—especially water and forests;
- other resources that should be preserved are land for agricultural use and wildlife;
- Ensuring access to resources (water and energy) for everyone;
- New energy resources that do not harm the environment;
- Developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment;
- Ensuring people do not use more than they need; and
- Environmental protection acts.

The other important steps are:

- Ensuring education for everyone;
- Ensuring health care for everyone;
- Ensuring jobs for everyone;
- Improving relations between:
 - a. men and women
 - b. rich and poor
 - c. different ethnic groups
 - d. Men at power and common man.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Privileged – the privileged of the area are more aware of the alarming situation of the environment due to better education and knowledge of the subject, and are giving their share to it by trying to abide by the reforms and measures. These groups are more inclined towards the betterment of their living standards instead of focusing on the basic amenities, because they are already strong enough financially. Some of these groups are also working on the betterment of those who need financial assistance and other basic things.

Deprived – this group of society is more inclined towards fulfilling their basic needs. This group is mostly uneducated, unemployed, and poor. They cannot develop any employment opportunity for themselves due to lack of knowledge and education. These people are often exploited by the rich and educated section of society. They can help in creating a better environment if proper knowledge, community drills, and education are given to them, which can be done by using IEC (information, education, communication) tools at rural areas.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

The data collected from the different ethnic groups and communities can be summarized as follows:

Prefer things to remain the same: their profession is mostly as farmers, or women who practice as housewives and prefer not go out for work in most of the houses.

Prefer things to change: availability of resources, financial aid from government, clean and healthy surroundings, development of medical and sanitation facilities, generation of employment.

People suggested a number of ideas, summarized below:

Children - ensuring school level education (primary, secondary and college level education), clean and safe environment, complete ban on child labor, right to education, development of schools and colleges in rural areas at lower education cost

Women - right to freedom, reservation in political system, safety, education at school level should be made compulsory, women should be allowed to work for her living which will ultimately help in the financial condition of the company and avoid manpower wastage, right to choose and decide, better economic and social position, complete check and ban on dowry, female feticide and violence against women

Men - generation of employment and education opportunities

Health - medical treatments at lower prices, regular medical camps should be conducted for a general block check up in a period of approximately 6 months, better medical facilities, availability of hospital, dispensaries and doctors, disaster management drills and knowledge of health problems at block level in rural areas

Education - right to education for all, special basic schools for illiterate people above the age of 30 years

Poor People - financial aid by government, free distribution of food grains at rural areas, loans for setting up small business for alternate source of income, relaxation from price hiking

Government and Political Leadership - check on corruption from the grass root level and the government officials, exploitation and dominance of political leaders

Environment and Resources - this is the most important factor which should be taken into account very seriously. This can be done by spreading awareness, education and knowledge to communities at grass root level; by using optimum resources and conserving the depleting resources; and by inventing alternate energy sources and alternate usage of conventional energy sources. The system of recycle, reuse and renew should be adopted everywhere, as soon as possible.



2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

Trends:

a. This assessment gave us a clear vision of the changes required and that which is most important about it. The result of the assessment told us about the problems faced by the communities, including the general standard of living of people—which is increasing, but at a very slow pace. Some people are happy with the changes and steps taken, while the others may not benefit from them at all. The health of some families and communities is deteriorating at considerable pace due to lack of proper health facilities and basic amenities, while some other communities are leading a healthy life. If we talk about the position of women, the basic rights which women were deprived of earlier are now given to them, but there is still a long way to go. The environmental conditions are maintained in some areas, whereas in some places it is alarming to observe regular flooding and lack of availability of clean water due to increased deforestation.

b. Differences between ethnic groups are increasing rapidly due to the increasing economic problems in the families, leading to conflicts. Conflict between individuals is also growing due to increasing prices and difficulties in keeping their families and maintaining life. The differences based on race hardly exist in the communities, but those based on the religion often come out with riots in the groups and communities, even at the national level.

c. The dissimilarity between groups based on economic status is quite considerable due to irregular distribution of wealth between the groups, increasing gaps and conflicts between the rich and the poor.

d. Improvement can be brought out in many ways for different aspects as:

Healthy life - improving water and sanitation conditions by construction of toilets, education and drills on keeping the surrounding areas clean and hygienic.

Environmental conditions - adapting reuse, recycle and renew techniques; planting more green belts, and making optimum use of resources.

Position of Women - this can be improved by educating women and giving them chance to step out of the houses and earn their living. This has to be accompanied by a safe and healthy environment.

e. There are steps being taken to improve the future, but they seem to be inadequate and not enough to have a bright future ahead. The present practices will not give us a proper and healthy life ahead. We need to take stronger steps to protect the environment and resources, or else everything will soon come to closing stages.

Factors causing problems: The main underlying factors causing problems in different areas are unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, hunger, deteriorating sex ratio¹, lack of sanitation facilities, lack of

¹ ratio of females to males is declining due to a combination of preference for sons, and growing availability of technologies such as ultrasound and abortion

health facilities, and corruption. These factors can be improved by undertaking several reforms, which will be discussed in following headings.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

The differences were mainly based on region their way of living and culture not at all on the race. The females are generally suppressed and dominated by the male groups.

Differences based on economic circumstances

There is a big difference on the basis of economic circumstances of people. Poor are generally ignored and exploited by the rich.



Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

Changes needed for a sustainable future include:

- Educating the people and communities by using IEC tools (Information, education, communication)
- Protecting the resources from pollution, overuse or destruction—especially water and forests.
The other resources that should be preserved are land for agricultural use, and wildlife.
- Ensuring access to resources - water and energy for everyone.
- Reuse and recycle systems, creating alternative source of energy to reduce wastage of resources
- New energy resources that do not harm the environment
- Developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment
- Environmental protection acts

- Acts and laws for the conservation of forests and agricultural land
- Ensuring people do not use more than they need
- Making the general public understand the need to develop alternate energy source and the alarming situation of depletion of resources

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

The future will be safe if we stop the malpractice and exploitation of our valuable resources by spreading awareness, education and knowledge to communities at the grass-roots level, and by using optimum resources, conserving the depleting resources, and inventing alternate energy sources and alternate usages of conventional energy sources. The system of recycle, reuse and renew should be adopted everywhere as soon as possible. Conducting repeated drills and surveys over time will keep a check on the environment as well as the lives of groups and communities, leading to better future. Together we can create a better future and ensure better living amenities for everyone.

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Chapter 8. Kyrgyzstan Oblasts

Aizhamal Bakashova, Olga Djanaeva, Asel Dunganaeva, Nazira Dzhapakova, Aizhan Abdyldabekova, and Nazira nad Aizhan

Part 1. Introduction

ALGA joined the *Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings* with great enthusiasm as it is a real chance to make voices of diverse individuals and communities around the world heard in the Rio+20 process. It is an honor for ALGA to contribute voices from Kyrgyzstan.

Generally, the *Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings* were held successfully. First of all, participants of Hearings were really glad to know that their voices would be presented at Rio+20 and Millennium Development Goals dialogues. The idea that their opinions will be listened to at international events inspired them very much.

Kyrgyzstan is a small, mountainous country with a predominantly agricultural economy located in Central Asia. Cotton, wool, and meat are the main agricultural products and exports. Industrial exports include gold, mercury, uranium, and electricity. The Kyrgyz Republic occupies the territory of 199.9 thousand kilometers. It has 7 oblasts (provinces), 41 raions (districts), 20 towns, 29 settlements of the town-like type, and 422 rural administrations. It is bordered on one side by the Himalayas and China, and on the

other sides by three other land-locked former republics of the USSR (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).

More than 70% of population in the Kyrgyz Republic live in rural area, and 64% of villagers are women. The most specific feature of the rural population today is its growing poverty. Different figures for the poverty level in Kyrgyzstan are quoted, from 53% to 80% and higher, with more than 80% of all poor people living in rural areas. In general, women are poorer than men, and the tendency of feminization of poverty is increasing. The population of Kyrgyzstan 5,496,737 people (est. July 2011); composition: 0 - 14 years: 29.3%, 15 - 64 years: 65.4%, 65 years and over: 5.3%.

Field Hearing Partner

The *Rural Women's Association "ALGA"* was created in 1995 by rural women. ALGA has grown considerably, from a small group of like-minded women undertaking different activities and promoting women's rights in a few villages, to a membership organization with a continuously increasing variety of development activities to support women in all aspects of life all over the country. The mission of the organization is to improve rural women's status and standards of living through the stimulation of women's awareness of realities and the development of their capabilities for self-actualization, strengthening the participation of rural women in development efforts and in advocacy for their rights, and in development of empowering strategies and structures which promote the growth of economic and social status of rural women and communities.

ALGA developed a comprehensive multi-sector program for gender mainstreaming into a practical application of the sustainable livelihood concept for poverty alleviation, and, in the process, the empowerment of poor rural women. Beneficiaries are poor and vulnerable rural women, their families, rural youth, community representatives, and local governments and deputies.

Primary Individuals

The Field Hearing project was conducted by the staff of ALGA and its volunteers:

Olga Djanaeva – director of ALGA. Olga initiated organization of the rural women's organization ALGA in 1995. Possessing a master's degree in sociology and participating in a doctoral program at a University, based on own rural experience, aware of the crisis situation in which many rural women were and through her research activities on domestic violence, she became interested in addressing village women's needs and problems. Olga is an active participant in the women's movement in Kyrgyzstan, and has designed projects for women's empowerment, civil society development and poverty alleviation.

Asel Dungaeva – program coordinator of ALGA. Young leader, trainer-facilitator. In spite of being young, Asel has rich experience in organizing and building capacities of women's groups and movements. She has an economics background, and with her assistance hundreds of rural women developed business plans and got access to financial resources.

Aizhamal Bakashova – volunteer, coordinator of the IfE Field Hearings research. Aizhamal is one of the intelligent young leaders of Kyrgyzstan. She works for development of leadership on a local level to empower people, to activate their participation in advocacy of rights, and to develop empowering strategies to promote the growth of status of women, youth and communities as a whole. Aizhamal developed trainings and programs for sustainable livelihood and women's human rights, and participated in different sociological research projects in the country.

Nazira Dzhapakova and Aizhan Abdyldabekova - young, active and creative volunteers. Both of them are facilitators of the programs of Peer to Peer and Stepping Stones on reproductive and sexual rights and health of youth.

Nazira nad Aizhan actively participated in the development of special programs for youth leadership, sexual and reproductive youth rights, which are successfully implemented in villages and had a good resonance among rural people.

Methods, problems and considerations

Focus Group Discussions and individual interviews were used. In some communities, ALGA separated men's and women's groups to give to women opportunities to talk about their concerns and express their visions. At larger public hearings, smaller break-out focus group discussions were also conducted as participants wanted to have more detailed discussions. During the Field Hearings ALGA did not meet any serious problems. Because the major research respondents were rural population, ALGA had a flexible schedule according to agricultural activities. At the beginning of each meeting, researchers explained the purpose of the Field Hearings, the kinds of information needed, and how the information will be used. Thus participants gave their permission to use their opinions, photos and video at the beginning of the meeting. At the end of the meeting, researchers took time to summarize, check for agreement and thank the participants. Participants were active and open. All meetings took more time than was planned, as people shared many of their opinions and visions of past and future.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

ALGA works in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, and conducted *Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings* in villages, raions and oblasts of Kyrgyzstan. Focus group discussions were organized in Chui, Ysyk-Kol, Osh and Talas oblasts (districts). Interviews were taken from individuals in these oblasts also. Public meetings were organized in Chui and Batken oblasts. Thus ALGA conducted *Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings* in 4 oblasts of 6.

Number of participants

Overall 198 citizens were involved in *Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings* in the country. Participants were of different nationalities. ALGA conducted 4 focus group discussions, 40 interviews and 2 public meetings on province level in 4 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan. It had been planned to have 5 public meetings, but due to public holidays, ALGA was able to organize just 2 of the planned meetings.

General age category of participants

different ages (from 18 – 72 years)

Economic sector of participants

Group combinations: as for ethnic, religious, gender and age patterns, different people were involved: Kyrgyz, Russians, Koreans, Dunganeese, etc. Respondents were of different backgrounds: farmers, teachers, state workers, officers, unemployed persons, people with higher education and with secondary school diploma, wealthy people and poor, etc. It should be underlined that questions were developed in very simple manner, so that it was just like friendly talking.

Gender breakdown of participants

Among 198 participants of the Field Hearings, 58% were women (115 participants) and 42% were men (83 people). Women's participation was different between regions, which can be explained by the cultural differences between the south and north parts of the country. In the south, gender issues are much more pressing compared to the north. Women have fewer employment opportunities and are not actively involved in the social life of their communities. Women were well represented as poor farmers because the poverty incidence among women is high; there are many widows with many children eligible for receiving state benefits, taking into account the low male life expectancy in rural areas.

Population size of communities

Field Hearings were organized in 5 districts of the country: Chui, Ysyk-Kul, Osh, Batken and Talas oblasts. Participants from different villages were invited to meeting points for Field Hearings; that is, we invited people from different villages to one place. Inhabitants from 18 villages (some of them remote and poor, some well-developed) were invited to the center of the district. For example, in Ysyk-Kul oblast there is a population of 44,500, but only 18 people participated in the FGD in that district. The majority of people came from individual villages of small size (hundreds of people).

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Comparing the present situation to five years ago, respondents noted that they either do not notice any changes, or that things are somewhat worse or decreasing. With great regret, respondents stated that in spite of new technologies and information accessibility, the lives of children and young adults in communities are becoming worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been. One of participants said "It seems to me that children smile even less that we did in our childhood. Our children cannot have all new computers, internet and other facilities of modern life; thus, having no opportunities to give them it, we also help to kill their dreams."

Ordinary people worry about environmental issues as well. Soil and pasture degradation and deforestation were listed among serious issues that need urgent attention. Farmers accepted that they had overused pastures around their villages, which led to their degradation. The cause of village pastures' overgrazing is the lack of income and pasture infrastructure; the poor farmers cannot send their livestock to the distant pastures. They also admitted that they lack knowledge of how to keep an adequate level of land fertility. Another issue discussed was impacts of climate change – which is a new phenomenon in Kyrgyzstan. Farmers have just started to carry out adaptive changes regarding the weather and management practices. Traditional knowledge has played a significant role in adaptation efforts, especially in the frame of low technologies. Farmers have been coping quite well with changes in climate through traditional knowledge and practices, although the country has no climate change adaptation policy.

The increase of NGO/CBO activities in the country has contributed to the awareness of rural women of their rights and opportunities. Female participants of the Field Hearing mentioned that now they realize that men do not share their workload at home. Women have less access to trainings and to village meetings where they could participate in the decision-making process. They have less access to employment opportunities, income-making activities, information, etc.

Speculate About Causes

Field Hearing Partner staff say the main reason for such negative assessment of trends could be rooted in the recent historic period in the country, which has been characterized by turbulent change and fragile perspectives (related to 2005 and 2010 revolutions). The period when Kyrgyzstan obtained independence and started its transition to a market economy came with significant shocks, both for the country and for each citizen. The consequences of this shock were an increase in unemployment, the reduction of social protection by the state, and the deterioration of living standards for the main part of the population, especially for rural women and their families. This situation put rural women into the least favorable conditions; they became one of the most vulnerable, unprotected groups of the society. The general situation in the country was aggravated by two revolutions which happened during the last 5 years.

Despite the economic growth in 2011 reported by the government, the country grapples with substantial poverty, and the local manufacture, tourist and other kinds of industries are not highly developed. Rural and urban areas have been subject to electricity power, natural gas, and water outages, leaving many homes without running water, heat, or electricity at times.

During Field Hearings, respondents talked about migration as phenomenon, with a high outflow of people and seasonal labor to Russia and Kazakhstan as a major source of income for the poorest regions. Poverty is especially pronounced among rural populations (almost three-quarters of the poor live in the rural and mountainous regions) and is aggravated by ineffective governance and corruption. Moreover, access to basic public services such as running water, public sewerage, health and education has deteriorated over the past decade.

Unemployment among women has grown over the past two decades, and is currently 1.5 times higher than that of men. Many women make their living by selling goods at markets, an occupation that offers no social protection or guaranteed, stable income. Those who are employed often work in the low-paid education and healthcare jobs. This situation is worsened by the weakening of state policies and strategies in implementing gender equality, and by strengthening of discrimination based on gender, age, ethnic and other grounds. Under such circumstances, women became an easy target for religious fundamentalism. For example, a new report by the International Crisis Group (ICG) indicates that the Islamic organization might have thousands of women members in Kyrgyzstan. The ICG reports says that *Hizb ut-Tahrir* might offer disillusioned women "a sense of identity and belonging, solutions to the day-to-day failings of the society they live in."

According to a USAID report¹, other endemic problems include rampant corruption, nepotism, and lack of transparent financial management. Divisions between ethnic communities, real and imagined, bring significant attention; however, other issues—such as inequities between rural and urban areas or competition between northern and southern political elites—can be more polarizing. Other overarching problems include the poor management of natural resources and decaying Soviet-era infrastructure. Lack of economic opportunity increases competition for limited services and resources, breeds resentment, and predisposes the citizenry—young and old, men and women—to mobilization, protest and, possibly, violence for financial reasons. Opportunistic manipulation is enabled by a lack of access to frequent, reliable, and objective information that can dispel gossip.

¹ http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/transition_initiatives/country/kyrgyzstan/rpt0611.html

The country is now the first parliamentary democracy in Central Asia. Fitting this form of government to the current social reality is a difficult issue. In order to resolve it, a great political mind is needed. Besides internal factors, the choice of political systems in the republic is influenced by Russia, the US and China.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Relationships between rich and poor nations were very actively discussed in the frame of *Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies* section. Almost all respondents pointed out that development and improvement of relationships between rich and poor nations can directly influence the communities' sustainability. Relationships between countries, between people, between genders and between human beings and nature were discussed and underlined during all Field Hearing Interviews and Public Meetings. It was very clearly expressed by participants of the Field Hearing that understanding the whole cycle of sustainability gives people an advantage in developing individual strategies to lift themselves out of poverty. Resuming answers and discussions, it can be stated that participants insisted on addressing poverty and vulnerability in both development and humanitarian contexts. It should be recognized that the needs of people and all aspects of their lives and means of living should be put at the center of development and humanitarian work.

Human capital should be considered in all development programs. Special attention was given to the issue of improvement relationships between men and women. Participants pointed out that capacity-building is necessary not just for men, but also for women, as empowered women with knowledge and increased self-confidence are able to change the life of their families and other villagers for the better, and are more likely to participate public life making their voices heard.

Economic growth is necessary for the country's development and poverty alleviation. But it is important to think not only of immediate benefits but also of the consequences of environmental impact, which in the long-term could wipe out any received benefits. The largest negative impact of economic activity can be seen in the agricultural sector, especially in irrigated farming. Considerable arable land has been lost because of increased salinity, water-logging and loss of fertility as a result of outdated agricultural and irrigation systems. Thus developing of new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment and protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction are also important for sustainability. Big companies and airbases (there are Russian and American air bases in the country) make negative effects on the environment and consequently on human health.

Kyrgyz Republic is rich in mineral resources but has negligible petroleum and natural gas reserves. Among its mineral reserves are substantial deposits of coal, gold, uranium, antimony, and other rare-earth metals. There are 10 to 15 foreign mining companies, and respondents pointed out that it is necessary to influence companies to improve their attitude on environment and on residents of the country. In order to do this, local politicians and country leaders should have the will to insist on improvements, and thus the influence of government officials and political leaders should be strengthened.

In general, participants have an idea of sustainable societies and sustainability: they described it as a web – development should be less harmful for web holder (earth) and web user (humanity); in this case, development processes will be effective and sustainable.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Talking about sustainability, respondents came to the issues of equality. Do they all have equal rights to benefit from sustainability efforts? All respondents underlined that there are three groups in their communities: privileged, middle class and deprived. During the discussion, participants said that they feel themselves privileged in communities as they can also participate in public life and apply for public services, just as rich people. But the difference between privileged (rich and powerful), middle class and deprived becomes bigger and bigger. The privileged group believes it is their divine right to possess all they want. Deprived groups are left in a helpless situation and cannot escape it without monetary help, which is only accessible from wealthy people. Unfortunately, privileged and rich people are only concerned about their own situation and what they "need". This creates a condition where the rich try to ignore the poor, have trouble doing so, and therefore isolate themselves from the poor. It aggravates the situation and the gap between privileged and deprived community members.

To reduce these differences in wealth and influence, a complex approach should be undertaken in every community around the country. Activities should be based on a human rights approach methodology and principles of sustainable societies, through empowerment and building capacity of the poor, reduction of gender constraints, social mobilization and partnership development, creation and widening access to opportunities, and improvement of environmental management and protection.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

During feedback on the process of the Field Hearings (interview, focus group discussions and public hearings), participants told us that they most liked the question on wishes for the future, as they had a chance to express what they need and what they will do to create a better situation. The main findings were that people started valuing trainings and extension as they understand that they lose many opportunities because of lack of knowledge. For example, a couple of years ago, villagers and farmers would say that they know all about agriculture because their ancestors were involved in agriculture and that they would need only financial support. All stakeholders pointed to lack of knowledge in all areas. First of all, respondents pointed out the need to strengthen the potential of people to sustain their livelihoods. Activities for improving the situation of women were also listed among wishes for the future. Improving the work of local governance was also included in the list; participants had a serious discussion on it.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

Participants were active and open for the Field Hearings. It should be noted that ordinary people became more aware of global circumstances and its relationship to the lives of people in the country. Talking about the present situation and development perspectives, respondents mainly discussed the necessity to put social dimensions at the center of the economy and sustainable development. Participants were generally skeptical about optimistic reports of government on current country progress. Comparing their lives of 5 years ago, they pointed out that previously they were more sustainable (55% of respondents). Poverty is still a main problem in many families, even if not extreme poverty, but lack of finance is a constant problem. Lack of knowledge is also a barrier to sustaining a family's livelihood, as poverty is likely to persist and even increase in families with poorly educated adults. Even available economic opportunities to escape from poverty are neglected through poor knowledge and illiteracy.

In general, women are poorer than men, and the tendency of feminization of poverty is increasing quickly. Poor rural women, the backbones of rural families, are recognized as one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the society. Poor nutrition leads to a high level of anemia among rural women and girls, and consequently to a high level of maternal and child death in the country. High levels of energy poverty were also discussed, exacerbated by price increases and supply problems. Many households are spending 50% of their income on heating in winter. Sustainable energy technologies pose a solution for this problem, since there is abundant solar energy with high radiation and many sunny days, even during winter. Yet there is almost no awareness of renewable or energy-efficient technologies, and no infrastructure or mechanism for accessing these technologies. This lack of awareness extends to local and national authorities.

Participants pointed out that in poverty reduction initiatives, it is important to think not only of immediate benefits but also of the consequences of environmental impact, which in the long-term could wipe out any received benefits. The largest negative impact of economic activity can be seen in the agricultural sector, especially in irrigated farming. Considerable arable land has been lost because of increased salinity, water-logging and loss of fertility as a result of outdated agricultural and irrigation systems. Energy, including hydro-electricity, the mining industry, industry and communal-household waste-related activities also have a serious impact on other types of land and natural resources, as well as on the environment in general. The situation is complicated by absent or poor-quality agricultural services, and expensive, bureaucratic application procedures.

The next main barrier for equity and equality is lack of access to information, knowledge, innovative technologies, consulting, training services and marketing information. The poor system of agricultural services in rural areas creates additional barriers to successful agricultural activities.

There has been one serious drawback in all the poverty reduction, development strategies and programs implemented in Kyrgyzstan during last years: the methodology wherein poor women and youth and gender approaches were not taken into consideration as the key actors. That was one of the main reasons for the failure of governmental efforts to reduce poverty. Since independence, there has been a sharp decline in women's representation in local and national government, reducing women's participation in decision-making processes, particularly on those issues that affect women and their families directly. There is a lack of public participation and women's involvement in developing locally affordable and sustainable solutions and infrastructure. Local authorities are often not aware of existing solutions, and are poorly involved in the development.

The poor condition of rural women is aggravated by increasing gender inequality, which is still one of the main characteristics of Kyrgyzstan. Discrimination against women prevails, however, and violence against women is becoming increasingly widespread. Women are generally ill-informed about their rights, and the traditional patriarchal system perpetuates gender-based stereotypes. Another important aspect of gender-based social distances involves access to education. The growing commercialization and rising costs of education, however, are forcing parents more often to make a choice between children for schooling. In a majority of these cases, parents' decisions are not in favor of their daughters. As adults, women often face legal and institutional barriers to economic activity outside the home, including laws or customs that deny them the right to own land, inherit property, establish credit or move up in their field of work. Increasing the access of rural women and youth to decision-making is an extreme need for strengthening development and democracy at the grass roots level, and essential for attaining sustainable livelihood.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

There were no big differences in answers based on region, ethnicity or gender. Women and youth were passive in some mixed meetings, and thus researchers had separate discussions with them. This is explained by the fact that the majority of youth in rural areas follow traditional values which exist in the communities, and are thus reproduced. In general, a certain pattern could be outlined, according to which a young individual is regarded as “insufficiently clever,” “not skilled,” or “incapable of resolving his/her problems.” This negative image particularly prevails in rural communities, where the lives of youngsters are entirely dependent on decisions made by their parents.

Differences based on economic circumstances

The majority of respondents defined themselves as middle class group (61%), with just 6% of respondents belonging to the wealthy category and the rest (33%) recognizing themselves as poor. Their answers were different in discussions on some particular issues, as food price crisis and inflation put pressure on their living standards differently. One of respondents said: “Food crises make the poor more poor, and wealthy people become richer.”

There were differences in answers on privilege and deprivation, as 94% of respondents clearly described the benefits of privileged groups in the communities, while 6% pointed out that there is not any difference in privileges or access to recourses among different groups in the communities.

Differences based on other factors

People with a good educational background play active roles in community lives, thus they were also active during Field Hearings. Of the elder generation, presently a majority are retired, but they have working experiences in both market and soviet economic systems, and gave analytical responses. The younger generation has more prospective views, and they gave more ideas on what should be done with regard to present circumstances and the global situation.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

Other activities which respondents said will help to create better conditions for children, women, men, farmers and everyone in the communities (including governing structures) include:

- Supporting people to empower themselves through trainings to develop skills in the areas of resource analysis and mobilization, economics, sustainable agriculture, health care, environmental management and protection, etc.;
- Capitalizing on the resources available in the country and abroad, particularly among women and other stakeholders;
- Setting up permanent networks joining women, communities, stakeholders (various types, such as environmental, human rights, groups of farmers, entrepreneurs, cooperatives and etc.), who would promote awareness of poverty and related issues, ensure the increase of capacity and opportunities necessary to tackle the poverty problem, and provide quality and equity of access to resources and management in order to promote sustainable development;
- Providing technical support to design an integrated development strategy with actions focusing on education and creation of economic activities, preservation of the environment, health, etc.;
- Enhancement of the use of existing local resources in terms of expertise, employment, equipment technology, etc., in order to simultaneously contribute to the economic development of the family and community—which is essential for sustainable development.



Part 3. Field Hearings Detailed Findings

3.1 Focus Group Discussion in Chui oblast

3.1.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Chui oblast, conducted in Ysyk-Ata raion in Don Aryk village

Number of participants

with participation of 11 villagers

General age category of participants

participants were age 41 to 72 years old.

Economic sector of participants

5 of them were retired persons, 3 of them were workers of social structure (librarian, medical worker and teachers), 3 of them were farmers.

Gender breakdown of participants

4 of them were men and 7 were women.

Population size of community

2,500 villagers

3.1.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) started with the discussion of the current situation in the country in different aspects of economic and social situations. Participants pointed out that access trends in health and environment are almost the same as 5 years ago. As for the situation in social relationships, politics and economy, it is becoming worse (4)² compared to 5 years ago. 10 of 11 participants said that lives of children and young adults in the community are becoming worse (4) than the lives of adults over 50.

Speculate About Causes

Problems were generally attributed to political instability and increasing poverty.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Participants (totaling 11) came to the general conclusion that for sustainable societies there is a strong need for:

- a. developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment (11 people);
- b. protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction—water, forests, agricultural land, grazing land, natural areas, wild animals (11 people);
- c. new energy sources that do not harm the environment (11 people);
- e. ensuring people do not use more than they need (9 people);
- f. ensuring jobs for everyone (11 people);
- g. ensuring access to resources (water, energy, etc.) for everyone (11 people);
- h. ensuring health care for everyone (11 people);
- i. ensuring education for everyone (8 people);
- l. relationships between different ethnic groups of people (11 people);
- m. relationships between rich and poor people in your community and society (11 people);
- n. relationships between rich and poor nations (5 people);
- p. influence of government officials and political leaders (10 people);

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation: every FGD participant pointed out that he/she felt themselves privileged in society. Unemployed, migrants and newly married rural couples are considered to be deprived members of society. Politicians and state authorities were grouped as privileged members and communities within society. Their privilege gives them access to everything, especially to all resources, and they can make decisions which influence whole societies. The majority of the population has limited access to resources. The reason for such differences in wealth and influence is money.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation—for all listed options, 11 people said through economic empowerment: creation of work opportunities, easy credits, encouragement funds, integration of new technologies, etc.

² The number in parentheses refers to the codes for answers to questions on trends: (1) means much better or increasing, (2) means somewhat better or increasing, (3) means no change or unclear, (4) means somewhat worse or decreasing, and (5) means much worse or decreasing



3.2 Focus Group Discussion in Ysyk-Kul

3.2.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The FGD in Ysyk-Kul was conducted in Karakol town.

Number of participants

18 representatives of different villages were invited to focus groups.

General age category of participants

Age category of participants was between 39-52 years old.

Economic sector of participants

All 18 participants have active position within their communities, they are village activists and community leaders.

Gender breakdown of participants

There were 7 women and 11 men.

Population size of community

A majority of people came from small villages (hundreds of people).

3.2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

For the almost all questions, participants gave positive answers (1 - much better or increasing and 2 - somewhat better or increasing). Exceptions were questions related to environmental issues.

Speculate About Causes

It was an interesting discussion. Participants pointed out that after years of poverty and misunderstanding of market economy rules, now people started to understand how to get economic sustainability. As Ysyk-Kul is a resort area, villagers started business initiatives such as community-based tourism, mixed farming, etc. Providing good services for tourists people started to improve their own living conditions. Thus economical sustainability led villagers toward an improved general situation and improved access trends.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

participants came to the general conclusion that for sustainable societies there is a strong need for:

- a. developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment;
- b. protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction—water, forests, agricultural land, grazing land, natural areas, wild animals;
- f. ensuring jobs for everyone;
- g. ensuring access to resources (water, energy, etc.) for everyone;
- h. ensuring health care for everyone;
- i. ensuring education for everyone;
- j. meeting other human needs;
- m. relationships between rich and poor people in your community and society;
- p. influence of government officials and political leaders;
- q. influence of large businesses and companies.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Every FGD participant pointed out that he/she feel themselves privileged in society, as they have work and they are sustainable enough. Unemployed persons and labor migrants are considered to be deprived members of society in the area. Politicians, businessmen and state authorities were grouped as privileged members and communities within society. Their privilege gives them access to everything, especially to all resources, and they can make decisions which influence whole societies. The majority of population have limited access to resources. The reason for such differences in wealth and influence is money. Villagers can participate decision-making processes through participation at public meetings or public hearings, but privileged groups can informally influence the decision-making process. Creation of equal opportunities to resources through access to education and creation of job opportunities will help to reduce these differences in wealth and influence.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation for--

- a. children – 18 voices: to create jobs places for their parents;
- b. women – 18 voices: to create opportunities for economic activities outside homes;
- c. men – 17 voices: to create an access to available credits;
- d. health – 18 voices: to renew destroyed health care system;
- e. education – 15 voices: to improve welfare for teachers;

- f. poor people – 18 voices: to create working opportunities;
- g. farmers – 18 voices: to develop support programs (credits, irrigation systems, etc);
- h. other businesses- 11 voices: to lower tax rates;
- i. government and political leadership – 2 voices: to renew all politicians;
- j. water, land and forest resources – 18 voices: to develop support programs;
- k. the environment – 18 voices: to develop protection programs;
- l. other aspects of life: to develop programs for better nutrition, medical health services and social welfare – 16 voices.



3.3 Focus Group Discussion in Osh oblast

3.3.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The FGD in Osh oblast was conducted in Osh town, with the invitation of participants from 16 villages.

Number of participants

There were 24 people.

General age category of participants

within the age category of 28 – 45 years

Economic sector of participants

Among participants there were 9 officials (different levels and states), 2 medical workers, 2 teachers and 3 farmers.

Gender breakdown of participants

12 participants were men and 4 participants were women.

Population size of community

A majority of people came from small villages (hundreds of people).

3.3.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

For the questions on quality of life (2,3,4,) participants gave marks 4 and 5 (somewhat worse or decreasing, and much worse or decreasing). Questions on environment also were answered at 5th scale – much worse.

Speculate About Causes

Problems were generally attributed to instability of the situation in the country, the political and economic crises, worsening of the environment (pollution and land degradation which leads to low yields), and social inequality.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

participants came to the general conclusion that for sustainable societies there is a strong need for:

- a. developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment;
- b. protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction—water, forests, agricultural land, grazing land, natural areas;
- c. new energy sources that do not harm the environment;
- g. ensuring access to resources (water, energy, etc.) for everyone;
- l. relationships between different ethnic groups of people;
- n. relationships between rich and poor nations;
- p. relationships between rich and poor people;
- q. influence of large businesses and companies.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Every FGD participant pointed out that he/she felt themselves privileged in society. Unemployed people and elder generation (retired persons, old people) are considered to be deprived members of society. Businessmen and state authorities were grouped for privileged communities within society. Their privilege gives them access to everything. Participants pointed out that they are in the middle class layer, and even being middle class, their access to resources is limited by financial opportunities: they will have as much as they can pay for access to resources. Until now, participants said that they can participate decision-making process through public hearing organized by local state authorities. Social inequality worsens the difference in wealth and influence, thus it is necessary to increase the quality of life of all community members through creation of work opportunities.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Articulating Wishes for the Future: In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation for...

- a. children (16 people),
- b. women (11 people),
- c. men (16 people),
- d. health (16 people),
- e. education (14 people),
- f. poor people (16 people) through programs which will really help people to earn money;
- j. water, land and forest resources (16 people),
- k. the environment (16 people), through practical use and integration of nature saving technologies which are easy to construct and adapt for local conditions;
- l. other aspects of life – support small businesses, easy credits (16 people).



3.4 Focus Group Discussion in Talas

3.4.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The FGD in Talas was conducted in Talas town.

Number of participants

There were 22 participants.

General age category of participants

between 38 – 49 years of age

Economic sector of participants

7 of them were members of community based organizations, 3 teachers, 5 representatives of local authorities, 5 medical workers and 2 farmers.

Gender breakdown of participants

13 women and 9 men

Population size of community

A majority of people came from small villages (hundreds of people).

3.4.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Only 2 questions were answered positively: level of happiness at somewhat better or increasing, and situation of women was answered as much better or increasing. The rest of the answers were rated at degrees of 3 or 5 (no changes and much worse or decreasing).

Speculate About Causes

The poor economic state was identified as the main reason for the worsening situation in the communities. Different NGOs deliver trainings on human rights, so now women are more knowledgeable. Therefore position of women has become better in some aspects, but implementation of human rights also needs economic support. Thus poor economic conditions lead to worsening the situation on the whole.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

- b. protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction—water, forests, agricultural land, grazing land (19 participants);
- f. ensuring jobs for everyone;
- h. ensuring health care for everyone;
- i. ensuring education for everyone;
- p. influence of government officials and political leaders.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Participants pointed out that they are in the privileged group in society. Unemployed, poor and disabled people are considered to be deprived members of society. Politicians, businessmen and state authorities were grouped for privileged group as they have an opportunity to study (to have good education) and to have a real work with a good or sufficient salary. Deprived community members have problems with the absence of housing and lack of access to services of health and education.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation for...

- a. children (22 people) – protection of child rights, for example development and practical implementation of laws which prohibit and punish using child labor on tobacco and other farms,
- b. women (21 people) – creation more opportunities for women to realize their potential in economical, public or social lives of communities, more education opportunities for women, improved health care services,
- c. men (19 people) – access to information and trainings on different issues,
- d. health (22 people) – stop reformation of health care system, programs for young specialists support,
- e. education (22 people) – develop support and subsidy programs for teachers,
- f. poor people (22 people) – practical support programs (not humanitarian),
- k. the environment (22 people) – integration of nature protection mechanisms, strict law punishment for nature abusers.



3.5 Individual Interviews

3.5.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Interviews were conducted in Bishkek - capital of the country – (14 interviews), Kant (16 interviews), and Kara Balta (10 interviews), towns of Kyrgyzstan.

Number of participants

40 interviews were conducted.

General age category of participants

Age categories: 17 – 26 years: 3 persons, 27 – 36 years: 6 persons, 37 – 47 years: 20 persons, 47 – 58 years: 6 persons, 58 – 72 years: 5 persons.

Economic sector of participants

By positions: teachers – 8 persons; farmers – 8 persons; state authorities – 6 persons; NGO/CBO representatives – 10 persons; entrepreneurs – 5 persons; unemployed – 3 persons.

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

Gender breakdown of participants

Among the 40 respondents there were 23 women and 17 men.

Population size of community

A majority of people came from small villages (hundreds of people).

3.5.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

1. Are the following things getting better or worse for you, your family and your community?

Health – 18 persons: 2³; 7 persons: 3; 19 persons: 4.

Environment - 24 persons: 4; 11 persons: 3; 5 persons: 5.

Social relationships – 21 persons: 4; 19 persons – 3.

Political situation - 16 persons: 4; 14 persons: 3; 10 persons: 2.

Economic situation - 11 persons: 3; 9 persons: 2; 20 persons: 4.

2. Are the lives of children and young adults in your family and community likely to be better or worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been?

19 people: 1; 17 interviews 4; 4 people: 3.

3. Is the level of happiness for you, your family and your community increasing? or decreasing?

Increasing: 24 people; decreasing: 16 people.

4. Is the level of inequality between rich and poor individuals in your community increasing? or decreasing?

Increasing: 40 people.

5. Is the position of women in your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 15 people, worse: 17 people, no change: 8 people.

6. Is there more, or less, conflict between groups of people in your community? in your nation?

More conflicts in general: 40 people.

7. Is the weather or environment surrounding your community getting better? or worse?

Worse: 34 people, no answer: 6 persons.

8. In general, is the health of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 11 people, worse: 19 people, much worse: 4 persons, no change: 6 people.

9. In general, are the economic circumstances of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 7 people, worse: 20 people, much worse: 4 persons, no change: 9 people.

Speculate About Causes

Poor economic state, and lack of resources and inputs were identified as the main reason for worsening situations in the communities.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Special attention should be given to all listed aspects (a - r on the Questionnaire)

³ All the numbers following the number of persons represent codes for answers to questions on trends: (1) means much better or increasing, (2) means somewhat better or increasing, (3) means no change or unclear, (4) means somewhat worse or decreasing, and (5) means much worse or decreasing

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Respondents pointed out that they are in the middle stage, not the privileged nor deprived group in society. Unemployed, poor, old, mentally ill and disabled people are considered to be deprived members of society. Another deprived group is people without housing, and drug and alcohol abusers. Politicians, businessmen and state authorities were identified as a privileged group. Many respondents pointed out that generally these are all the same persons: all politicians and state authorities have their own business. Persons without powerful friends or at least without money have no equal rights and are vulnerable in different aspects. Thus the privileged group can enjoy power, freedom and accessibility benefits. Deprived groups are limited in their rights, human rights for adequate housing, living conditions, education, work opportunities, health care, etc. Being middle class means to have access to resources, but middle class people also should have money to prove that they can pay for such access by the necessity. Also the middle class group can participate the decision-making process, but again, even these decisions really depend on the privileged group's choice.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation for children, women, men, health, education, poor people, farmers, other businesses, government and political leadership, water, land and forest resources, and the environment? People mentioned ecological awareness initiatives (which emphasizes the impact of a society's socio-economic activities), field research (which provides insights and directions for natural resource use and planning), and projects which focus on natural resource use and planning that supports a sustainable development transition for each community, and self-sustaining projects which will be designed to each of the listed groups' specific needs.



3.6 Public Hearings in Chui and Batken oblasts

3.6.1 General participant description

As participants in these public hearings wanted to have more detailed discussions, they were organized into groups of 7-8 people. Groups were combined by gender (women prefer to have discussions with women) and ages (as in some communities the younger ones are still considered to be modest and polite by keeping silent and listening elders).

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Public Hearings were held in in Chui and Batken oblasts

Number of participants

participation of 83 people

General age category of participants

Participants were aged from 18 to 80 years old.

Economic sector of participants

Farmers, social sphere workers (teachers, medical workers, etc), workers of state departments (local authorities).

Gender breakdown of participants

53% women, 47% men.

Population size of community

A majority of people came from small villages (hundreds of people).

3.6.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

1. Are the following things getting better or worse for you, your family and your community?

Health – 4⁴; Environment – 4; Social relationships – 4; Political situation – 4; Economic situation - 4.

2. Are the lives of children and young adults in your family and community likely to be better or worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been? – 4.

3. Is the level of happiness for you, your family and your community increasing? or decreasing?

Increasing: 39 people; decreasing: 44 people.

4. Is the level of inequality between rich and poor individuals in your community increasing? or decreasing?

Increasing: 83 people.

5. Is the position of women in your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 31 people, worse: 30 people, no change/no answer: 22 people.

6. Is there more, or less, conflict between groups of people in your community? in your nation?

More conflicts in general: 83 people.

7. Is the weather or environment surrounding your community getting better? or worse?

Worse: 64 people, better: 2 persons, much worse: 17 people.

8. In general, is the health of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 19 people, worse: 37 people, much worse: 8 persons, no answer: 19 people.

9. In general, are the economic circumstances of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?

Better: 17 people, worse: 44 people, much worse: 12 persons, no change: 10 people.

Speculate About Causes

Poor economic state, lack of resources and inputs to agriculture, political instability and import of cheap low quality goods from other countries were identified as the main reason for worsening situations in the communities.

⁴ All the numbers following the number of persons represent codes for answers to questions on trends: (1) means much better or increasing, (2) means somewhat better or increasing, (3) means no change or unclear, (4) means somewhat worse or decreasing, and (5) means much worse or decreasing

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Participants discussed every proposed item and agreed that each of them is very important for sustainability.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Generally it was the same answers as in previous focus groups and interviews. People with power are in the privileged group, while poor and vulnerable families or persons are in the deprived group. Participants pointed out that previously there was a big group of middle class people, but now this group is becoming small, and the difference between wealthy and ordinary or even poor people is becoming bigger. This circumstance negatively affects the whole society as it leads to social tension.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

People would like to see the involvement of local population in the elaboration of support or development programs.

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Chapter 9. Malawi - Nsanje

January Watchman Mvula, Daniel Phiri, Eliya Jumbe, Mc Donald Mvula, Brian Damison, Grace Haundi

Part 1. Introduction

We are motivated to take part in the Field Hearings because we feel that there is a big gap between the rural communities and policy makers, and most of the time the policies are made without consulting the local communities who are affected much by these policies. As a result these policies / goals are failing to materialize since it doesn't incorporate the views of the local communities. As the result of this, we would like to let the voice of the community as well as the beliefs and actions of the community we are working with be incorporated in the coming global conference in Brazil. We are also motivated by a deep desire to see a transformation of the world's societies and relationships in the direction of meaningful equity and deep equality. We believe that strategies to achieve this vision must be based on an understanding of what the currently disempowered communities need, want and think—which can only be ascertained by participating in the Field Hearing activity.

Field Hearing Partner

Sustainable Rural Community Development Organisation (SURCOD) Malawi was registered on 17th May, 2010, as a limited company by guarantee. The organization is currently working in Nsanje District, especially to the west of the District along the chain of hills known as Matandwe hills which stretch from Bangula to Lulwe. The vision of the organization is a community that is empowered to advance rural initiative to access basic needs which can promote sustainable livelihood through self-reliance and community participation. Our mission is to facilitate development based on self-dependence, self-sufficiency through effective implementation, promotion and support of integrated rural development, with full participation, ownership and promotion of rights-based approaches of the rural communities. Our goal is to promote sustainable integrated community development with the rural communities through improving food security, promotion of saving spirit¹, empowerment of women, promotion of education and literacy, water and sanitation, and adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Currently we are implementing the Chididi Women Savings and Capital Building Project which is aiming at improving economic access of the poor rural women.

Primary Individuals

January Watchman Mvula is the coordinator of this project in Malawi. The interviews were possible because of the following field facilitators who committed their time:

Daniel Phiri
Eliya Jumbe
Mc Donald Mvula
Brian Damison
Grace Haundi

Methods, problems and considerations

During our planning as SURCOD we felt like it is very important for us to target the communities in Chididi especially by interviewing the individual communities to give us their understanding based on the questionnaires which were designed by Initiative for Equity (IFE) and translated into the local language as well as pretested with SURCOD.

The methodology we chose was to interview individuals. We chose this method because our aim is to have the first hand information on how different people understand equity and sustainability. We also wanted to have the views of these people about their true stories on how they feel about the initiatives which are done today as well as how they position themselves with the global policies. When we were pretesting the methodology it proved that the approach of interviewing the individuals will give out more data as well as give us a clear view of what they are thinking about equity and sustainability.

During the field hearing we targeted 12 participants from 11 villages, and one of the villages was given a chance to have two participants. Out of the selected households, we selected 8 interviewees were female, 2 were males and 2 were families (both wife and husband). The methodology of choosing the

¹ Saving spirit refers to promotion of savings activities/ culture in the villages. In Malawi, rural communities don't like to save money in the bank or in any other form. We are implementing the project aiming at building the capacity of these communities in savings through the Village Savings and Loan Association so that they should learn how to save to improve their economic status.

participant was that any family had a chance to be selected. The participants were not picked as such, but when the interviewers reached the village, they put 20 numbered papers(numbered 1-20) in something and shuffled them, and then chose one number. The chosen number was the number of the houses she or he had to count to reach that number that was chosen. For example, if the number 5 was chosen, it meant from the first house to pass she or he had to count up to house number five, at which she or he would conduct the interview. When the interviewer reached the house of the interviewee, they would explain the purpose of the field hearing to him or her, and they would ask if he or she was free to participate. We were lucky that all participants accepted without any problem. The age range which was interviewed was from 18 - 75 years.

The issue of privacy was not a problem since at first we were asking the consent from the participants and ask them what is their objection on privacy and we were lucky that all participants said that the questionnaire doesn't contain sensitive questions which demand privacy.

During the field hearings we encountered a number of problems which affected our work. The first problem we faced was that it was a challenge for us to make the print-out of the questionnaire due to lack of cartridge, since by the time we wanted to conduct the hearings we had no funding in the other projects we are implementing. But we were lucky that the funds came in good time, which enabled us to print the questionnaire. The other problem was concerning mobility, since we don't even have a motorbike or car. Field facilitators really sacrificed to make it possible for the Field Hearing to take place.



Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

This field hearing was conducted in Malawi and it was done in Nsanje District, two traditional authorities areas which are TA Malemia and TA Ndamera, as follows:

TA NDAMERA

Alufandika Village
Chimtedza village
Nsiyakhuni Village

TA MALEMIA

Mbeta village
Masona village
Mpangila village
Mkhutche village
Magulugulu village
Mchacha village
Jofilisi village
Fulukiya village

Number of participants

Conducted a total of 12 interviews (14 people total, as two interviews were of a husband and wife)

General age category of participants

18-75 years

Economic sector of participants

They are all small scale farmers

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

Gender breakdown of participants

8 females, 2 males, 2 families (both husband and wife)

Population size of communities

These 11 villages have a combined population of about 3800 people.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

All the participants are saying that things are not going well because of the changes which are taking place each and every day; these things are changing for the better or worse. But they are concerned

much with the changes environmentally and change in culture. All the 12 interviewee agreed that there is a need to encourage the children to work hard in their education. On women they said there is need to give them more chances to participate in various business activities we receive (two participants). Six participants said that the women need to be given more chance to participate in various opportunities such as giving them the opportunity in decision-making position in the society, and the remaining 4 said that culturally things are not going on well since the women are taken easily with western culture, which is becoming a threat to other cultures.

On health, all the 12 participants said that things are not going well since there are so many strange diseases coming which are killing people. They also complained much on the problem of lack of medicines in most of the hospitals in Malawi. They also said that on public health things are not going well due to the high rate of pollution. They also said something on health due to the shortage of human resources in most health institutions. All the participants complained much on poor educational infrastructure as well as a shortage of teachers as compared to the number students. They also said that the quality of education is not good: it is dwindling each and every time, and the quality of the education is not as good as it was in the past.

On poverty all the participants agreed that things are not going on well; the number of poor people is keeping on increasing each and every time. All the participants agreed that there is a need to increase the opportunity for micro-finance services to the poor community. On agriculture all the participants agreed that it is not going well. They complained about poor soil fertility which keeps on dwindling the harvest each and every year. They also complained much about the high prices of farm inputs such as fertilizers, which the farmers cannot afford any more. They also complained about climate change which is contributing much to poor harvests as well as the changes in season. They also complained about the introduction of modern farming technologies which are not friendly to the poor farmers.

On trade and economic activities, all 12 participants complained much on the widening of the gap between the poor and the rich. They complained that the rich are not creating a favorable environment for the poor to graduate from one level to another economically. As a result, they keep on increasing their burden of poverty each and every time. On politics, all participants complained much about the behavior of politicians of failing to adhere to the promises they make to the poor communities as well as failing to represent the people in good faith. They also complained about lack of consultation on coming up with policies which affect the poor people, which is putting them in an awkward situation. The participants also complained about the greedy mind of the politician on accumulating riches on their own at the expense of the poor people.

On environment and forestry the participants lamented much about climate change which is contributing to lots changes such as rainfall patterns. All participants lamented that there is a need to do something down in the community to reverse the situation. Three of the participants also said that there is need for commitment by various governments to come up with practical policies, not paper-based policies which have been there for so long, since the early seventies.

During the field hearing participants came up with a list of problems which are associated with the issues discussed above. The list was as follows:

- Poor rainfall patterns
- Lack of micro credits opportunities to the poor
- Lowering of water tables

- Famine and hunger
- Over-population, as a result of which many poor families have more responsibilities which they even fail to take care of
- Uneven distribution of development initiatives
- Unemployment
- Increasing strange diseases and pandemics
- Drying of water sources

Speculate About Causes

The interviewed people had lots of ideas which they said are the causes of the problems. The list is as follows:

- Environmental degradation and increase in manufacturing industries is contributing much to climate change and other bad environmental changes
- Overpopulation
- Lack of financial inclusion services to the poor people
- Paper-based policies which lack the support of the grass root communities
- Modern technologies which are introduced without looking at their long-term impacts and effects to the environment
- Lack of consultation and democratic approaches of inclusion where the poor communities should be given the chance to share their vision of the change they would want to see
- Poor harvests in the same fields as compared to the past

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The first change most of the participants requested is that there should be a participatory approaches of coming up with policies so that the grass root should not be taken by surprise with some policies which are coming to them. They also requested that the leaders should be working with the people they are saving to solve the problems together, rather than the ways it is done nowadays. They also requested the decision makers not to ignore the communities in solving problems concerning climate change, agriculture, etc. They requested much on valuing the poor and they also requested on equality and equity of coming up with the initiatives which are targeted for all. They also suggested that issues like family planning, climate change, etc they should be considered in collaboration for a better change of the world.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

On this the 12 villagers we interviewed perceived that they are deprived and they are not valued in most of the activities, this is so because they feel that they haven't been consulted much to share their vision on the changes they would wish to see, they are not incorporated much in planning their development as well are initiatives. They feel that the rich are doing this with an aim of making themselves rich and widening the gap between the poor communities, and they feel that thus the reason why these people don't like them to share their vision. But all the people feel that if given chance they can contribute to very good policies as well as initiatives which can assist in the achievement of most of the goals. One participant commented that the governments put much effort on paper work rather than the practical way of doing things, and he feels that most of the policies and goal are achieved on papers rather than on the ground. He said that there are MDGs, but look in our communities--we don't even have a single borehole, but the government is saying that it is doing something on access to water for all, and we hear

on the news that this has been achieved but if you come down you will find very different situations from what is being written.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

All the communities we interviewed wish that the world could be made a good environment to live in. It's the wish of all, but with the exclusion and scrambling for resources, they feel that this is just a dream. Most of them said that for this to be achieved, it should start from the political will to have a desire to work with all, disregarding whether they are poor or rich, whether they live in town or in the villages, whether they belong to loyal families or from vulnerable families, since the world belongs to all. Each should be given a chance to share their dreams, and resources should be channeled evenly without looking at where it is going and who is the end user. Most of them feel that they are not given a chance and a favorable environment to share their dreams.

We Field Hearing Partner staff have a view that the Field Hearing initiative should be developed into a very big programme which can be conducted in every two to three years. The communities are looking for these hearings to be conducted in most of the areas and with a wide range of people. As Sustainable Rural Community Development Organisation (SURCOD), we would like to request *Initiative for Equality* (IfE) to take a leading role in fund-raising for this big initiative so that we can target more communities in the country. We are also of the mind that we should develop an initiative to lobby for the support of political leaders in various ways, to understand why the Field Hearings are important and what roles they can play. We would be happy to see this being achieved.

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Chapter 10. Mauritius

Nawsheen Hosenally and Dashini Allagapen

Part 1. Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as **Rio+20**, will hold a global Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to review what has transpired during the 20 years since the first Earth Summit on Sustainable Development at Rio in 1992 (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>). At the 1992 Earth Summit, the environmental and development communities came together and developed a joint platform for sustainable development. Now it is critical to ensure that it is successfully implemented. At the Rio+20 Conference, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups, will come together to shape how we can reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection on an ever more crowded planet to get to the future we want.

In the context of Rio+20, the Young Professionals in Local Development (YPLD) Mauritius organized a field hearing with the objective to have the opinion of Mauritians on Sustainable Development, the threats and challenges we are facing in Mauritius, the actions being taken and further solutions to address these challenges.

This report summarizes the results obtained from the group discussion and survey conducted by YPLD Mauritius, highlighting the following:

- Perception of Mauritians on Sustainable Development
- Problems related to Sustainable Development in Mauritius and their causes
- Possible solutions and recommendations to address the different problems identified

Field Hearing Partner

The Young Professionals in Local Development (YPLD), Mauritius, is part of a network envisaged as being a know-how transfer platform between young and experienced professionals in all fields of expertise that relate to international and local development. Our mission is “Growing Communities, Fostering through Innovation.” YPLD is a network of professionals aged between 18 and 40 involved in both international and local development through the nature of their education and professional activity. Due to our worldwide partners (currently we have partners in the USA, Asia, Europe and Africa) and our current search for regional representatives, we plan from the start to give it a global reach.

Primary Individuals

Nawsheen Hosenally and Dashini Allagapen conducted the survey, analyzed data, and were responsible for the write-up of the report. We would like to thank all YPLD Mauritius members who contributed to the group discussions, and all respondents who filled and submitted the online questionnaire. We are thankful to the discussants for their interest and commitment in sharing their own views on sustainable development and also encouraging others to contribute.

Methods, problems and considerations

The field hearings were conducted in April and May 2012 using 2 methods: Firstly, a focus group discussion on Sustainable Development was initiated with 7 YPLD Mauritius members from different field of studies and experience. From the outputs of the group discussion, an online questionnaire on Sustainable Development was designed and shared to individuals and institutions via email and on social networks (The questionnaire can be accessed on this [link](#)). 52 online questionnaires were filled and submitted.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

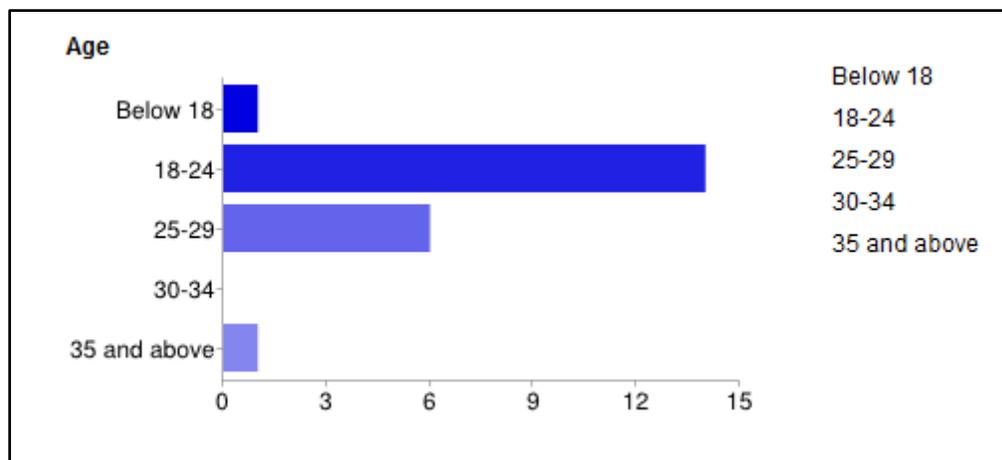
Regarding the survey, respondents were from different regions over the island (both urban and rural areas). For the online survey, geographical location of the respondents was not asked in the questionnaire. But as Mauritius is a small island of 2040 km² with a population of 1.3 million, there is not much difference between urban and rural areas.

Number of participants

Firstly, a focus group discussion on Sustainable Development was initiated with 7 YPLD Mauritius members from different field of studies and experience. Then 52 online questionnaires were filled and submitted.

General age category of participants

The age group of interviewees varies from 18 to more than 35 years old.



Economic sector of participants

Agriculture, Health, Environment, Science, Economics

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

Research, University, NGOs, Students, Public sector, Private sector

Gender breakdown of participants

We do not have the exact figure since gender was not a required field in the online questionnaire, but from the names of the interviewees, the gender distribution was more or less equal.

Population size of communities

Approximately 1.3 million people live on the island of Mauritius.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

People were asked whether the situation regarding sustainability is getting better or worse. This varied for different people of different age-groups, profession, sector etc. In general, according to the survey, 31% said that Mauritius is going towards sustainability while 69% do not have the same opinion.

Speculate About Causes

The problems that are related to Sustainable Development in Mauritius have been classified under different themes. The problems identified and their causes have been listed under their respective themes.

Government/ Commitment/ Legislations and actions

Problems:

- Economic status of the population (middle class societies are often stuck in the same circle despite the efforts they make). The government is helping those from marginal backgrounds to get a better life but those in the middle class stay stuck in the same situation.

Causes:

- Government does not have enough funds to make Mauritius more sustainable. The government has priorities and not all problems can be tackled simultaneously.

Preservation of Natural Resources

Problems:

- Natural resources are getting more and more limited, for example, problem of water shortage is faced every year.

Causes:

- Depletion of our natural resources exponentially without being able to create other sources of natural resources.
- Deforestation
- Climate change
- Improper Land and water Management

Sensitization/ Awareness

Problems:

- Lack of communication and awareness on world issues related to sustainable development.
- Lack of knowledge on sustainable actions.
- Lack of awareness on the importance of green spaces, Nature, trees and animals in our lives.

Causes:

- Sensitization and awareness on sustainable development is missing in the education system in Mauritius. Most people do not realize the importance of sustainability and hence they do not undertake sustainable actions.

Environment

Problems:

- Pollution for example air and water pollution
- Soil Erosion
- Lack of preservation wild life species
- Climate change affecting the environment, marine life
- Greenhouse gas emissions through Agriculture
- Deforestation

Causes:

- Deforestation has indirectly led to climate change
- Lack of initiatives to conserve the environment
- Very few Mauritians understand the need to conserve our biodiversity and environment. A simple example using dead leaves for compost rather than burning.

Employees' welfare, culture, family, leisure

Problems:

- Parents also do not spend quality time with their children due to hectic work schedules.
- Busy community and people's ego.
- The greed to become more successful than others.

Causes:

- Companies should work out on something more human and not treat people like machines.
- Parents should give useful things to their child (love and affection) rather than expensive gifts which do not compensate these.

Education/ Research/ Use of Updated Technology

Problems:

- In some households in Mauritius, children are not educated despite the fact the education is free and compulsory up to 16 years old.
- School drop-outs.
- Youth Unemployment.

Causes:

- Very often linked to poverty, where money is used for other purposes (food, clothing and shelter) rather than for education
- School drop-out is also a result of social problems related to poverty
- Many youth are unemployed despite being educated. The question we ask ourselves is whether the training provided in our education system is in line with the skills required on the job market? Or there are other issues?

Poverty, Social Justice/ Respect and Peace/ Women, youth, elderly and disabled

Problems:

- Drugs and Alcohol problems related to poverty.
- Loss of Employment.
- Racial discrimination at work.
- Corruption.
- Discrimination in terms of religion and cultures.
- Unemployment.
- Problem of suicide.
- High rate of crime.
- Increasing prices of all commodities, mainly, fuel for cooking and cars, electricity bills and recent increase in the price of water.

Causes:

- Social issues are inter-related to each other. The main causes are very often related to education and poverty.
- Mauritius is a country that is producing a lot of graduates, and when out of University, these degree-holders find it a challenge to find a good job. Most of the time, they have to take the first job that they are getting, which very often does not meet their qualifications or expertise. They are under-paid and exploited. This situation de-motivates them and in the end they are not reaching their full potential and not contributing to the social and economic development of the country.

Participative Democracy, Good Governance, NGOs

Problems:

- Lack of funds to invest on sustainable solutions.
- Lack of initiatives to conserve the environment.

Causes:

- Political Imbalance - People from our parliament wants power more than they want a better Mauritius.
- Development being made without proper planning (For example, easy access to any youth to the university due to government loan, payment facilities but no organization to form youth to have a job and limited "Professional" job prospect once youth out of University).

Agriculture/ Fisheries / Food Security

Problems:

- Decreased fertility of soil.
- Increasing pest and diseases.
- Lower yield.
- High dependence on chemical inputs resulting in high cost of production.
- Over or under supply of produces.
- Limited domestic market.
- Various issues related to agriculture include climate change, food insecurity, ageing farming population and lack of youth interest in Agriculture.
- Negative perception of Agriculture in Mauritius.
- Lack of innovation in the sector (lack of use of ICTs for example)

Causes:

- Lack of people engaged in food production, minimal awareness and interest in the field of Agriculture
- Youth are not interested in farming and agricultural activities
- Improper management skills of the farmers or entrepreneurs
- Farmers need quick and efficient results in their production which results in overuse of fertilizers or other chemical inputs.
- With the green revolution, farmers have started using chemical fertilizers and pesticides which have increased productivity, but over the years, the use of these products have increased and as a result, there are food safety issues (pesticide residues), leading to health problems.
- Other issues related to agriculture are food insecurity, wastage, food poisoning, etc.
- Being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The effects have already started to be experienced (agriculture, fisheries, environment etc.) and we now need to build resilience against climate change.

Health

Problems:

- Hyper tension and cardiovascular diseases are the main problems in Mauritius.
- Mauritius is the country with highest rate of Diabetes among its population in the Indian Ocean
- Bad eating habits resulting in health problems, especially among the youth.
- Mauritians do not consume balanced diet

Causes:

- Health problems in Mauritius are very much connected to the Mauritian culture. The typical Mauritian foods are not balanced diets and as a result, the population is suffering from health problems
- Mauritians are not engaged in sports activities, resulting in poor health.

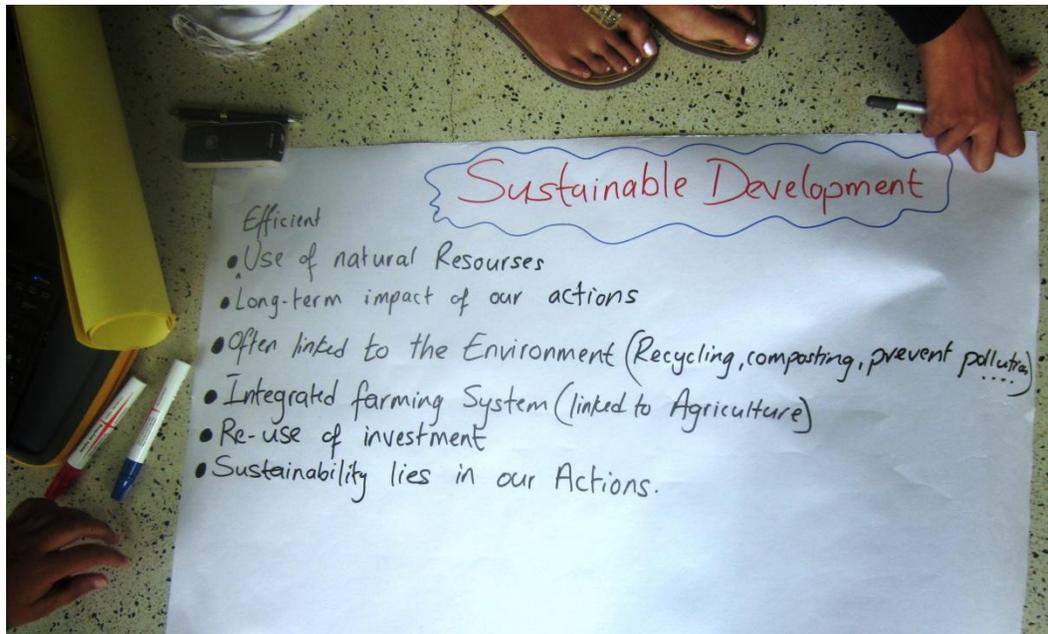
Green Industry and products/ New Model of Economic Development

Problems:

- Lack of diversified economy and initiatives in building a green economy.
- Lack of collaboration among public sector, private sector, NGOs etc.

Causes:

- We have a long way to go in having a green industry. It is in our policies, which are yet to be implemented.



Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

According to the respondents, a sustainable society is one where:

- There is satisfaction of present human needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs.
- All people realize the fact that all our actions have a positive/negative impact on our society (socially/economically and environmentally) and we should adopt measures and a way of living that would not cause any harm to our society, so that we leave what we have got as heritage to our future generation.
- We are preserving resources as much we can for future generations, making proper use of resources effectively and efficiently in the present without affecting the environment and future generation.
- We make use of the natural resources without causing its depletion and are able to replace it.
- There is reduced wastage and sustainable use of resources
- People are living without any drawbacks and can have a bright future without lacking any basic things like water, food or resources.
- We would as far as possible minimize the risk of damaging our environment.
- There is respect among the different cultures.
- Its citizens are taken care of and on the long term provide them with all their needs.
- We make use of new technologies to conserve the environment.
- Gender equality exists and there is mutual respect between different social classes.
- There is minimum violence whether domestic or any other type of violence.
- Political leaders showing more self-respect and are more patriotic.
- People should live a healthy life style with balanced diet, exercise, yoga to reduce stress.

Possible solutions and recommendations to address the different problems identified: For the problems identified above, the following are some solutions and recommendations proposed by the respondents:

Government/ Commitment/ Legislations and actions

- Political commitment and Good Governance is the key to have a green economy in Mauritius.
- Government must invest fund to achieve these objectives.
- Going towards a green Economy is already in the policy of the Mauritian Government. This policy should be implemented. The policy can be viewed on this link:
http://www.uom.ac.mu/sites/mid/files/resources/20042011_1.pdf

Preservation of Natural Resources

- We should find ways in which our natural resources can be renewed. This can be done through research or adoption of best practices from countries in the region, which would adapt to the local context.
- Preservation of Natural Resources is already on the agenda of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The different measures in the policies should be implemented.

Sensitization/ Awareness

- Better Knowledge through courses & seminars.
- Use of Radios, TVs, Newspapers & Net to promote a more sustainable Mauritius.
- More campaigns on health, good eating habits, etc.
- Sensitization campaigns on Growing of vegetables as a backyard activity, proper use of water and other natural resources.
- Greater sensitization on the long term management of the nation's health.
- In order to conserve the environment, a lot of sensitization campaigns are required and it is crucial to involve youth in this process. They should be working on these issues to understand the concept and implementing sustainable activities.

Environment

- Initiatives to conserve the environment.
- Sensitize people, children and showing them, consequences of acts which deplete the environment.
- Climate change is a reality and we should build resilience against it, starting from small actions: saving water, stop throwing litter on the streets etc.

Employees' welfare, culture, family, leisure

- Linking ideas such as exercise, fresh air, gardening for a healthier life and helping school kids, employers to bring such ideas to their professional setting for the welfare of citizens
- A proper background and more moral support from the family and an assistance from the government to make a psychologist be offered a job in each school and help in any way to the students as well as teachers for everything to go on smoothly

Education/ Research/ Use of Updated Technology

- Better education for Mauritius and focusing on equal rights for all.
- Educating the higher level professionals to channel the knowledge downstream.
- Drawing researches on the possible sustainable use of sea water to satisfy everyday need of water.
- Ensuring that ALL children are educated and have a DECENT JOB.
- Formulate the school curriculum in such a way that it inspires leadership at very young age and provide skills that are needed in the professional world.

- The training provided at the university/high school should be in line with what is required on the job market. Courses being provided need to be in line with the demand of the job market, hence ensuring that young graduates would be hired after school.
- In the education system in Mauritius, there is a lack of leadership culture.
- Investing in new systems which can absorb lost energy, and convert it into efficient energies which can be re used.
- The use of hybrid/ electric car to make efficient use of energy.
- We should focus more on technologies based on solar, wind and wave energy in Mauritius.
- Creation of employment: Use of solar panels in most companies - companies in Mauritius use a lot of electrical energy. Separate dustbins in companies and in public places - later at each individual's place
- More recycling of plastics containers should be encouraged by placing more collection posts. Segregation of waste can also be done especially in offices where lots of paper waste is generated daily.
- Privileging the use of bio-degradable materials such as "raffia" bags, brown jute bags, cloth bags and certain biodegradable plastics over conventional plastics.
- Make use of electronic banner to decrease the use of paper. Adopt paper recycling in Mauritius.
- Many 'green' materials can be used for construction for example. And the promotion of solar water heaters is a good development towards sustainability.
- Rainwater harvesting for efficient use of water.

Poverty, Social Justice/ Respect and Peace/ Women, youth, elderly and disabled

- Eradicate poverty in poverty-hit areas through programmes that are tailor-made to address the specific problems faced by these people.
- Training and capacity building of women should also be considered.
- Youth should be encouraged to get involved in extra-curricular activities to develop their leadership skills, which would enable them to have an "entrepreneurial" mindset. If Mauritian youth have the appropriate training, skills and leadership experience, experience would come on its own. They may start up their own business and contribute to the economy and reaching their full potential.
- Encourage youth by providing them with incentives and training towards entrepreneurship.
- Unemployed youths should consider agriculture as a source of employment.
- Improve the educational system. New and more job oriented courses. Experience & Job placement included as from secondary education.
- Diversify economic activities and explore new markets. Develop new sectors such as sea food hub and others. Capitalizing on human resources.
- Graduates in agriculture find it very difficult to find jobs in the sector. Many have to choose jobs other than their field of expertise. It is suggested that before launching a course, universities must ensure that jobs will exist for the graduates.
- Development - employment creation in all sectors. Giving the chance to new faces to enter job's world - not employing one person to do 3 tasks.
- Inspecting job market potentials and registering courses according to them.
- Mauritius should adopt a 24 hrs non-stop working scheme. People working in call centres are already doing it. Why not others can't follow? People working on shift mean more manpower and higher boost in the economy.
- University of Mauritius and other tertiary bodies should ensure that they provide a job placement and job opportunities for youth they form just like it is done in countries such as the

UK- Course being run should be longer and provide at least 4 months of practical training- The Government should create new ministries and new jobs for youth- The government should set up an Institution that forms youth to set up their own business, give them adequate tools and "know-how", provide a long term follow up so that those interested can also be entrepreneurs

- There are a lot of foreigners who come and work in the country and there is a need to stop recruiting foreigners and engage the Mauritian youth.
- Make salaries more attractive
- Unfortunately, we cannot provide jobs for every Mauritian since the number is increasing yearly. What can be done for a majority of them is to encourage them in doing a business on their own and try as much as possible to do it on a large scale. In so doing, they will not only be working but will also provide new jobs. Of course, the government should be allowing a loan to these people wishing to do so and if they have a net profit over Rs35000 monthly, to repay the loan with a delay of 4 years
- We should encourage organic farming as it requires more labour than conventional one. These youngsters unemployed should just be provided the required trainings. Also institutions which help unemployed people to find corresponding jobs should also be established, like in France they have Pole Emploi, in Mauritius, we can have a similar institution serving the same purpose.
- Development of a proper job market analysis. But we will not be able to guarantee a job to everyone. There is a need to develop vocational training as there is still a lack of manpower in many sectors. E.g. IT technicians, carpenter etc.
- Volunteering and leadership experiences are essential for youth to reach their full potential, be employed and contribute to the economy

Participative Democracy, Good Governance, NGOs

- Look for incentives to encourage the transformation of Mauritius into a seafood-producing hub
- Political stability and protection agreements
- Job creation by both government/ private firms/ international bodies
- Gear youth, people and communities towards eco-friendly practices such as keeping kitchen gardens, planting flowers, saving water, recycling wastes, etc
- Create employment by promoting development of local business

Agriculture/ Fisheries / Food Security

- Encourage youth to go towards agriculture
- We must go for mechanization in our agricultural fields.
- Adoption of Integrated Pest Management in Agriculture - rearing of beneficial insects and breeding of repellent crops in Mauritius - no need for imports.
- Training offered to all farmers or entrepreneurs; encouraging youngster to try in the sector and bring in new recommendation to boost up the sector. More use of bio-fertilizers or bio control agents.
- Development of a market information system that can help farmers to identify the marketing trend in the country.
- GPS systems in large farming systems to achieve better management.
- Youngsters must be sensitized in agriculture. They must know the importance of agriculture.
- This sector is a victim of climate change as productivity is being affected, but very often we do not realize that agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to global warming with the high rate of greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable practices need to be adopted (use of compost instead of chemical fertilizers and incorporate more environment friendly products in the agriculture value-chain).

- In order for the agricultural sector to be sustainable, we should incorporate youth in the sector. But unfortunately youth in agriculture are most of the time unemployed, do not have a decent job and work in other sectors.
- We have an ageing farming population and lack of young agricultural entrepreneurs in the country. There should be a political will for this to happen and have policies linking youth to agriculture and providing them with incentives and opportunities.
- Moreover, for the agricultural sector to be more productive and competitive there is a serious need to increase the use of ICTs along the value-chain.

Health

- People must be taught how to prepare a balanced diet through education, trainings, and sensitization campaigns.
- They should also be encouraged to eat healthy, safe and nutritious food.
- There should be more sophisticated apparatus in hospitals in Mauritius.

Green Industry and products/ New Model of Economic Development

- Development of ideas such as business parks which integrate tree planting/ flower growing and plant projects

Security, Law and Order

- Review and update laws
- Equal rights to all
- New leaders
- Applying the laws which concern Environmental issues (because one of the biggest problems in Mauritius also is that laws exist but they are not applied)

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

See answers in these sections: Poverty, Social Justice/ Respect and Peace/ Women, youth, elderly and disabled and Participative Democracy, Good Governance, NGOs.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Included in the list of possible solutions under each section.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

From the Field Hearings conducted by YPLD Mauritius, it can be concluded that being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is vulnerable to several external shocks (limited domestic market, net food importing country etc.), climate change, food security, unemployment, and other health and social issues. The government of Mauritius has been pro-active in introducing the Maurice Ile durable policy, which aims to make Mauritius a model sustainable island. However, despite having policy documents, we are still very far from having a Green Economy. When it comes to Sustainable Development, a change would only happen when people understand the concept of sustainability and are implementing them in their actions. Tailor-made programmes that meet the needs of each sector should be designed and implemented, there should be collaboration among various stakeholders involved (public sector, private

sector and others) and the recommendations provided in this report represent the voice of Mauritians which we hope would be taken into consideration!

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

According to the respondents, despite the fact that Mauritius is a multi-cultural country, there is mutual respect among the different cultures. Gender equality exists and there is mutual respect between different social classes. However, others believe that there is discrimination in terms of religion and cultures (e.g when applying for a job). Moreover, respondents are of the opinion that training and capacity building of women should also be considered for the sustainability of our society.

Differences based on economic circumstances

When it comes to the economic status of the population, respondents claim that middle class societies are often stuck in the same circle despite the efforts they make. The government is helping those from marginal backgrounds to get a better life but those in the middle class stay stuck in the same situation. There is a need to diversify economic activities, explore new markets and develop new sectors such as sea food hub and others, and hence capitalize on human resources available in the country.

Differences based on other factors

These can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of communication and awareness on world issues related to sustainable development.
- Lack of knowledge on sustainable actions.
- Lack of awareness on the importance of green spaces, Nature, trees and animals in our lives.
- Sensitization and awareness on sustainable development is missing in the education system in Mauritius. Most people do not realize the importance of sustainability and hence they do not undertake sustainable actions.
- Parents also do not spend quality time with their children due to hectic work schedules.
- Busy community and people's ego.
- In some households in Mauritius, children are not educated despite the fact the education is free and compulsory up to 16 years old.
- High School drop-outs.
- Youth Unemployment.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

- Review and update our laws and policies
- Gear youth, people and communities towards eco-friendly practices such as keeping kitchen gardens, planting flowers, saving water, recycling wastes, etc
- Improve the educational system. New and more job oriented courses. Experience & Job placement included as from secondary education.
- Better education for Mauritius and focusing on equal rights for all.
- Initiatives to conserve the environment.
- Sensitize people, children and showing them, consequences of acts which deplete the environment.
- Greater sensitization on the long term management of the nation's health.
- Political commitment and Good Governance is the key to have a green economy in Mauritius.

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

- Better health facilities.
- Improved education system.

- No poverty.
- Better water and energy management.
- Better communication system
- Lower cost of living
- Better health and sustainability conscious
- Decrease of drugs, violence, consumption of fast foods
- Greener Mauritius

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Chapter 11. Nigeria - Abuja

Priscilla M. Achakpa, Frank T. Yawon, James Ugah, Samuel Tough, and Mr. Amama

Part 1. Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The Conference will take place in Brazil on 20 – 22 June 2012, to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

In order to ensure high quality inputs to the Conference, the Second Committee of the General Assembly called for efficient and effective preparations at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system and encouraged the active participation of all major groups at all stages of the preparatory process. Based on the foregoing, *Women Environmental Programme* (WEP) in partnership with *Initiative for Equality* (IFE) embarked on the project titled, "Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings." The import of the WEP project is to get firsthand information from those that are most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation and whose source of livelihood is dependent upon the environment.

Field Hearing Partner

Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Abuja, Nigeria: WEP is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1997 by a group of grass-roots women whose major concern was addressing the gender injustices on environmental, socio-economic and political rights of women and youth in the society. Since its inception, WEP has strived to live up to her vision and mission partnering with all including government, INGOs, donors and bilateral agencies in implementing programs. WEP's strategic plan of operation covers two thematic areas; environment and governance. The environment thematic area covers human settlement, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction, energy, water and sanitation, and natural resources development while the governance thematic area covers women in politics and leadership, youth mentoring and development, electoral process. WEP implements her programmes through her professional membership, which cuts cross various areas of specialization and with a staff strength of 25 and offices in Nigeria, Burkina Faso of the West Africa region. WEP has UN ECOSOC Special status. WEP has received many national awards in recognition of her works in the environment.

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Primary Individuals

Priscilla M Achakpa, Executive Director, Women Environmental Programme, Nigeria

Frank T Yawon, Program Officer

James Ugah, Community Mobilizer

Samuel Tough, Program Officer, Makurdi WEP office

Mr. Amama, Analyst

Methods, problems and considerations

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) conducted the field survey in three selected communities of Abuja (Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi) and one community in Benue (Makurdi), targeting heads of households. In each community in Abuja, a total of a hundred questionnaires were administered to participants who responded to the survey, making for a total of three hundred participants. In Benue State (Makurdi community), a total of 150 participants did respond to the survey. The participants were mainly indigenous community dwellers comprised equally of male and female heads of households. The communities in Abuja are large in number, having an approximate figure of about 37,000 people, while Makurdi community has an approximate population figure of over 100,000 people.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) conducted the field survey in three selected communities of Abuja (Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi) and one community in Benue (Makurdi), targeting heads of households.

Number of participants

In each community in Abuja, a total of a hundred questionnaires were administered to participants who responded to the survey, making for a total of three hundred participants. In Benue State (Makurdi community), a total of 150 participants responded to the survey.

General age category of participants

The general age category of interviewees cuts across from 18 years to 70 years old.

Economic sector of participants

The majority of the community people engage in informal economic activities and depend on the environment for their sustenance. Most of them are housewives, petty traders living in slum/shanty areas, unemployed youth, the elderly, and very few CSO employees and government officials.

Gender breakdown of participants

The participants were comprised equally of male and female heads of households.

Population size of communities

The communities in Abuja are large in number, having an approximate figure of about 37,000 people, while Makurdi community has an approximate population figure of over 100,000 people.



Part 3. Field Hearings Detailed Findings

3.1 Survey of Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi Communities, Abuja

3.1.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The survey was carried out in three communities namely, Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi targeting households. In each community, a total of a hundred questionnaires were administered and returned, making for a strong representation of each community.

Number of participants

In each community in Abuja, a total of a hundred questionnaires were administered to participants who responded to the survey, making for a total of three hundred participants

General age category of participants

The general age category of interviewees cuts across from 18 years to 70 years old.

Economic sector of participants

The majority of the community people engage in informal economic activities and depend on the environment for their sustenance. Most of them are housewives, petty traders living in slum/shanty areas, unemployed youth, the elderly, and very few CSO employees and government officials.

Gender breakdown of participants

comprised equally of male and female heads of households

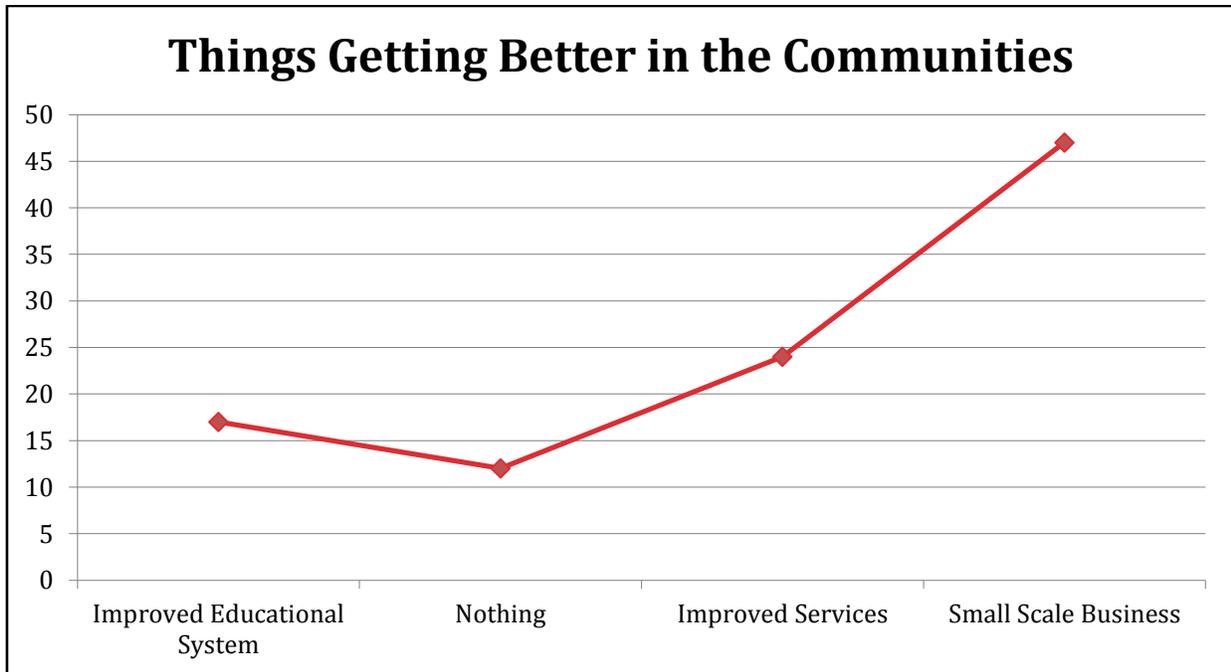
Population size of community

The communities in Abuja are large in number, having an approximate figure of about 37,000 people.

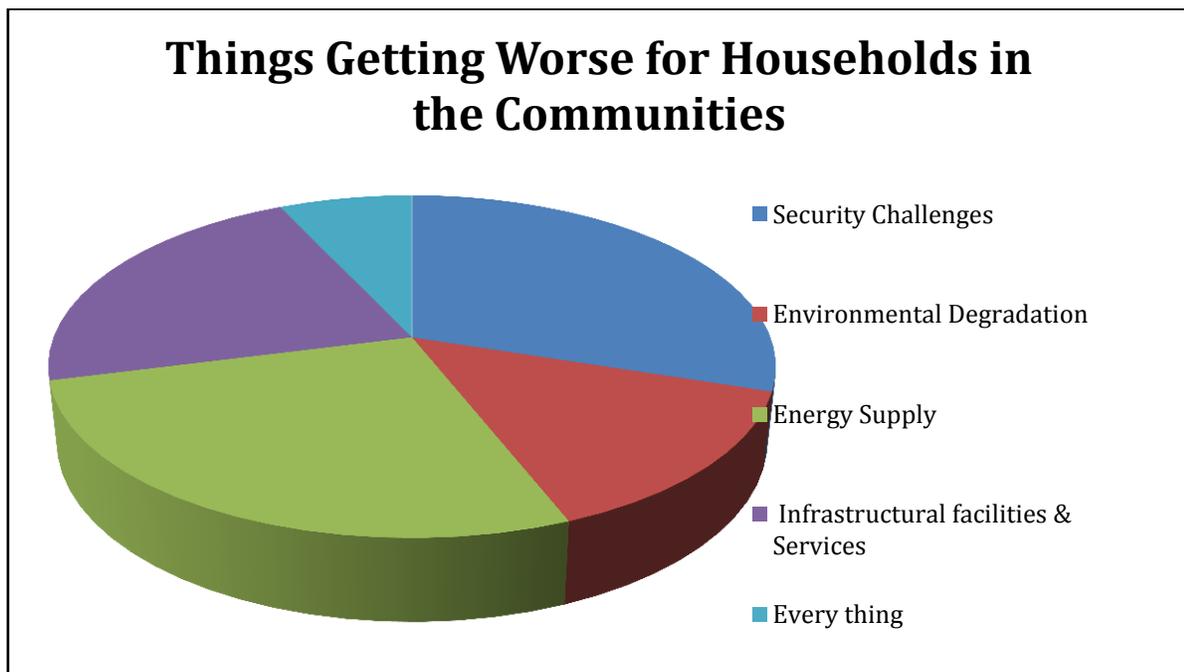
3.1.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Findings from the surveyed communities indicate that these communities are deprived of infrastructural facilities and development, and as such community dwellers are faced with the challenges of not having the basic socio-economic amenities of life. The threats of forced evictions and demolitions stare community dwellers in the face on a daily basis. Based on current developmental challenges, a majority of the community dwellers have less hope for the future. The level of happiness and community living is decreasing, basically as a result of the enormous challenges of surviving in a harsh and hostile world where the inequality between the rich and the poor continues to grow on a continuous basis. Although women in the communities are better placed than they used to be in times past, much more needs to be done to empower and protect them. The environment of the surveyed communities is getting worse, as the survey discovered, which can be intricately linked to climate change. This has brought about more conflicts than in times past as the struggle for scarce resources continues unabated. Moreover, the health conditions of people across the communities have been impaired and are getting worse. The economic circumstances of a majority of the community dwellers are getting worse, basically as a result of inflation and the high cost of goods and services against the low purchasing power of the community dwellers.



From the survey communities, the household respondents observed that some things are getting better in their communities. These include: improved educational system, improved services and small scale businesses. The majority of the respondents stated small scale businesses, and this was followed by those who respectively stated improved services and improved educational services. A good number of the respondents, however, did state that nothing is getting better. The chart below throws more light on the information.



Findings from the field survey does show that for the majority of the respondents across the three surveyed communities, energy supply (electricity) happens to be getting worse for them. This is followed by security challenges, infrastructural facilities and services, and environmental degradation. Some community dwellers even stated that everything is getting worse, as the chart above clearly shows.

Are the lives of children and youth in your family and community likely to be better or worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Better	9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Worse	291	97.0	97.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

A majority of the community dwellers across the communities were of the view that the lives of the children and youths in their respective families and communities are not likely to be better than the lives of adults over 50 years have been, while only a minute 3.0% of the respondents held a positive view as can be seen from the table above.

Is the level of happiness for your household and community increasing or decreasing?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Increasing	13	4.3	4.3	4.3
Decreasing	287	95.7	95.7	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The survey further shows that the level of happiness in the surveyed communities is decreasing as reported by the majority of 95.7% of the community dwellers. Only a minority 4.3% stated that the level of happiness for households in their respective communities is on the increase.

Is the position of women in your community getting better or worse?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Better	215	71.7	71.7	71.7
Worse	85	28.3	28.3	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

A majority of the community dwellers did report that women in their respective communities are in a better position than in the times past, although some community dwellers do feel that the women’s position in the community is still worse. The table above shows the information.

Is there more or less conflict between groups of people in your community or Nation?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More	254	84.7	84.7	84.7
	Less	46	15.3	15.3	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The survey does show that there are more conflicts between various groups of people in the respective communities as the majority of community dwellers did observed. The minority of 15.3% did hold a negative view towards the above subject matter (i.e. thought there were fewer conflicts).

Is the weather or environment surrounding your community getting better or worse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Worse	300	100.0	100.0	100.0

As evident in the table above, all respondents from the three survey communities did report that the weather/environment surrounding their communities is getting worse in recent times.

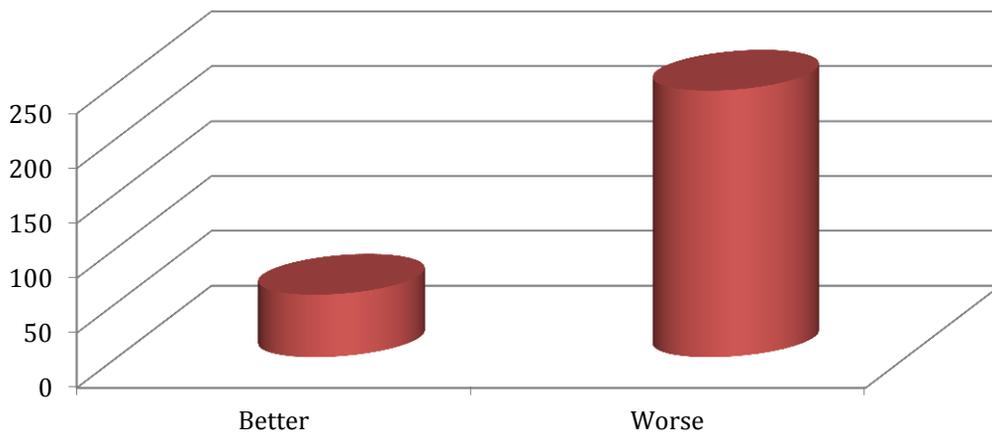
In general, is the health of people in your family and your community getting better or worse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	140	46.7	46.7	46.7
	Worse	160	53.3	53.3	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Findings from the survey reveals that 53.3% of the community dwellers were of the view that the health of people in their community is getting worse while another 46.7% of respondents reported that the health condition of people across the communities are getting better. Going with the majority, it can be inferred from the data that community dwellers health has been impaired and getting worse.

With regards to the economic conditions of the people in the sampled communities of Dagiri, Jiwa and Kabayi, the majority of respondents observed that their economic circumstances is getting worse while the minority of 19.0% of the sampled respondents reported that their economic circumstances is better. The chart below reflects the information.

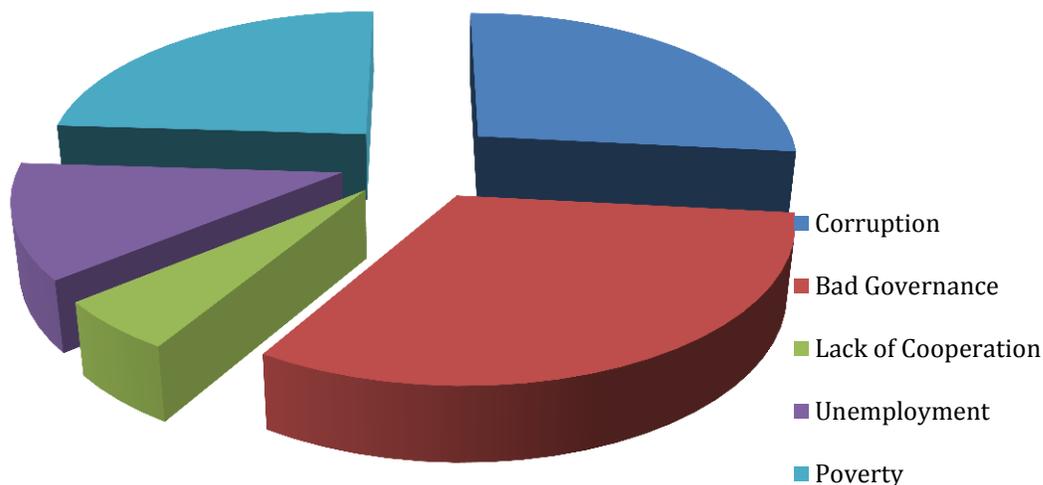
Chart showing if the Economic Circumstances of People in the Communities are getting Better or Worse



Speculate About Causes

Information from the sampled communities did reveal that community dwellers hold different reasons as factors causing development problems and challenges in their respective communities. Chief amongst these factors are the political representatives of the community. People whom they hardly even have access to exhibited bad governance. Corruption is also an endemic causative factor, as persons in leadership positions steal and loot so much from the public treasury, to the disadvantage of the entire community. Poverty, unemployment and the lack of cooperation between and amongst community dwellers are also seen as other factors causing problems in the surveyed communities.

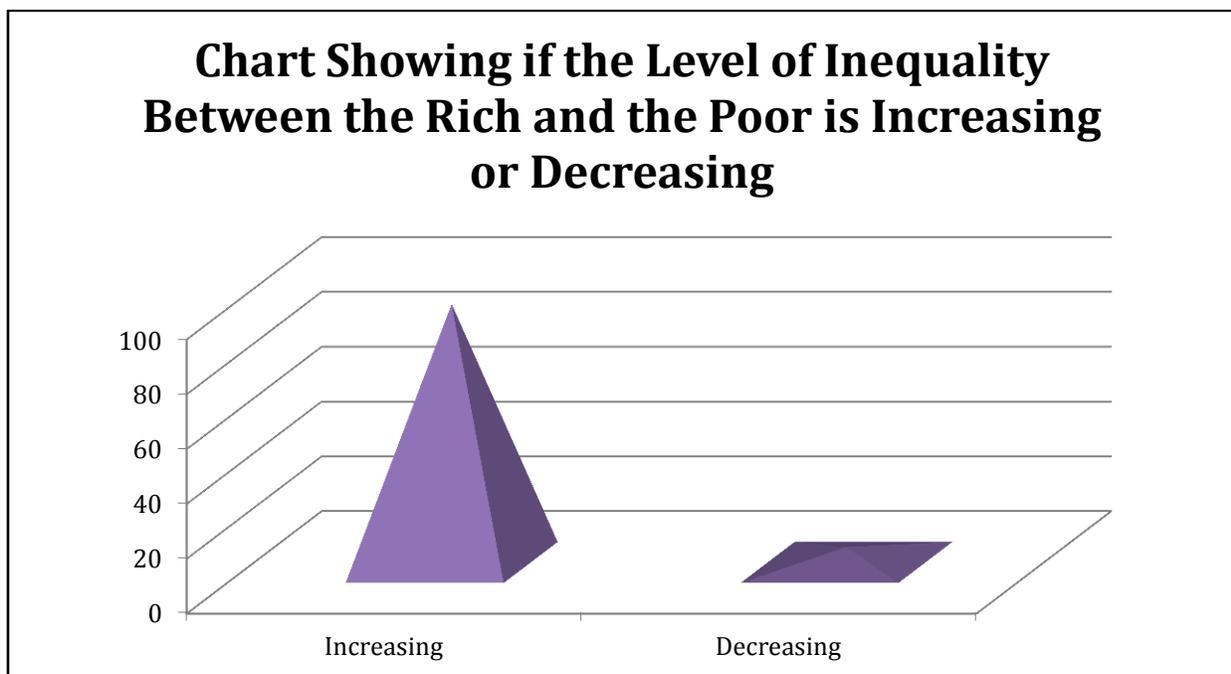
Underlying Factors Causing Problems Faced by Households in the Communities.



Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The field survey in all the communities did show that the community people are desirous of sustainable societies and expressed their utmost support for green economy. All of the community dwellers across the surveyed communities did support the development of new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment, the protection of natural resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction, new energy sources that do not harm the environment, and other environmental protection. The community people are also in support of ensuring that people do not use more than their needs, ensuring jobs for everyone, ensuring access to resources for everyone, ensuring health care for everyone, ensuring education for everyone, meeting other human needs, improving the relationship between the men and women, improving relationships between different ethnic groups of people, improving the relationship between the rich and poor people in the community and the society, influencing government officials and political leaders for positive development, and other influences. Community dwellers believe that all of these would bring about the development of their societies.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation



From the survey, the majority of about 94.3% of the respondents did report that the inequality between the rich and the poor in their respective communities is on the increase. A minute 5.7% of respondents did, however, hold a contrary view from that of the majority respondents. The chart above highlights the information obtained.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Findings from the survey shown in the table below show community dwellers' views on the things they would want to change to create a better situation and standard of living for their households and communities at large. For the children, the respondents stated that they would want to see free education for them, the creation of recreational parks and developmental programs which would enable their development, and the provision of free medical services. Community dwellers would desire free medical services, adequate capacity-building and trainings, and soft credit facilities for the women. For

the men, the respondents stated that they would want to increase their earning potentials and also empower them. For the health sector, the community dwellers reported that they would want to see well-equipped medical facilities, healthy living and better health services. With regards to wishes for the educational sector, the respondents would want to see improved educational facilities, more quality education, and free education for children.

For the poor people, the community dwellers held that they would wish for poverty alleviation programs, improvement in infrastructural development and services, their economic empowerment and the provision of their basic needs. For the farmers, the respondents to the survey were of the view that they would desire farmers to be provided with credit facilities and modern farming tools and equipment, fertilizers and other agro chemicals, and the ability to purchase farm products directly from farmers to avoid wastage. With regards to other businesses, the respondents noted that they would wish for an enhance security of lives and properties together with the enabling environment for businesses to thrive. With regards to government and political leadership, respondents stated their wish for good governance and leadership, adequate security, transparency, and accountability, and a corruption-free society.

For water, land and forest resources, the respondents reported their desire for sustainable use of resources, the protection of resources and preservation of resources. With regards to the environment, the community dwellers wish for adequate and timely waste collection and disposition, laws to protect the environment, regular sanitation, and the planting of more trees in the community.

Other aspects of life for which respondents desire a change, as obtained from the survey and can be seen from the table below, are an improvement in the standard of living, commitment and hard work, a boost in science and technology, and development in the ICT (information & communications technology).

Table Showing Respondents Wishes for the Future for the Various Categories of People and Sectors

Children	Provide free education Create parks and developmental programs Free medical services
Women	Provide free medical services Enhance their capacities through trainings Provide soft credit facilities
Men	Increase their earning potentials Empower them
Health	Provide and equip medical facilities Ensure healthy living Provide better health services
Education	Improve on educational facilities Provide more qualitative education Free education for children
Poor People	Promote poverty alleviation Improve on infrastructural development and services Economic empowerment Provide their basic needs

Farmers	Provide farmers with credit facilities Aid with modern farming tools and equipment's Provide them with fertilizers and other agro chemicals Purchase farm products directly from farmers to avoid waste
Other businesses	Enhance Security of lives and Properties Provide enabling environment for businesses to strive
Government and political leadership	Provide good governance and leadership Provide adequate security Ensure transparency and accountability Fight Corruption
Water, Land and Forest Resources	Sustainable use of resources Protect resources Preserve resources
The Environment	Ensure adequate and timely waste collection and disposition Enact Laws to Protect the environment Promote regular sanitation Plant more trees
Other aspects of life	Improve standard of living Ensure commitment and hard work Boost science and technology ICT





3.2 Survey of Makurdi Community, Benue State

3.2.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Makurdi Community, Benue State

Number of participants

in Benue State (Makurdi community) a total of 150 participants did respond to the survey.

General age category of participants

The general age category of interviewees cuts across from 18 years to 70 years old.

Economic sector of participants

The majority of the community people engages in informal economic activities and depends on the environment for their sustenance. Most of them are housewives, petty traders living in slum/shanty areas, unemployed youth, the elderly and very few CSOs and government officials.

Gender breakdown of participants

comprised equally of male and female heads of households

Population size of community

Makurdi community has an approximate population figure of over 100,000 people.

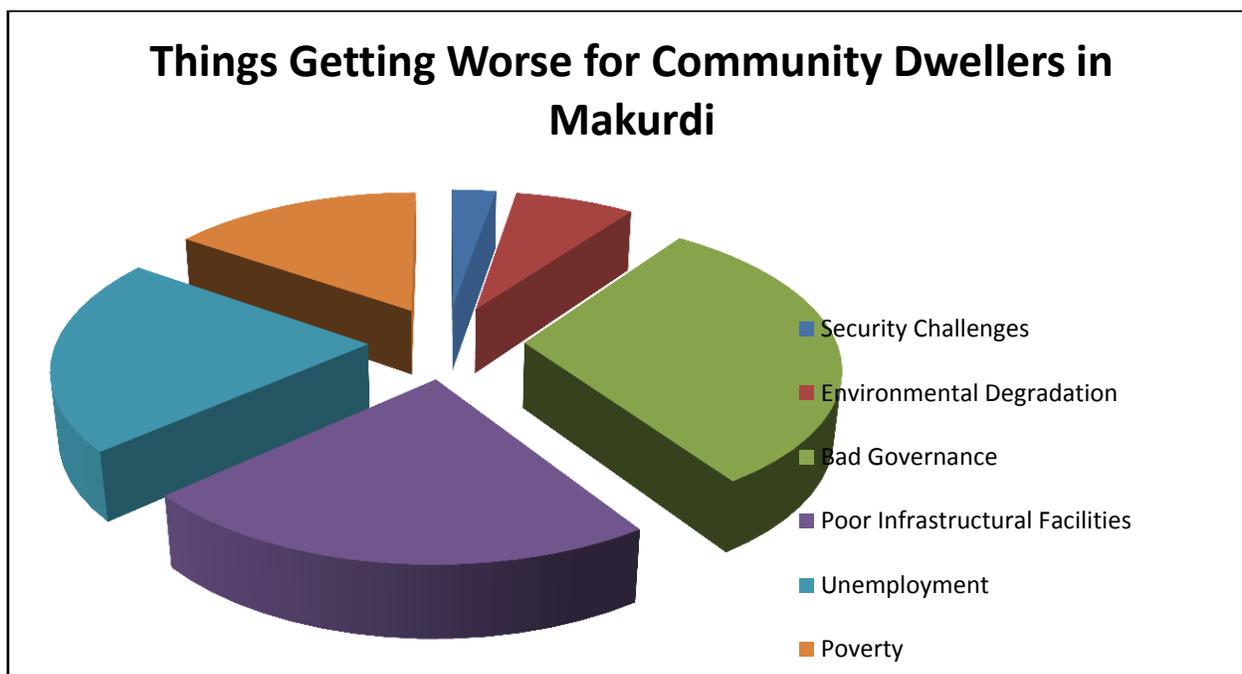
3.2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Are things getting better for your households and your community?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Improve Communication System	36	24.0	24.0	24.0
Improved Educational System	23	15.3	15.3	39.3
Nothing	18	12.0	12.0	51.3
Civilization	26	17.3	17.3	68.7
Improved services	47	31.3	31.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Findings from Makurdi revealed that a good number of community dwellers across the area were of the view that the communication system, education system, services and the people's orientation are getting better, although many more respondents reported that nothing has changed and as such nothing is getting better in their community.



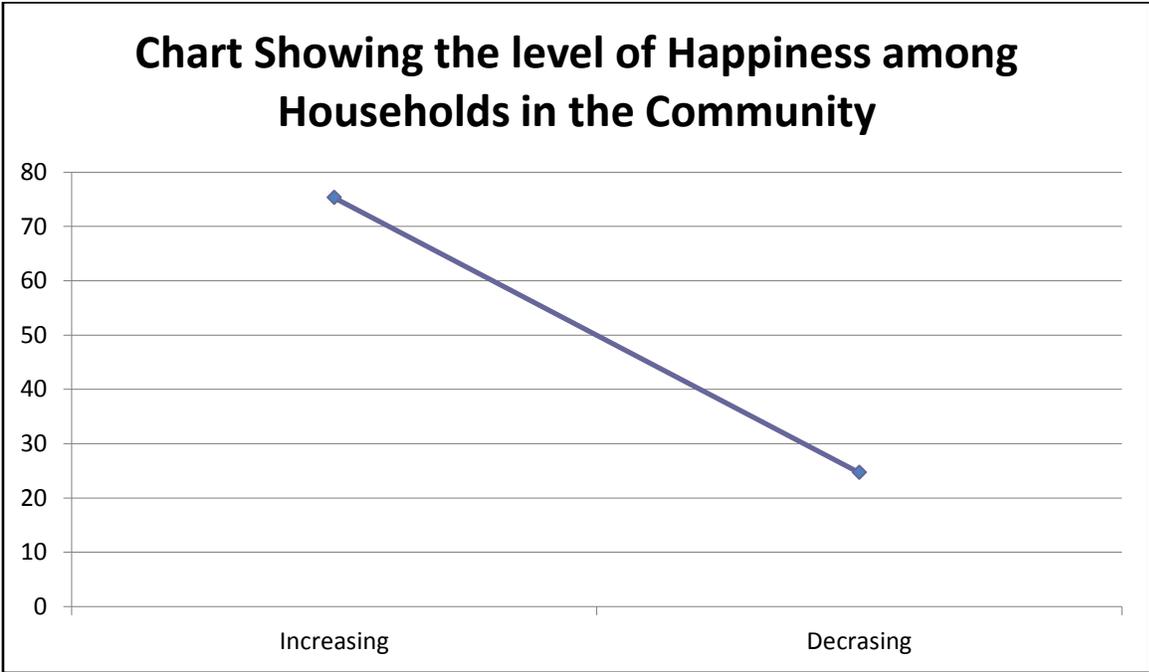
The majority of the community dwellers in Makurdi reported that bad governance is getting worse in their community. This is followed by respondents who lamented the very poor state of infrastructural decay. For them, this is getting worse in their community. Unemployment, poverty, environmental degradation and security challenges are other areas given by the community dwellers as the sectors which are getting worse in their community. The chart below shows the ranking as given by the respondents.

Are the lives of children and youth in your family and community likely to be better or worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	130	86.7	86.7	86.7
	Worse	20	13.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

The field survey from Makurdi community shows that the majority of the community dwellers are of the view that the lives of children and youths in their respective families are likely to be better than the lives of adults over 50 years have been. A few respondents of about 13.3% however did hold a contrary opinion to that given by the majority of respondents.

While about 24.7% of the respondents in Makurdi reported that the level of happiness for their households and community is on the decrease, the majority of about 75.3% respondents however stated that the level of happiness for their households and community is rather increasing.



Is the position of women in your community getting better or worse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	118	78.7	78.7	78.7
	Worse	32	21.3	21.3	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

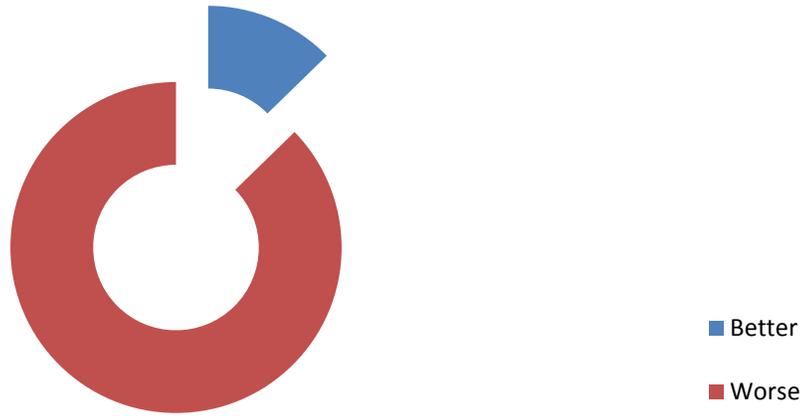
The position of women in Makurdi community, as revealed by the survey, is getting better as 78.7% of the respondents who formed the majority observed. 21.3% of same respondents were of the view that women in the community are not better position than in the time past.

Responses from the community people indicates that there are more conflicts between various groups in the community than there used to be. This was attested to by the majority of the respondents, as can be seen from the chart below. While 69.3% of respondents affirmed that there are more conflicts, the minority of 30.7% stated otherwise.



The survey shows that there is a negative change in the weather and environmental condition of the community. A majority of 87.3% of the respondents did observe that the environmental condition of their community is getting worse. The chart below throws more light on the information.

Chart Showing if the Weather or Environmental Condition of the Community is getting Better or Worse



In general, is the health of people in your family and your community getting better or worse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	101	67.3	67.3	67.3
	Worse	49	32.7	32.7	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

67.3% of the respondents, representing a majority of the respondents, did state that the health of people in their respective families and community in general are getting better, while 32.7% of the respondents held that the health status of the community people is getting worse.

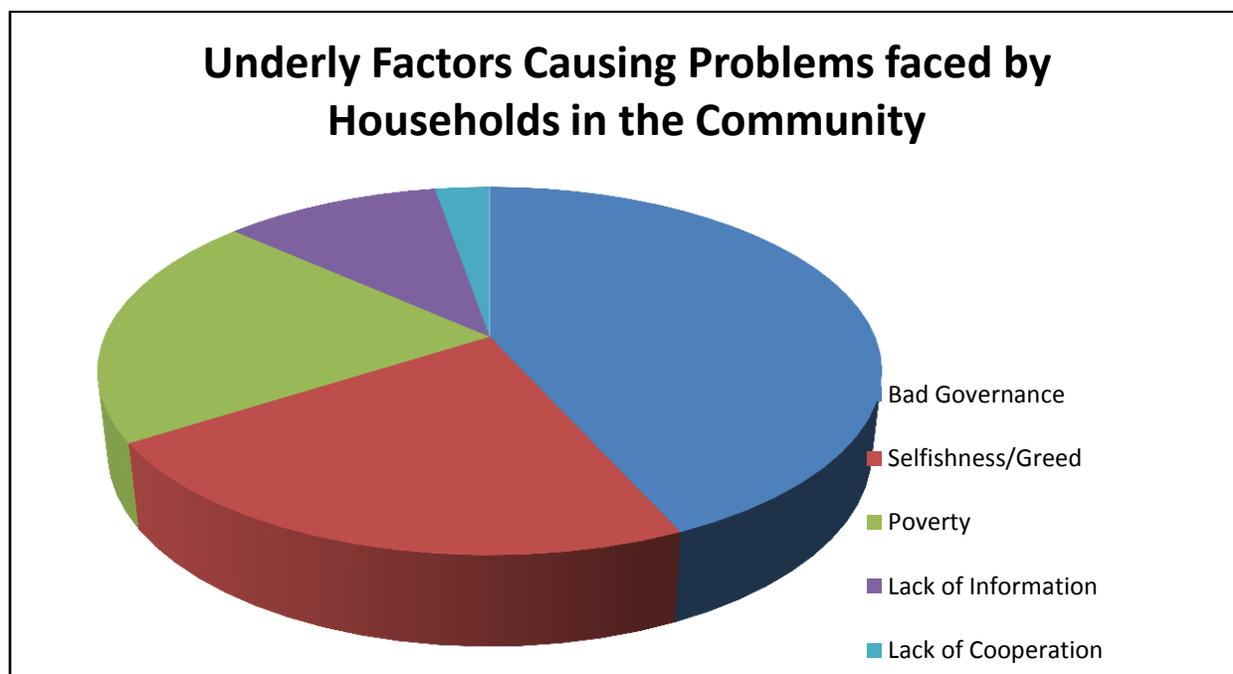
In general, are the economic circumstances of people in your family and community getting better or worse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	64	42.7	42.7	42.7
	Worse	86	57.3	57.3	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Findings from the survey show that the economic circumstances of some people in the community are getting better, and for others, getting worse. The majority of 57.3% did state that their economic circumstances are getting worse, while 42.7% of the respondents stated that it is getting better, as evident in the table above.

Speculate About Causes

Several factors are considered by the community dwellers to be the underlying reasons causing the problems faced by their families and the community in general. These factors include bad governance, selfishness/greed and poverty, lack of information, and lack of unity amongst the people. The frequencies of people citing the various factors are displayed in the chart below.



Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Level of inequality between the rich and poor individuals in your community

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Increasing	108	72.0	72.0	72.0
	Decreasing	42	28.0	28.0	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Findings obtained through the survey revealed that the level of inequality between the rich and the poor individuals in Makurdi community is on the increase as reported by the majority of 72.0% of the community dwellers. A few percent of 28.0% of same community dwellers did give a different view noting that the inequality between the rich and the poor in the community is decreasing.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Table Showing Respondents Wishes for the Future for the Various Categories of People and Sectors.

Children	Improve their education Provide quality education Provide their basic needs
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	Create programs to aid their development
Women	Better manage their resources Ensure Good Jobs for them Enlighten them on feminine roles Cater for their wellbeing Train them on small scale business Ensure gender equality and prevention of domestic violence against women
Men	Draw them closer to God Ensure good and well-paid jobs Provide recreational activities Create job opportunities
Health	Provide and equip medical facilities Ensure healthy living Provide better health services
Education	Build high standard schools Provide Educational facilities
Poor People	Poverty alleviation Improve their standard of living Enhance their means of livelihoods Economic empowerment Provide their basic needs
Farmers	Aid with modern farming tools and equipment's Boost their farming activities Provide them with agro chemicals Transparency and accountability
Other businesses	Capital Provide enabling environment for businesses to strive Provide necessary facilities and equipment
Government and political leadership	Re- orientate Fight corruption Provide good leadership Good governance Transparency and accountability
Water, Land and Forest Resources	Sustainable use Protect resources Preserve
The Environment	Manage and plan Protect the environment and ensure sanitation Safeguard the environment Plant more trees
Other aspects of life	Improve standard of living Ensure commitment and hard work Boost science and technology ICT

Findings from the survey as displayed in the table above reflect respondents' wishes on things they would want to change to create a better situation for their households and community. These are the things they would want to be achieved for their communities, given the resources.

For the children, the respondents reported that they would want to see an improvement in their education, more quality education and the provision of their basic needs. Community dwellers would desire the following for the women: better management of resources, provision of jobs, enlightenment on feminine roles, catering for their well-being, training on small scale businesses, and ensuring gender equality and prevention of domestic violence against women. For the men, the respondents stated that they would want to see them draw closer to God, ensure good and well-paid jobs for them, provide recreational activities, and create job opportunities for them. For the health sector, the community dwellers reported that they would want to see well equipped medical facilities, healthy living and better health services. The respondents would want to see high standard schools and improved educational facilities, with regards to wishes for the educational sector.

For the poor people, the community dwellers held that they would wish for poverty alleviation programs, improvement in infrastructural development and services, their economic empowerment, and the provision of their basic needs. For the farmers, the respondents to the survey were of the views that they would desire farmers to be provided with credit facilities and modern farming tools and equipment, fertilizers and other agro chemicals. With regards to other businesses, the respondents noted that they would wish for more capital and the provision of the enabling environment for businesses to thrive. With regards to government and political leadership, respondents stated they desire a re-orientation for public office-holders, strengthening of the fight against corruption, provision of good leadership and good governance.

For Water, Land and Forest Resources, the respondents reported their desire for sustainable use of resources, the protection of resources and preservation of resources. With regards to the environment, the community dwellers wish for a well-managed and planned environment, protection of the environment, and adequate sanitation and the planting of more trees. Respondents further observed that an improvement in the standard of living, commitment and hard work, a boost in science and technology, and development of the information and communications technologies as the other aspects of lives for which the community dwellers desire a change, as revealed by the findings from the survey.

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Chapter 17. Nigeria - Students

Md. Mahmudul Alam and Ahmed Chinade Abdullahi

Part 1. Introduction

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted on 9th May 2012. We selected a FGD format because it was the most convenient for us. For the improvement of the current situation in Nigeria, and in order to achieve sustainability in a true sense, it is very crucial to know the views of the ordinary people. At the same time, it is also important to understand how the ordinary people think about the solutions to contemporary problems in the society. With this view in mind, we conducted the FGD and tried to find out possible future directions for policy-makers in their efforts to achieve equity and sustainability.

Field Hearing Partner

We are PhD students studying at National University of Malaysia (UKM).

Primary Individuals

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Methods, problems and considerations

The FGD was conducted among the Nigerian citizens at the National University of Malaysia (UKM). All the participants come from Northern part of the country. Participants willingly answered, and filled out the printed questionnaires and join in the FGD discussion at the same time.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The FGD was conducted among the Nigerian students currently enrolled in various programmes at the National University of Malaysia (UKM). All the participants come from the northern part of Nigeria.

Number of participants

The participants are 8 persons.

General age category of participants

All of them are 28-45 years old.

Economic sector of participants

All of them are from middle and upper-middle economic class and highly educated group. All the participants are from the northern part of Nigeria, Muslims, and speak the Hausa language. The majority of them are University lecturers, while others work in the public and private sectors.

Gender breakdown of participants

All of them are male.

Population size of communities

It is not yet known how many Nigerian students are currently studying in the University, but it is not more than 25.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

In Nigeria, equity and sustainability remain elusive five decades after independence. The socio-economic wellbeing of the people has continued to deteriorate continuously over the years. The participants are agreed that the trend for economic well-being or condition is not improving significantly over time. The social values, morality, and ethical practices are falling very sharply due to corruption and immorality (social vices, juvenile delinquencies, corruption, etc.), which are increasing day by day. The political situation is becoming more unstable. Conflicts among different religious, political and ethnic groups are increasing. Overall quality of services for health care systems, education, social services, security, etc., is deteriorating day by day. The supplies of resources such as electricity, food, water, etc. are not adequate to meet the increasing demand due to population growth and lopsided distribution. People need to put out more and more effort just to maintain a certain standard of living.

The wealth inequality among the rich and poor is very high, so the income gap is widening. The well-being of the poor people is very low, and their economic and social deprivation is increasing day by day. The position of women in society is lagging behind, and the increasing proportion of educated people is not satisfactory. The lives of children and of adults over 60 are not improving over the recent years. The surrounding environmental quality is deteriorating and pollution increasing. Competition for common resources such as play-grounds, forest products, grazing areas, fisheries, etc., is increasing over time. The city or urban problems are unmanageable. Due to urbanization and urban migration, the problems like traffic, overcrowding, unmanaged waste, flash flooding, and reduced recreation space are increasing over time. Overall, happiness among the people is decreasing over the years.

Speculate About Causes

The root cause of all these problems can be traced to government failure from the second republic, when corruption and bad governance became entrenched. The various military dictatorships have also compounded the situation by entrenching a culture of impunity in governance. Successive governments have continued to neglect the citizenry. Greed, selfishness, and lack of sincerity among the political class has rendered ineffective almost all government interventions meant to improve the lot of citizenry.

Participants also figured out some common and core reasons (as well as specific reasons) for the current socioeconomic, political, environmental and cultural problems in Nigeria. They agreed that good governance, political conflict and political instability, corruption, law and order insecurity, unemployment, and degradation of moral values are the core and common reasons for all of the problems. Further, among the specific problems, people pointed out that inefficient economic policy, lack of skilled population, and low level of institutional capacity are also remarkable obstacles for the economic well-being of the country. Due to the low level of morality, high level of poverty, high level of inequality, lack of proper planning, and various cultural practices, the lives of children and women are not improving. In the same vein, lack of social security for the aged and poor are the main causes for the difficult lives of adults over sixty.

The poor performances of service sectors like health, education, electricity, etc., are caused by privatization, historical effects, high level of poverty, and discrimination between the North and South region of the country. Political intolerance and conflict and poverty are the main causes of declining social relationships among people. At the same time, privatization, improper economic policy and lack of implementation are the main causes for the high level of inequality that also leads to reduced well-being of the poor people.

Environmental problems are due to over-extraction of resources, high competition for resources, lack of institutional capacity to monitor and control resources, high population and high rate of urbanization, and unplanned industrialization. Ineffective democratic process, electoral frauds and injustices, are the important causes of the political instability in the country. The conflicts among different groups are mainly due to the controlling political powers, and to competition for resources. Urban problems are increasing due to poor infrastructure, improper transportation system, improper planning of cities, high rate of urbanization, inadequate extension of services, and lack of awareness for waste management.

In Nigeria, a greater percentage of the population still live in rural areas and are engaged in low-input subsistence agriculture that hardly sustains them. The soil productivity has continued to decline, and increasingly marginal lands are converted to agriculture. This and the absence of coherent domestic energy policies have force people to cut trees recklessly, which leads to desert encroachment in the northern parts and soil erosion in the southern parts of the country.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The participants agreed that this country needs to move towards sustainability, and suggested several issues that are required for achieving sustainability. They suggested developing new technologies and new energy sources that are less harmful to the environment. At the same time, protection of resources (like water, forests, agricultural land, grazing land, natural sites, wild animals and biodiversity) from pollution, overuse, or destruction is also important. To achieve sustainability, reducing unemployment, ensuring accessibility of resources, and ensuring proper health and education services are all essential. Further, sustainability issues need to be introduced into the academic system.

To reduce city problems, proper city planning and management (of traffic, water logging—i.e. flooding, waste, etc.) are important. Social and professional relationships among several groups (gender, ethnicity, economic class, political, social, business groups) need to be close and friendly through more social interaction, tolerance, volunteering, cooperation, corporate social responsibility activities, and more involvement of social enterprises like charity, clubs, NGOs, Waqf (charity of property for society), Zakat (mandatory charity by religion), etc. To reduce the income and wealth disparity and improve the wellbeing of the poor people, special subsidies, social services and social security are needed. Finally, ensuring good governance, improving law and order and security, and embedding the religious, ethical and moral value in the system, are essential.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

With rising poverty levels and bad governance, social injustices became pervasive. This creates ethnic and religious conflicts with devastating consequences. The corporate existence of the country is now in serious jeopardy, as many are calling for splitting the country along ethnic or religious lines. With the discovery of crude oil, the government neglected other economic sectors such as agriculture, which had hitherto been the mainstay of the economy. Although Nigeria is now a democracy, persistent fraud in the electoral process has continued to mar the integrity of most elections, as the results always fail to capture the wishes of the electorate. With more than half of the nation's resources hijacked by a very

few elites, political cronies, and psychopaths, the majority of the population remains poor. So, while the country happens to be the seventh largest crude oil exporter in the world, eighty percent of its citizens live on under one dollar a day!

The participants agreed that the politicians, the rich, highly educated, and the ruling class people are the most privileged group. The privileged groups enjoy better access to land, education, health care, and other services and facilities. The deprived groups are mostly the poor community who are struggling for basic needs, basic rights, and social amenities. Corruption, poor governance, wrong economic policy, and political unwillingness are responsible for the wealth inequality and income disparity. This also works as an obstacle to economic progress and social harmony and happiness. Good leadership, good governance, strong middle class society, community-based social participation, and practicing religion and charity can reduce the inequality problem in the society.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

To put the country back on track, good governance must be entrenched. This can be done if only the electoral process is improved and the independence of the electoral body guaranteed. Rule of law also must be entrenched so that corruption, lack of discipline, and impunity can be checked. If this is done, then social justice will improve and people will have opportunities to improve their social and economic lives, thereby tackling poverty, ill-health and ignorance themselves.

The participants also provided their opinions about how they would improve the situation if they had enough scope in the future. To improve the lives of children, participants would arrange better education, health, food, and enough play-ground facilities. To improve the condition of women in the society, development of social entrepreneurship, enough credit facilities, empowerment and equal opportunity are very important. A social security system, better health services, and family care are considered important to improve the livelihood and condition of old age people.

Social entrepreneurship, job creation, ensuring basic needs, and providing special schemes can reduce poverty as well as improve the well-being of deprived people. Providing better production techniques, technology, knowledge, seeds, subsidy, and credit facilities can improve the current position of the farmers. Ensuring good governance, law and order, democracy, and better political practices can improve the political situation. To provide better education, health care, and other basic services, focusing on technology, quality and coverage are important.

Better management, resource allocation, community participation, usage of green technology and environmentally friendly products, renewable energy, appropriate law and order, and integrated policy are important for environmental protection and better management of water, land, energy, forests, and other natural resources. Proper city planning, extension of urban areas, reducing urban migration, green housing, better infrastructure, waste management, and community participation are important in addressing the urban problems. To reduce social problems, local institutions, NGOs, and participation by community members are all important. Furthermore, social interactions, teaching social norms and values, and practicing religion and ethics also need to be taken into consideration in order to reduce the social problems.

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Chapter 13. Philippines Provinces

Tina S. Clemente, Sonia G. Masaoay, Karl Leonid R. Silva-netto, Charles De Guzman

Part 1. Introduction

Participation in this project was motivated by a great interest in development and the rethinking of sustainability based on issues of environment, social justice, community empowerment and various measurements of well-being. In addition, the project was viewed as an opportunity to magnify the people's voice as a significant input into the Rio+20 process.

Field Hearing Partner

The Field Hearings in the Philippines were conducted through collaboration among academics with varying support from their home institutions. For each of the three Field Hearing Areas, a faculty member managed the interviews through their students and co-workers, which was sanctioned by their universities. The Area 2 team is distinct since the interviews were managed through an existing community program in the school as well as a non-government organization. Partners include:

- University of the Cordilleras - Philippines
- Center for Community Development, St. Paul University, Quezon City - Philippines
- Sentrong Kalinangang Pangkalikasan - Philippines
- Bulacan State University - Philippines

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Methods, problems and considerations

The field hearings were organized according to three project areas, and methods, problems and considerations varied from area to area:

Area 1 represents 10 one-on-one interviews with respondents in Pangasinan Province in the Ilocos Region (Region 1), and the provinces of Mountain Province and Benguet in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). The respondents were chosen based on the different age brackets and socio-economic status in the community. Random- sampling method was utilized. One problem was, the respondents were hesitant at first to divulge their ideas, but when it was explained that the research will be of help in trying to get feedback from the people about their own basic concerns, they warmed up to the idea. Second, they would not elaborate on some answers such as those regarding wishes for the future. They were cynical about what their wishes are. The question was, even if they did articulate their wishes, would they be heard? Some were even suspicious whether the interview was really a research project, or just a bogus form of a survey to test the sentiments of the residents.

Area 2 represents 10 one-on-one interviews with respondents from the Aeta community in Zambales Province, Central Luzon (Region 3). This community was chosen to represent the perspective of an indigenous community that has long been marginalized and is supported by civil society efforts. A great difficulty in the field hearings was the need for translations of questions and answers. The original questions had to be translated to Filipino, which the interviewers used. Then interpreters had to communicate the questions in the Aeta language.

Area 3 represents 14 one-on-one interviews with respondents from Bulacan Province, Central Luzon (Region 3). The respondents could describe trends, speculate on causes, and describe their views on inequality and wishes for the future, but they found it difficult to share at length what changes were needed for sustainability to be achieved in their community.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Area 1 represents several barangays (the smallest political unit in Philippine local government) across Pangasinan Province in the Ilocos Region (Region 1), and the provinces of Mountain Province and Benguet in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Area 2 represents the Aeta community in Sicutihan, which is in Barangay Gala in Zambales Province in Central Luzon (Region 3). Area 3 represents various barangays across municipalities and a component city in the 1st District of Bulacan Province. The latter belongs to Central Luzon (Region 3).

Number of participants

The entire project involved one-on-one interviews with a total of 34 respondents.

General age category of participants

The general age category ranged from teens (in the case of university-level students) through retirement age (65 years and beyond).

Economic sector of participants

Respondents are from the low-income to middle class categories with a diversity of employment and occupation types ranging from students to farmers, to vendors, and education sector workers.

Gender breakdown of participants

There were 16 female respondents and 18 male respondents.

Population size of communities

In Area 1, the size of the community in which the interviews were conducted is estimated at 9,900 people. In Area 2, the size is 80 families or 240 - 260 people. In Area 3, it is 3000 people. The difference in the size is due to the fact that the respondents in Area 1 were drawn from a larger span of barangays across regions. Respondents from Area 2 belong to a resettlement community in the same barangay. Respondents from Area 3 come from different barangays but all from the same district, which is a smaller area relative to the total area considered for the sample in Area 1.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The differing community contexts in the three areas yielded different responses. The following underscores the detailed answers found in Part 3. For Area 1, the emphasis was on an improvement in health, level of happiness, political situation and the status of women, while environment and the economic situation were deemed worse off. For Area 2, health and the economic situation were considered better while environment, social relationships were deemed worse off. Where the political situation is concerned, half of the respondents perceived it to be better while the other half considered it worse off. For Area 3, the level of happiness, status of women, the economy and the political situation were seen as improved, while the environment was perceived to be worse off.

Speculate About Causes

In general, respondents identified issues at the level of policy and governance, but also underscored the role of citizens. As regards the former, economic, financial and political problems were flagged in general. Specifically, the problems of graft and corruption, poverty, inequality, differential access to resources, and inadequate jobs and education were emphasized. What was most interesting, however, was the identification of people's "attitude" as a very problematic issue needing attention. The respondents linked bad attitude (e.g. greed, selfishness) not only to policy decisions and governance but also to social relations and to perceptions (e.g. towards environmental protection).

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The respondents agreed that changes were needed in the items listed on the questionnaire. Attention was given to the need for responsible stewardship of the environment, the use of alternative energy sources, and leveling the playing field in terms of socio-economic opportunities and resource access. In general, the respondents expressed the need for changes in the items specified in the questionnaire. However, there was difficulty with identifying specific interventions.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

In general, perceptions of privilege and deprivation were associated with access to services (e.g. shelter), economic opportunities (e.g. stable jobs), special factors (e.g. such as calamity assistance or charitable benefits), and access to natural resources and decision-making processes. In terms of differences in wealth and influence, issues range from corruption to personal attitudes and behavior.

In Area 1, seven out of ten respondents did not consider themselves as deprived. One respondent considered himself both deprived and privileged. Interestingly, four respondents did not see themselves

as deprived but did not categorically say that they were privileged. Further, they qualified the degree of not being deprived depending on circumstances such as personal attitude or resource access. In Area 2, the respondents said they saw themselves as deprived in terms of basic needs, economic opportunities and the knowledge to change their paths. The privileged were defined as those associated with such things as stable jobs and education. In Area 3, the respondents mostly perceived themselves as privileged. Curiously, access to resources did not necessarily correspond to access to decision-making processes and participation in those processes. While most respondents saw the harmfulness in having differences in wealth and influence, there were also respondents who said that whether these are harmful depends on people's attitudes.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

The expressed wishes for the future covered all the items specified in the questionnaire. Emphasis was given to education for all, better access to basic services (e.g. health care) and resources, adequate economic opportunities (including employment), improving equality between men and women, better governance (including sanctions against corruption), and better environmental stewardship. The change of attitudes as a factor in realizing dreams for the future was also given importance.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

Perceptions on trends are area-specific and difficult to generalize. In speculating about causes, the issues that the respondents identified can be described in three categories. The first category is inadequate public sector intervention. Examples of identified issues include lack of employment opportunities and lack of education. The second set of issues can be characterized as deep-seated systemic problems. Examples of these issues include wealth inequality and differential access to resources. The third category is people's attitudes. The latter covers the more intangible, but not less significant, issues. Respondents flagged the significance by including this aspect, reflecting the need for a more well-rounded approach in addressing societal problems and sustainability goals. In other words, while initiatives are called for on different fronts (e.g. macro level socio-economic policy), the most fundamental role of attitudes, individual stake-holding and ownership over a community's destiny must be broadly shared.

Respondents had a relatively difficult time articulating the changes needed to achieve sustainability, while aspirations for the future were more openly shared. This shows that there is more room for building trust in communities, where people can participate in a transparent dialogue on reforms. In addition, there is also more room for empowerment in communities where constituents consider themselves as the source of change. Change refers to attitudes or perspective, but also to actual reforms. It must be noted that while being privileged meant access to resources in general, this did not always translate into access to decision-making processes. Further, access to decision-making processes did not also necessarily mean voluntary participation in the context of stake-holding.

Inequality was well understood in general; however, considering oneself as privileged or deprived was more complicated. This is attributed to the fact that deprivation has gradations. While the respondents may see themselves as better off than many others, it is possible that privilege is a category they still do not identify with, given that so many needs and wants have yet to be satisfied. It is not unusual to not consider oneself deprived, yet not consider oneself privileged, either.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

Region, ethnicity, gender and age played roles—albeit in different degrees—in the varied answers across the three areas, and within areas as well. In terms of regional or location differences, for instance, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) where Mountain Province and Benguet are located is associated with many indigenous tribal groups, but not in the same context as Zambales province where the Aeta community was resettled after their home was destroyed following the volcanic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. While the tribes in CAR get to participate in mainstream market activities to a certain extent, the Aetas in the resettlement community suffer from a large measure of marginalization. So much assistance is needed, that when the community is helped by charitable work, the immediate effect is much felt by the community. In this sense, ethnicity and attendant particularities also play a role in the different answers.

Where age is concerned, the breadth of assessment can be affected in terms of appreciating trends. Here, the observer's experience matters, as in the case of a 17 year old comparing trends versus a 35 year old. It is difficult to say whether age is a factor in affecting articulation of solutions, since the lack of maturity in chronological age can be compensated for by more education of later generations, or more learning from cumulative community experience and external interventions. Gender did not appear to be a factor in the differences in answers.

Differences based on economic circumstances

Economic circumstances definitely played a role in the answers given. For instance, an unemployed worker would feel the acuteness of job stability issues and the need for more public services. The Aetas prize education highly, especially as it is seen as a ticket out of the confines of the resettlement area, where economic opportunities can be explored. Some government employees did not consider themselves as deprived even while many needs may have been unsatisfied. One reason could be that the relative security in having a stable albeit low-paying job renders one better off compared to an uncertain jobs such as in the vegetable retail business where environmental vagaries are just one of the many challenges.

Differences based on other factors

Another factor in perspectives is environmental vulnerability of the community. In this sense, environmental stewardship and access to calamity aid become prominent in the different sections of the questionnaire answers. Power relations also play a role since this structures access to resources, opportunities and services. Attitudes also account for different answers, as in the appreciation of inequality, deprivation and privilege. For instance, due to the varying perceptions of a basket of well-being, it was possible for some respondents to experience both deprivation and privilege, and consider themselves both equal or privileged despite the deprivation.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

Community empowerment should be a priority. Any intervention must be considered as building the members of the community themselves as movers of their own destinies rather than mere objects of development programs or recipients of aid (whether charitable or state-sponsored). While access to basic services and economic opportunities has a lot of room for initiatives, participation—not just access to decision-making processes—should be engendered by all groups in society, and should be one of the top priorities of local government units. The expressed aspirations of the respondents are interesting as they show two things: first, that there is much to be desired in the realm of the basics, and second, that what was thought to be ideal is increasingly being considered basic. That is significant, as dreams for the future insist on sustainability and a socio-economic system that is hinged on justice, equity and dignity.

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

Key reform initiatives are underway, and it cannot be overemphasized that crucial victories in these areas are needed. For instance, for transparency, a law on freedom of information is important. The idea of transparency does not only have a preventive and punitive use, but a significant implication is citizen empowerment by “decentralizing” and “democratizing” the enforcement of accountability in the public sector. In other words, potentially, citizens can take part in monitoring public authorities. They can also improve governance by monitoring accountability across different government units for the final outcomes of the public sector production process. Political will is crucially needed in coming up with radical solutions and enforcement of environmental stewardship. The state of environmental degradation in the Philippines has been deplorable. This not only affects Philippine sustainability but also affects the global ecosystem, given that the Philippines is considered the “center of the center in marine shorefish biodiversity”¹ and is one of the 17 megadiverse countries.²



¹ Carpenter, K.E. and Springer, V.G. (2005), “The center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity: the Philippine Islands.” *Environmental Biology of Fishes* (2005) 72: 467–480.

² <http://www.conservation.org/documentaries/Pages/megadiversity.aspx>



Part 3. Field Hearings - Detailed Findings

3.1 Area 1 - Mountain Province, Benguet and Pangasinan

3.1.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Mountain Province, Benguet and Pangasinan: The first two provinces are part of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) while the third province is part of the Ilocos Region (Region 1). CAR and Region 1 are located in the northern part of Luzon, the largest island group in the Philippines. CAR is known for being home to a large part of the Cordillera Central—the largest mountain range in the country—as well as having numerous tribal communities. Pangasinan, on the other hand, means “land of salt” drawing from the word “asin” or salt.

Number of participants

Ten (10) participants were interviewed

General age category of participants

The interviewees' age ranges from 18-59. Only one was considered a teenager (college student), whereas three were in their 30s and the rest were in their early 40s to late 50s.

Economic sector of participants

The respondents come from different sectors. One is a vendor, one is a store-owner, one is a miner, three are farmers, and some are government officials (town councilor, policeman, barangay officials).

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

not specified

Gender breakdown of participants

Six respondents are males, four are females.

Population size of community

Pangasinan has approximately 2.6 million people, Benguet has more than 372,000 people, and Mountain Province has a population of around 250,000. In Mountain Province, the community considered for the interviews is composed of about 3,500 people. In Benguet, the community is composed of about 5,200 people while in Pangasinan, the community comprises about 1,200 people.

3.1.2 Summary of participants' views**Assess Trends**

There is a varying degree of responses by the interviewees as far as the status of their health is concerned. The answers to this item will range from unchanged to somewhat worse, but majority assessed their health as well as their family and community as getting better. In all the three provinces covered, there are now, at least, hospital services and medical services in the capital towns (as compared to five years ago), although much has to be done in order to safeguard and further improve the people's health conditions.

Although the field hearings and interviews cut across economic sectors, ethnicity, age and gender, a common sentiment is shared by the respondents; that is, all of them raised the issue of environmental degradation. All share the same belief and observation that the environment is under considerable stress and it is being subjected to human abuses—like rampant cutting of trees and improper waste disposal—which eventually results in changes to weather patterns and its negative consequences. Most notably, the respondents from the Cordillera region (Mountain Province) expressed their concern about the traditional but harmful practices of the farmers, where they slash and burn a portion of the forest to clear the area and plant vegetables such as *sayote*.

The respondents' level of happiness has generally improved, in that the social relations were rated as either unchanged or somewhat better. This positive view on their level of happiness and good social relations reflects the innate characteristics of the Filipinos who are socially amiable, who always desire to cultivate good relations with their neighbors.

Politically speaking, it is safe to say that most asserted that there has been great improvement of the political situation. In fact, in the Mountain Province, politicians even co-exist peacefully with one another and political killings rarely happen in the area. High-ranking officials like the governor can even walk

alone, sans bodyguards, when visiting his constituents. However, it must be emphasized that the perennial problem of rampant graft and corruption must be addressed.

Gender equality, fair treatment between both sexes, and the growing awareness on the important role of women in the society is also evident in their responses. Whether in the “highlands” (Cordilleras) or in the “lowlands” (Pangasinan), there is a general recognition of the important place of women in the society and the corresponding fair treatment that must be given to them. It must be emphasized that in the Cordilleras, women are still regarded generally as somewhat equal with men as far as economic opportunities are concerned, since they can both be hired as farm workers and even in the construction areas. Cordillera women traditionally have been strong-willed and assertive, though there is still the tendency among males to manifest machismo.

Lastly, as far as the economic situation is concerned, most evaluated that it is getting worse since poverty is still a phenomenon in their daily lives, and lack of job opportunities and permanent employment is a reality. They are hopeful that the government can finally offer them decent economic opportunities. One respondent, a local official, was hopeful that finally, private investors will put their much needed capital in their community in order to generate jobs. Moreover, the respondents added that so long as people persevere and value industry, they can still pursue decent lives.

Speculate About Causes

As for the causes that may have engendered the problems confronting their families and the community at large, a majority of the respondents underscored the economic reasons, to wit: lack of sources of employment/livelihood, the increasing cost of living and lesser value of Phil peso, the imbalance of trade and commerce. This was compounded by the perceived rampant corruption in the government which eventually affects the delivery of basic services to the constituents. This reflects the wrong priorities of the government, whose primary existence was regarded by respondents as a service provider and creator of opportunities. Notably, a few also answered that these problems had been compounded by the destructive activities of people, which compromises the environment and eventually results in natural disasters and calamities.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

If there is one area of concern which the respondents agree on, it is their strong belief that sustainability can no longer be ignored and is much needed. A recurring theme in their responses is the desire for environmental protection and exploring avenues for alternatives sources of energy, and, most importantly, the assurance of permanent, viable sources of employment. Moreover, in an insight from Field Hearing staff based on the discussions with participants, the responsibility for sustainability is not a one-sided affair since it needs a strong partnership between the government and the governed, between the leaders and the constituents, between the privileged and the deprived, regardless of gender, race or nationality. All the stakeholders sharing a common vision of sustainable development must take united actions towards the realization of this aim.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

The respondents view inequality as a phenomenon between the *haves* (the wealthy, the privileged who can have easy access to basic services) and the *have-nots* (the poor who are usually deprived, who live in the periphery or far-flung areas), the latter having no access to basic services like hospitalization and medicines, clean water and agricultural lands, and even education. This is in contrast to the privileged group, those who live in the town center (*poblacion*), who have easy access to basic services and amenities in life, even access to technology. This re-iterates the phenomenon of *urban-satellite* or

center-periphery relationship which were explained by the scholars and adherents of dependency theory.

However, a unique exception is the Mountain Province community where some respondents attest to the fact that one's socio-economic and political stature do not matter since there is **no** marked difference between the rich and the poor or between the politicians and the constituents in their communities. The *Kankana-eyes* still regard each other as equals and treat each other fairly in the village. One's overt acts determine the kind of social treatment that you receive in the community; even a rich person may be socially condemned or ostracized due to misdeeds and greed.

One explanation that accounts for the unique perception as to the absence of inequality of wealth and influence among the *Kankana-eyes* is the upholding of the indigenous cultural belief system of the community. For the *Kankana-eyes* of Mountain Province (as in the case of one farmer) and the *Ibalois* of Benguet (as in the case of one ordinary worker whose suggestions in the barangay meetings are considered), social relations and respectability are given primordial importance. The high esteem and respect afforded to the elders in the community is a way of life. Between an elder who is not formally educated and a young professional who is considered wealthy, the former's wisdom and advice on pertinent issues are given greater weight. The elder is even considered as a *mambunong* (native priest) who performs important rituals, and is also a respected member of the Council of Elders in dispute settlements.

While some sectors claim that they are deprived in the society, the respondents who work for the government say otherwise. They have easy access to decision-making processes. This is understandable for the obvious reason that they have the government offices and its corresponding mechanisms at their disposal.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Lastly, what does the future look like? This was answered in the respondents' *wish lists* on key areas which reflect a universal theme. These were articulated in their common desire and aspirations to have proper education for their children with state subsidy; economic opportunities, livelihood and stable jobs for both the males and the females; equal opportunity, and access to basic services for the poor. Politically speaking, the perennial problem of corruption must be addressed and power and influence must be properly exercised by the officials. People must continually be educated regarding political leadership and good governance.

Analysis & Recommendations

According to Field Hearing Partner staff, the following suggestions from should be considered:

1. Since access to good education is the top priority, the government must finally deliver its promise to the people of a state-subsidized, quality education at all levels.
2. Filipinos are generally resourceful, resilient, patient, and always have a happy attitude. Despite the continual presence of economic inequality and stark poverty, people find ways to make both ends meet. It is not the case that people are poor due to indolence, but rather that opportunities for economic and social mobilization are scarce and unequal. What the Filipinos need is the equalization of economic and socio-political opportunities; hence a genuine social justice program must be crafted and implemented by concerned government agencies.

3. The whole community must work together with the government in the preservation of the environment. People must be part of the solution, not the problem. A whole range of laws that seek to protect the environment are already enacted, but what is lacking is the strict implementation and enforcement. It is high time that the same must be fully implemented and violators must be strictly penalized. For if we do not prioritize environmental security, state security or threats to it are immaterial if man's natural habitat is already compromised and destroyed.
4. Lastly, it is high time that we adopt a comprehensive family planning program which will empower the couple in determining the number of children that they can truly support. Responsible parenthood must be internalized by them. The proper management of the population size of the family as well as the whole country are important keys in minimizing the problems of the individual families in particular and the whole country in general. Less population means fewer mouths to feed, hence more quality access to health and education, less pressure on the scarce resources that we have, and eventually less pollution to the environment. This is the proper time to reflect on the Philippine Reproductive Health Bill which is still being debated in the Philippine Congress.

Human beings are at the center of concern for sustainable development, where each individual is entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. International organizations like the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been working with state governments worldwide to implement the targets specified under the Millennium Development Goals, where millions of people are targeted to be lifted out of poverty. The world is within reach of seeing every child enrolled in primary school, and many fewer lives are being lost to hunger and disease. Overall people are healthier, wealthier, and better educated than ever before. Yet aggregate figures disguise some inconvenient truths: that ending poverty is a vast and unfinished agenda; that inequality is increasing in many sectors of the society and the rest of the world; and that our ecosystems are under considerable stress. The question which needs to be addressed is: What do we want our common future to look like?

Finally, inclusion and equity are indispensable requirements for sustainable development. Just as development cannot only be about economic growth, nor can sustainability be only about protecting the environment. Development must be people-centered and promote rights as articulated by the indigenous groups, coupled with equal opportunities, and proper choices. Green growth must also be inclusive growth, generating social progress and contributing to eradicating poverty and achieving greater equality, as well as sustaining our natural environment. Our common future could be grounded in equitable and sustainable human development, with the explicit goal of expanding people's freedoms and choices without compromising those of the future generation.



3.2 Area 2 - Zambales Province

3.2.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Zambales Province is part of Central Luzon (Region 3) and is located in the western rim of the island of Luzon. The local community where the interviews were conducted is Sacatihan, which is located in Barangay Gala in the province of Zambales. The Aetas of Mt. Pinatubo were resettled here after Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991.

Number of participants

There were ten (10) respondents.

General age category of participants

Four interviewees were in their 20s, three were in their 30s, two were in their 40s and one was over 50.

Economic sector of participants

All of them belong to the same socio-economic bracket. This can be gleaned from the jobs available in the community, which can be categorized as follows: farming, retail trading, and cheap labor (e.g. maids, helpers).

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

The interviewees belong to a relatively homogenous indigenous community of Aetas.

Gender breakdown of participants

Five of the respondents were male and five were female.

Population of community

Zambales Province has a total population of about 534,443 (2010 estimate) but the Aeta community where the interviews were conducted is composed of 80 families or 240-260 people.

3.2.2 Summary of participants' views**Assess Trends**

On the status of health compared to five years ago, the respondents articulated that the health situation of their families and community is getting better. This is due to interventions from civil society action through which medicines, vaccines and public health training were made available to the community. On the status of the environment, the respondents shared that the state of the environment today compared to five years ago has severely deteriorated. This response also considered observations on changing weather patterns and calamities in the community and elsewhere in the country.

The Aetas have inter-married with lowlanders. Some respondents claim that the destructive farming method of slash-and-burn agriculture was taught to them by the lowlanders³. Due to the deplorable state of deforestation and population pressure, the practice was prohibited by the local government in 2009. The present issue is not so much to merely bring back a lost practice but to approach the root causes that render ancient sustainable practices untenable in the present context of environmental, socio-economic and political regimes.

On the status of social relationships in the community, there were interesting insights that were provided by the respondents. The respondents gave different answers but they all converged on the fact that social relationships are breaking down because of the changes happening in terms of labor migration. A significant number of Aeta individuals were forced to work outside the resettlement area. These Aetas accepted menial jobs as maids, domestic helpers, construction workers, laborers and other jobs that required them to stay in the work site for extended periods of time, at times suffering substandard working conditions and wages.

³ Several qualifications are needed. While the slash and burn practice in the Philippines originally known as *kaingin* creates fields by clearing forests, the intention is not to permanently convert forests to other uses as what is practiced by lowlander farmers or industrialists. *Kaingin* is an indigenous practice of shifting agriculture that was sustainable prior to the changes in population densities, ecological and econ-political pressures. The practice of shifting agriculture was very much part of indigenous culture of subsistence farming that was consistent with resource-use dynamics during the early times.

Quoting an Aeta tribal leader, *“We were scattered as a people; some of us were relocated to faraway provinces after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. However we became more closely knit as a community and as a group because we share the common traumatic experience brought about by the eruption of the volcano. Before, we (family, relatives, friends) saw each other on a daily basis because we belonged to a specific place. Because of the resettlement, some of us took on different jobs that required them to be away for a long period of time. Some of us became maids and house helpers, and the unfortunate ones were forced to live in the streets and became beggars.”*

Although this employment surge of Aetas into capitalistic enterprises as part of the cheap labor force was welcomed by the Aeta community as a form of “development,” so to speak, there were negative sentiments given by a few respondents. Apparently the absence of an Aeta family member, particularly if the individual performs parenting functions, created an unfavorable and disadvantageous situation for the Aeta children. The young Aetas were deprived of precious time and nurturing that should have been a significant part of their socialization process in the Aeta community. This gap in the normal socialization process resulted in the erosion of important customs, traditions, beliefs and values that should have otherwise been transmitted by the parent to the child. Quoting a response of an Aeta parent, *“the important customs practiced before are gone, and the children are learning new things and are getting hooked on gadgets and modern songs. They have less regard for their elders as well, and they speak rudely sometimes.”*

Another telling response on the status of social relationships was given by a local tribal leader. This response was replete with symbolisms that, if closely examined, reflect the cultural changes brought about by the diaspora of the Aetas until they were resettled. *“There are so many changes now when it comes to our relationship. Before we were very close to one another... there is no feeling of envy among us. When we were re-settled here..., I have observed that people’s attitudes changed. Those who found jobs in the cities and benefited from livelihood projects have become aloof and boastful. When the Aeta families were given land, they constructed fences and doors, unlike before when we were still in Pinatubo—the whole village was our home and there were no fences and no doors; everyone was part of a big family. It is sad that today I can no longer feel the closeness and unity that we had before.”*

On the status of the political situation, nearly half of the responses were positive affirmations on the improvement of the political situation. The other half, however, gave critical insights on how the Aetas perceive the political climate, government and formal leaders. The government was perceived to be slow in terms of its processes and expected responses in addressing the needs of the people. Furthermore, government officials were also perceived as corrupt individuals that were hungry for wealth, power and influence. This description was exemplified by the claim that the Mayor and other local government officials only visited the resettlement site when they were campaigning for elections. The political climate in general was perceived to be tumultuous. This perception can best be described by the response of an Aeta, and I quote: *“Before, when Noyonoy was not yet president, it was very peaceful because everybody in government were perpetrators and conspirators; now it is very tumultuous because those corrupt government officials are being hunted down—an example of which is the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.”*

There was a wide perception that the economic situation of the Aetas was improving. However, quoting an Aeta respondent, *“but if you are going to think about how our ancestors lived a long time ago without any help... I think we were better off before because we lived very simple lives then.”*

Although it was acknowledged by the respondent that there was improvement of their economic situation, it can be gleaned from the response that there is a sentiment of longing for the old way life of the Aetas in their ancestral domain in Pinatubo, where they were isolated and independent of any intervention, making possible the continuance of their traditional way of life. The “Aeta economics” is subsistence economics, and the concepts of being poor, unemployed, or underdeveloped are simply alien and strange to them. This is reflected in the following quoted response: *“it is the same, nothing much has changed except that we have begun to want more than what we need... Though there are some Aeta families who benefited from the livelihood projects and from the free schooling of Aeta children, still a big part of the community is poor. Food is not a problem for us because if there is no food we simply dig or climb a tree and we can feed our whole family.”*

The perception of being better off was equated by some respondents to direct and observable changes that unfolded during their resettlement. *“I feel that we are better off now.. People gave us running water, livelihood, education and they take care of us....They give us groceries and we get the chance to exchange stories.”*

Speculate About Causes

In all of the responses regarding possible underlying causes, the following reasons stand out. First is the lack of access to resources and financial capital to be able to generate much needed disposable income, that will in turn be used to improve the material condition of Aeta individuals, families and the community in general. The second is the attitude of other groups, and of Aeta individuals themselves, that tends to exacerbate the prevailing inequality in terms of wealth and influence. This attitude was identified as lack of respect, selfishness, indifference, greed, incompetence and ignorance. These negative qualities tend to retard individual and community progress and development.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The respondents mentioned the following as possible steps or courses of action to attain sustainability in their respective societies. First is abandonment of destructive farming practices like ‘slash and burn.’ Second is the responsible use of resources. Most respondents stated that trees should be replaced and natural resources should be used wisely, having the next generation in mind when it comes to prudent consumption. Third is an attitude change in people, together with adopting positive qualities that promote sharing, generosity, responsibility, prudence, concern, care, simple living, community, discipline, identity, traditional customs, traditional beliefs and traditional values. Fourth is leveling the playing field when it comes to chances and opportunities available for individuals. This calls for redistributive measures and equity-promoting programs on the part of government. Fifth is making education available, affordable and meaningful to all. This entails a re-examination and reconfiguration of the current educational thrust of government, so that education is not an exclusionary force working against marginalized group interests and those sectors that are below the poverty line. Rather, the type of education being called for should be sensitive and responsive to the specific cultural needs and sensibilities of different cultural groups in the country, and at the same time serve the nation’s interest, both locally and globally.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Most of the respondents consider themselves deprived. In their view, the deprived community members are those that were not lucky enough to receive benefits from charitable work. Further, the whole Aeta community is seen as a deprived and less privileged community by most of the respondents. They defined deprived communities as suffering inadequacies of food, clothing, and shelter, and suffering neglect and discrimination. Another relevant definition from the responses is being taken as second

choices when it comes to economic opportunities and employment. Furthermore, deprived communities also lack the knowledge of how to improve their condition.

The privileged communities, on the other hand, according to the respondents, are those Aetas who had a chance of getting regular employment and steady livelihood, and also the communities that have jobs and are educated, and are capable of knowing what to do in order to improve their condition, and how to effectively handle problems. These communities can also make the right decisions regarding money and crucial life choices. For the respondents, differences in wealth and influence are harmful in the community. Everyone has the right to know and is entitled to the solutions to some of life's problems.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

It is quite surprising that amidst the multiple voices heard in these field hearings, there is a convergence of hopes and aspirations, and a telling of lessons and philosophies worth reflecting upon. The respondents were in agreement that children should be in school and that they should be receiving meaningful and relevant education. The means by which children's education can be realized must be made accessible, affordable and available for all. Women also should be educated and be made a crucial partners in economic, socio-cultural and political affairs. Men should be given more education and assistance in terms of raising the standards and value of their labor in order to sustain the family and its various pursuits towards improving life conditions. Health, likewise, was given importance by the respondents, as evidenced by their desire to see more Aeta doctors and nurses, and sharing the vision of having an Aeta hospital one day.

The Aetas expressed their desire to see responsible and responsive governance and honest leaders. The Aetas also expressed their desire to protect, conserve, and be responsible stewards of the environment. The Aetas offered lessons that may prescribe a way of life that would lead to sustainable societies. They left the following words:

"Don't take more than what you can carry."

"To tell our children to live simple lives like we have done since the beginning."

"People should live simple lives."

"Life should be regarded as a journey: it has a beginning and surely it would come to an end."

"I believe that everything works out for good. In the Bible there is always the rich man and the poor man—and this must not be understood in strict economic sense, but rather in the context of a much deeper spirituality."

"We should always be careful -- like myself, I'm careful in operating the large machines in the factory because I might hurt myself."

"I hope people will learn to care for others."

Analysis & Recommendations

The population homogeneity of the ten respondents can be viewed as a function of ethnic affiliation, location, common historical experience, and membership in a resettled ethnic community. Heterogeneity can be viewed in terms of gender, age and level/ extent of socialization either into the

mainstream neoliberal culture or the traditional, indigenous Aeta culture. The respondents' economic circumstance is not largely different from each other. All of them belong to the same socio-economic bracket. This can be gleaned from the work available in the community. These jobs can be categorized as follows: farming, retail trading, and cheap labor (e.g. maids, helpers). The divergence in some of the responses can be explained if one will analyze the profile and significant life experience of the particular Aeta individual. Those respondents who made remarks that referred to "old way of life, traditional Aeta customs, values, changing social relationships, erosion and withering away of old Aeta culture" came from prime Aeta community members. These are the individuals who experienced the traditional hunting and gathering subsistence type of economy that was isolated and independent of any intervention. These individuals also experienced the trauma of being uprooted from their ancestral domain because of a natural calamity (eruption of Mt. Pinatubo) and thus were part of the group which was scattered and which was finally relocated in the new Aeta resettlement. They are the direct, live eyewitnesses to the interventions that unfolded, and to the repercussions of these interventions to the Aeta social and cultural fabric.

The common theme that echoed throughout the responses is a call for a change in people's attitude and perception towards the Aeta as an ethnic group. This call also contains a plea for abandoning the selfishness and bias of Aetas and outsiders alike towards money, the privilege of socio-economic status and the lack of concern for environmental, protection, conservation and welfare. Another is the urgency and primacy of education in bringing about change within the "self" and the community.

The respondents look positively at the future. The similarities of their vision are reflected in their wishes and what they would do given the chance and ability to do it. This shared hope and aspiration is a very potent force that can bring about change. The future for the Aetas as they perceive it is not that bleak, and this perception is widely shared within the community.



3.3 Area 3 -Bulacan Province

3.3.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Bulacan Province is part of Central Luzon and is situated at the north of Manila. The province is proud of its national heroes and its place in the history of the country. At present, Bulacan's income class is categorized as "1st Class" and is considered among the country's relatively well-off provinces.

Number of participants

There were 14 participants.

General age category of participants

The interviewees disclosed ages from 17-57. One respondent is within the retired category (65 years of age and beyond) and one opted not to disclose age.

Economic sector of participants

The interviews are all considered middle-class, but come from secondary sector workers and tertiary sector providers of services.

Institutional or group affiliation of participants

There is no particular group affiliation.

Gender breakdown of participants

The respondents are equally split between male and female.

Population size of community

Bulacan province has a total population of 2.234 million.

3.3.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

On the aggregate perception of personal, community and national well-being based on the five specified factors, the responses yielded the entire range, from much worse to much better, but mostly depicted a view that the situation is unchanged. Social relationships and the political situation were mostly perceived as better. Individual indicators that were mostly rated as unchanged are lives of children and young adults, inequality, conflict, and health. Level of happiness, position of women and economic circumstances were considered as better, while weather/environment was seen to be worse.

The varied perceptions reflect several important points to ponder. First, different indicators of well-being have different trajectories of responsiveness to interventions. Where outputs exist and are measurable, it may take time for them to be translated to actual societal outcomes. The lag in "translation" necessarily affects whether changes are felt on the ground. Second, perceptions may also be affected by the ranking of issues in the respondents' "basket of concerns." Since the respondents belong to the same socio-economic class, the relative homogeneity indicates that varying answers are contingent on particular factors such as level of earning responsibility within the family, employment status, or specific area in the community affected by development projects. Third, the responses provide the insight that

more research and dialogue are needed, especially in cases where outputs/outcomes can be compared to grass-root perceptions of well-being.

An important step in working towards satisfying common concerns and wishes would be to empower people in local communities in taking strong ownership for monitoring and evaluation of reforms and actual societal outcomes. With an empowered community, accountability can always be kept in check, paradigms can be challenged and solutions can be more inclusive in terms of the entire process of improving well-being.

Speculate About Causes

The responses are interconnected but yielded diversity in emphasis. Some raised the general nature of underlying causes in terms of economic, political, financial and “family” factors. Others pointed out effects that were also causes, such as inequality, poverty, crime, and inadequacies in education, jobs, money/resources and opportunities generated by government. More pointed answers were graft and corruption, “anomalies” in government, global and climate change, and the negative community effect of a national public works project (i.e. railway). However, the most interesting answers are those factors that underscore the more intangible social concerns such as a marked lack in the following: faith, “socialization,” discipline, drive for achievement, and unity and understanding. Greed was mentioned as related but distinct from graft and corruption. More particular answers were interpersonal miscommunication (pertaining to the level of the family); bad influence by friends and media, leading to young people who have turned wild; and the changing habits of people given the changing technology. One response pointed out ‘differences in beliefs and perspectives’ as a cause of problems. However, in the context of the Philippines with its perennial collective action problem, this response may indicate a desire for more cooperation among people despite different views.

On the whole, we see that the respondents’ perceptions of underlying causes of problems not only recognize the conventional issues of policy and governance, but also the stake-holding required on the part of citizens themselves in terms of the more intangible aspects of ownership and individual empowerment. The responses also show that the respondents find fundamental human behavior as relevant as aggregate policies, acknowledging first that people are still behind those policies, and second, that change in an individual’s life is significant. These indicate that there is indeed more room for inclusive dialogue, and that global and national programs for development should never be de-sensitized from the sentiments of the grassroots.

Since the respondents are in general homogenous in terms of socio-economic class, the differences in answers draw from particular factors such as responsibilities associated with occupation; i.e. retired, laid-off or unemployed, and student.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Half of the respondents gave general answers to the questions on the questionnaire, affirming the significance of the items specified, but did not specify particular interventions, while one respondent opted not to answer at all. Some gave answers that categorized the level of importance across items. Others approached the items differently; i.e. some of their statements addressed implications and why certain items are important, while other statements were pointed recommendations such as creating material for the agricultural sector, “for it to build again the quality of agriculture in our country”; ensuring equality in society (in context of the rich and poor in the community and society); and a scenario where rich nations help poor nations, the former not using power to control the latter.

Differences in answers were due to specific circumstances such as occupation (e.g. student, retired), employment status (e.g. unemployed) and earning role (e.g. breadwinner).

The answers yield several interesting revelations. First is the apparent difficulty in articulating their own perceptions of needed changes to achieve sustainability. The difficulty shows that there is room for empowerment of the people in terms of recognizing that change starts with self-perception; that they are the source of change and each of them is a contribution to the ongoing struggle for sustainability and equity. Second, the process of interviewing was a big step, as this facilitated reflection not just on the part of the respondents but also the interviewers. Third, the answers reveal that “inclusivity” takes so much more than just a slogan from the perspective of policy. The answers show that initiatives to realize inclusivity should not make people mere objects of development planning, but real agents for change themselves. It is not surprising that many answers do not feature specific views on initiatives.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Ten out of the 14 respondents indicated that they saw themselves as privileged. Three reported that they felt deprived, while for one expressed a self-perception of deprivation in the context of the material aspect but indicated that in terms of “socializing with people,” she felt privileged. Deprived communities were identified as those who were poor, low-wage earners and those who were informal urban settlers (or squatters⁴). These communities were described as facing financial crisis, poor health and starvation or malnutrition; harassment; inadequacies in employment, skills and capacities, education, clothing, shelter, businesses and access to natural resources; and “corrupt government officials.” Interestingly, the respondents also included the lack of “self-affirmation to achieve goals in life,” respect, trust from others, humane treatment, and confidence as problems that the deprived face. Inequality and discrimination were also words used to describe what the deprived face.

In contrast, privileged communities were identified as those in urban areas and “civilized places.” These communities were described as enjoying high income, adequate food, access to resources, a comfortable life, luxury, modernization, technology, stable homes, education and scholarships, good services, protection, insurance, investments, facilities, influence and power. Some respondents identified officials, politicians and businessmen as the privileged. Some respondents indicated that they felt deprived, but qualified the answer in the context of the financial aspect and the ability to respond to calamities.

Almost all the respondents indicated that they enjoyed access to resources. However, access to decision-making processes was reported by only half the respondents. Some respondents qualified that while they had access, there are times that difficulty was experienced and not all those in the same community experienced it the same way. Another respondent shared that inequality “is not practiced” in their community because when calamities occur, priority in assistance is given to poor families and community cooperation is always practiced.

The respondents identified the following causes of the differences in wealth and influence: corruption and lust or greed for power by the selfish; different access to opportunities and privilege; unequal power; inequality; and family, economic and educational factors. Interestingly, one respondent, rather than identifying the causes for differences, opted to cite the reinforcing dynamic between wealth and

⁴“Squatters” refer to those who set up their own make shift housing in lands they don’t own. The context is usually urban. Lands can either be owned by government, private companies or private citizens. In the rural areas, many people also do not own land but the context is different since they live as landless farmers who stay in the landowners’ land in exchange for services. But squatting also exists in rural areas where, for instance, the landowner does not farm and instead is based in the city.

influence. Another respondent identified the government officials and Filipinos themselves as the main cause of the differences. Last, akin to the previous section, the lack of discipline was identified as a cause.

When asked whether these differences are harmful, 9 out of 14 respondents answered in the affirmative. What is surprising is that four respondents stated that it is contingent on the people themselves and certain factors (e.g. that inequality might stimulate people to analyze and eventually solve the problem, but that it can be harmful if children end up working instead of going to school), while one respondent answered that although the use of wealth can be harmful, especially in politics, wealth itself is not an issue—despite the fact that the respondent identified deprived communities as squatters.

The suggested solutions to reduce these differences are: a change in government; subject officials to accountability checks; vote for the right officials; push for equality (i.e. impose fair and equal rights), apply the laws equally, ensure equal opportunities for all; people need to change their minds; avoid doing bad things and be more disciplined; help each other; and smooth relationships and differences in society. One respondent indicated that she did not know how to reduce the differences, given that these have been ongoing for a long time now.

The responses allow us to see the contrast between the discussion on inequality, and that of changes needed for sustainable societies. The respondents were able to engage better in the discussion in this section because it is more intuitive to the issues that the respondents face every day. In other words, the responses show that the discussion points are more proximate to their immediate realities. The perceptions pertaining to deprivation and privilege span a wide range and offer valuable insights for advocates, researchers and policy makers who are interested in broadening the dialogue across more sectors and communities. The complexity in responses are interesting due to the following reasons: local community contexts of vulnerability such as capacity to respond to calamities and level of altruism or community spirit; the nature of inequality in developing countries where it is not just experienced in a material or financial aspect but also in terms of intra- and interpersonal aspects such as respect for oneself and from others and discipline and determination to improve one's life; and the concept of interventions to improve equality which put great significance on institutional, personal, relational and other non-financial aspects.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

The wishes for the future covered needed government action in the specified indicators of development as well as individual and community responsibilities. This provides a positive indicator that the burden of sustainability and equity is not solely perceived as an issue of the state. Further, reforms even in the level of intrapersonal and interpersonal relations were recognized as significant points of change.

It is interesting to note that respondents were able to give relatively more pointed views on wishes for the future compared to changes needed for sustainable societies. In other words, wishes for the future were better expressed in all the items specified, whereas many respondents affirmed the importance of the items under the section on changes, and in some instances opted not to answer. While wishes are conceptually more general, the questionnaire gave specific items in both sections, rendering both sections similar but with different points of view. This may indicate that people are not oriented towards proposing initiatives themselves even while being acquainted with the causes of problems and need for solutions. However, when it comes to aspirations, people appear to be more comfortable airing them.

Curiously, the wishes can be considered in the same vein as changes. This shows that there is more room for initiatives in the grass root level where people are made more involved in the development process. This requires the appreciation of the entire process from the level of human perspectives and attitudes to a community consensus on what needs to be done to ownership and local stake-holding.

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Chapter 14. South Africa

Darlene Miller, Pamela Harris, Diana Sanchez Betancourt, Gray Maguire, Charles Nhemachena

Part 1. Introduction

The Red Tent: Understanding Regionality, Hidden Democratic Dispositions and Regional Leadership in Post-Apartheid Southern Africa

In Southern Africa today, patrilineage and patriarchal styles of leadership place both hidden and visible restrictions on the accumulation of power for women in the public space. African democracy and the 'failed state' thesis equate regional leadership with male, patriarchal and formal democratic leadership. Alternative and everyday practices of regional democracy are often invisible in these mainstream practices. The promotion of "women's leadership and participation in political processes", can be stymied by these dominant modes of governance.

The 'Red Tent' research project contends that there are a host of leadership styles and regional dispositions that are matriarchal, feminist, socialist and more deeply democratic. We believe that such leadership styles are epitomized by phenomenal women's leaders in Southern Africa who lead from 'the

side, the front, and the back' (Knowles, 2010). Such matriarchs are often invisible in the public space, but their styles of leadership have an important contribution to make towards transparency, accountability and the fostering of democratic societies in Southern Africa and beyond.

While political democracy in post-Apartheid Southern Africa has been constructed within two principal frameworks: that of Westphalian principles of democracy and that of African patriarchal leadership, the varied experiences of African women – as gendered subjects; as political activists; as emotionally intelligent beings; as workers; as religious believers – have evolved into a form of social existence that demonstrates the higher potentialities for democratic life that reside within the region. These different kinds of democratic praxis are evident amongst women leadership elements, and resonate with the political theoretic debates around the notion of “ethical dispositions” versus the “master- and sovereignty-seeking” varieties of political life (Rushing, 2010). But without these forms of existence being reported, they remain a hidden embryo of deeper democratic life that is “unintelligible” and lost from the dominant and generalizing view.

The ‘Red Tent’ symbolically invokes the Old Testament reference in which women were declared ‘unclean’ in various ways. Drawing on the counter-factual ‘herstory’¹ of Anita Diamant, in a novel by the same name (*Red Tent*), the space in the Red Tent becomes a safe space – *uxanti* - for women: an oasis where they can restore themselves, particularly for those matriarchs and ‘*nwam’dazikiwe*’ who provide guidance and mentoring to sons, daughters, husbands, colleagues and a societal resource of ‘emotional intelligence’ that has little in common with patriarchal styles of leadership.

Ours, therefore, is a project of retrieval of what exists but cannot be readily seen. Our radical methodology for this “project of retrieval” has been to initiate a series of focus groups of women identified by the investigators as local leaders.

Field Hearing Partner

Human Sciences Research Council (Cape Town; Pretoria)

Women’s Academic Solidarity Association (Rhodes University)

Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre (East London)



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¹ We posit ‘herstory’ as a counter to ‘history’ and chose the Eastern Cape for its line of patriarchal male presidents and leaders in South Africa, and the home of phenomenal matriarchs who enjoyed less visibility in the public arena.

Methods, problems and considerations

See description under Part 3.4 - Western Cape.

Part 2. General Findings

Findings are summarized under each of the five Field Hearing reports from HSRC Partners:

- Part 3.1 Red Tent 1¹ (Kenton, with Western Cape participants)
- Part 3.2 Red Tent 2¹ (Manenberg, Western Cape)
- Part 3.3 Red Tent 3¹ (African women immigrants in Edinburgh, Scotland)
- Part 3.4 Western Cape
- Part 3.5 Diepsloot

¹ The Red Tent research project was funded by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and the National Research Foundation in South Africa.





Part 3. Field Hearings Detailed Findings

3.1 Red Tent 1 (Kenton; Western Cape participants)

3.1.1 General participant description

Kenton, 24 – 25 February 2012; South African ‘colored’ women activists of the 1980’s from Western Cape, SA. A site visit and preliminary briefing workshop were held with the target participants to discuss the interview schedule, in which the aims and objectives of the research were explained, and consent forms obtained. Ten to twelve women participants who were active in the 1980s were selected, some of them participating in left-wing or lesser-known organizations at the time. As recruitment and discussion with strong women activists who spent numerous hours involved in political activities over a number of years in the 1980s proceeded, a target group of ‘coloured’ women emerged. Although not the sole participants, this has emerged as a key target group given the interest demonstrated by other young black South Africans in knowing more about this group of women activists. These women are bearers of alternative styles of regional leadership which their interviews we believe will bring to light.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Field Hearings in Kenton; participants from Western Cape Province of South Africa

Number of participants

6

General age category of participants

42 – 53 years

Economic sector of participants

working and middle class, primarily coloured women revolutionary activists of the 1980’s

Gender breakdown of participants

all women

Population size of community

Coloureds are 50,2% of the Western Cape population of 2,644,300.

3.1.2 Summary of participants' views

Discussed: Women's leadership in revolutionary and illegal organisations in Apartheid South Africa

Assess Trends

Apartheid Geographies: As revolutionaries, these women gave much of their younger lives to overthrowing Apartheid. Their mission was more, however. These left-wing radical women were against a two-stage process of change: first political democracy and then economic freedom. Their political programs were based on a fundamental social transformation that should be ushered in during the first stage of struggle: "they did not want to die twice". They occupied the space of radical transition, and disrupted the normal cycle of family and motherhood to try to fulfill these goals. Their reflections question their own contributions – was their sacrificed youth a wasted endeavor?

Sustainability: As red revolutionaries, their awareness of environmental struggles was limited. To some extent, their responses to sustainability issues are now individualized and consist in personal, environmentally aware practices, e.g. buying fair trade or organic products: i.e. a more middle class response.

Social Movements: They participated in illegal political structures in the 1980s in SA, but are now aware that this history may have to be excavated as South Africa's youth and communities once again take to the barricades. What is it, if anything, that they have to teach the new 'strugglers'.

Speculate About Causes

Apartheid capitalist rule was destroying black people's lives. Men comrades exploited women comrades through dominant leadership who found the potential of women comrades to be a threat. ANC comrades suppressed alternative political voices of men and women. Motherhood was an obstacle to revolutionary participation, and mixed feelings about motherhood roles caused confusion about social and political purpose for these women.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

At Home: Male comrades should not/never dictate pregnancy according to the needs of political organisations. We should have more flexible and creative parenting styles and roles e.g. 'momads' and 'damoms', instead of forcing women into stereotypical roles and allowing men the freedom attached to their masculine stereotypes. Men and women should be allowed their self-actualization.

In community organisations: Left-wing or alternative groups should not be suppressed by mainstream or nationalist organisations as this conflicts with democracy

In the environment: True political democracy that allows ideas to live, breathe and help to transform society is necessary in the political environment. Uncomfortable relationship with sustainability issues and the modes of red-green alliances. Concern that middle class individualism will prevail in the environmentalist agenda while working class people have to find modes of adaptation for their survival.

At the state level: Disappointment with the stagist political approach that led to political freedom being attained without economic freedom. Disillusionment with the crass consumerism of the new elites and government. Matrilineage as an important vehicle for legal reform and the overall transformation of power relations between men and women. Alternative styles of leadership and women's leadership need to be explored to reform the fabric of African patriarchy and political life. 'Womanist' leadership should be more visible in public life.

Between people: Want a democratic socialist society where people are given the space to work and relax well. Egotistical and exploitative relationships between people should be removed from society.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

- White-owned and white-led monopoly corporations take the lion share of South Africa's wealth, and these needed to be expropriated.
- Black and working class South Africans deserved a better life that was equal and fundamentally transformed.
- Women were deprived of effective leadership roles because of patriarchal privilege.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

- Commanding heights of economy controlled and owned by working class people.
- Shared surpluses.
- Equality between men and women.
- Creative and flexible parenting (to allow women to be lazy moms/'momads').



3.2 Red Tent 2 (Manenberg, Western Cape)

3.2.1 General participant description

Manenberg 31 March 2012: Social protesters – women from Manenberg, Western Cape, SA (working class area). A meeting was held at the Manenberg offices with 8 representatives of the organization, after which the Executive Committee discussed and agreed to both the interviews and focus group. The Manenberg field hearings took place after 46 people were arrested in Cape Town, South Africa. The arrests followed an illegal protest in which the protesters went to a common park, Rondebosch Commons, to occupy the space. The Common is both a heritage site and utilized by people for leisure activities such as walking and jogging. The site is located in the middle of a wealthy suburb in which mostly white South Africans live. The protesters came from a mainly ‘coloured’ (mixed-race) working class area called Manenberg. They are part of a social movement called ‘Proudly Manenberg’ that mobilizes on behalf of community members for better schooling, housing and environmentally-friendly conditions.

They decided to participate in the ‘Occupy Rondebosch’ campaign because they believe that apartheid living conditions have continued under the new South Africa. Amenities, shopping malls and good schools are all concentrated in the areas where white people live, while colored and black working class people have to travel far to work and to amenities by public transport. They believe that the government is unwilling to help them in their struggle for a better life, so they believe in the necessity of militant protest action, and are willing to be arrested if this is what social change necessitates.

On 26 January 2012, a large police presence gathered at the Commons in anticipation of the protesters. They blocked and arrested people in the townships as they were en route to the Commons. Police instructed the protesters to leave the Commons on the grounds that they had not been denied permission to gather at the Commons. After the crowd left the Commons, they sat down nearby, at which the police and special riot units roughly arrested 46 of the protesters. They were released late that night after high-level intervention (one of the youth arrested was the son of a law professor who had co-

written the Constitution). Many of the arrested protesters were working class women from Manenberg and members of Proudly Manenberg.

A number of women (26) were arrested during the Occupy Movement protest in Rondebosch in February 2012. These women were mostly from the Proudly Manenberg social movement. They articulated their grievances and objectives clearly during their arrest and incarceration, indicating their own disaffection with both local and national government. The group themselves selected volunteers within their own ranks for our focus group and interviews. South Africa's ability to play a leading regional role is undermined by the ongoing and increasing violence of social protests in South Africa. The field hearing focus group targeted these women to understand their take on democratic SA and the problems they face.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Location and Suburb: Manenberg, working class 'coloured' (Mixed Race) township in Western Cape Province of South Africa

Number of participants

8

General age category of participants

22 – 60 yrs

Economic sector of participants

working class 'coloured' (Mixed Race) township

Gender breakdown of participants

all women

Population size of community

Wikipedia estimates that Manenberg has an estimated population of 70 000 residents.

3.2.2 Summary of participants' views

Discussed: Women's leadership, Occupy Movement and social movements in post-Apartheid South Africa

Assess Trends

Apartheid Geographies: They don't have enough space to live happily: living spaces are congested. They are backyard dwellers and the electricity gets cut off by the main house. School playgrounds are too small for the numbers of learners. They say that government has thrown them into these areas – both apartheid and post-Apartheid, ANC govt. Health clinics in their areas are like morgues – you go in alive and you come out dead. They want to get closer to the white areas which they feel are too far from them and which have all the amenities – good schools, shopping malls, and green areas like Rondebosch Common.

Sustainability: They have greened the area around their self-constructed community hall. They beautified their area with reeds and plants. They have a natural dam between the hall (a double-story 'shack' which they have turned into a meeting space and a resource center.

Social Movements: They believe that their collective mobilization in the area has decreased gangsterism. They want better land and living spaces. For this reason they decided to occupy the Rondebosch Commons, a green space in the center of the predominantly white and upper middle class suburb that is used for leisure walks by the surrounding residents.

Speculate About Causes

Government apathy is a cause of their condition. Companies in their area, who benefit from their labor power, do not contribute to the upliftment of the people or the area that they live in. Men as husbands or partners worsen things for them through uncooperative and abusive behaviors at home.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

At Home: Men to participate equally and be more cooperative in the family and the home environment: they abhor abusive masculine behaviours.

In community organisations : Men should be more reliable and talk less and do more in organisations. Celebrity leadership is not helpful: articulated democratic leadership is effective e.g. zone leaders, and hard work to improve their communities is required.

In the environment: Community areas need to be greened. They need to see their lives integrated into white and affluent suburban communities where travel for basic reproduction is minimized. Companies should not dump effluence in waters that spill into townships or working class communities.

At the state level: They have given up on government as a source of help, protection or resources. Militant protest action is the primary instrument for meeting community demands and needs.

Between people: They want a more cooperative way of life where people support each other in their endeavors and do not compete or drag each other down. All people are humans and so their living conditions should be equal and class distinctions should be eliminated.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

They defined themselves as deprived, black South Africans (with Khoi-San heritage). Racialized geographies in today's South Africa continue Apartheid-style race and class-based exclusion.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

- Emotionally healthy men and women who show solidarity towards each other.
- Green communities, with food gardens, farms and healthy children
- Space to live, breathe, play and express themselves.



3.3 Red Tent 3 (African women immigrants in Edinburgh, Scotland)

3.3.1 General participant description

African women immigrants in Scotland, Edinburgh. Numerous skype, email and telephonic discussions have taken place with representatives of the relevant NGOs and two potential focus groups identified. A preliminary briefing was scheduled for April with follow-up focus group filming. Women who participated in the Sahelia/Seeds for Sisters group in Edinburgh have experience of the impacts of the global economic crisis on their livelihood strategies as African immigrants in Europe. Many first, second and third generation women, a number from North Africa and of Muslim background, have found support in Edinburgh in dealing with the challenges of immigrant status, leading to a vibrant cultural and socially supportive community for women. These women have been strengthened by their mutual participation in these groups to confront the changing regional environment that is not of their own making, but yet affects them (and their households) in the most deleterious ways.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

African Immigrant women from Southern and Eastern Africa, living in Edinburgh, Scotland

Number of participants

10

General age category of participants

32 – 55 years

Economic sector of participants

African Immigrant women, middle class

Gender breakdown of participants

all women

Population size of community

Wikipedia estimates a population of African immigrants in Scotland of 5118.

3.3.2 Summary of participants' views

Discussed: Women's leadership and African women immigrants in the context of the global economic crisis in Europe

Assess Trends

Apartheid Geographies: The feelings of 'apartness' for these women are at a different scale: as immigrants, they are outsiders to their European communities. Much of their struggle is for the right to be included without 'ethnic bias', but as the economic climate and job availability becomes more difficult, this effort exhausts. They had expectations that immigrating would better their life opportunities, but their experiences of opportunity are highly gendered: while their male partners may integrate into the job market, they are often left behind on the margins. The South African immigrants amongst this group easily find a racial connect with other coloured/mixed race groups, but identify themselves as consciously black South Africans.

Sustainability: Environmental awareness is learned through living in a European context, but it is the social environment, and acceptance within it, that dominates their daily existence and the mindscapes of their universe. A deep commitment to eco-awareness may exist, but the challenges of adaptation to a foreign environment are far more pressing for them.

Social Movements: They have taken on a subaltern identity - BME [Black Minority Ethnic] – as a kind of resistance to this failure to gain easy acceptance. Alongside this BME identity, they have attached to an African identity and given themselves a special sense of meaning and purpose through this affiliation. The third sector or charity sector that provides support, advice and material assistance to the immigrant or refugee communities has thus become a safe space for this transitional community. While marginalization is not a permanent condition, citizenship brings some forms of inclusion and national participation. Acceptance, however, is layered with a range of different challenges, but responses are generally not of a militant kind, a reflection of their own sense of insecurity in a foreign, national environment.

Speculate About Causes

Economic conditions in Africa, including Apartheid in SA, led them to seek alternative lives in foreign countries. Xenophobic and cultural racism is a negative aspect of their new lives as immigrants.

Gender imbalances in the immigrant family place disproportionate pressure on the women to help their children and their families integrate.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

At Home: More child-care assistance. Immigration support systems should be improved, and treatment of foreigners should be non-discriminatory.

In community organisations: Attitudes of men should change and not undermine women leaders or see women leaders as home-breakers. More funding is needed for the NGO and Charity sector. European

dominance of 'third sector'/NGOs and charity organisations led to suppression of leadership by African immigrants.

In the environment: The environment is friendly, despite episodes of anti-immigrant racism. Many good opportunities existed for their children to develop, get good education and health care, and have a good life in the future. Involvement in community improvement initiatives is an important way of improving not only conditions for everyone, but acceptance in European society for immigrants.

At the state level: Opportunities for participation in Scottish national regulatory life are important pathways to belonging for immigrant outsiders. Opportunities for attaining national citizenship are a vital route for the achievement of a better life.

Between people: Contradictory aspirations – while they aspire to integration, they respond to their marginalization by creating separate and safe spaces that potentially deepen their alienation from European society.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

African immigrants were privileged in their heritage and African roots. They were proud to be African, and wanted their children to share this privileged identity, and the customs and cultures associated with their African origins and contemporary practices. Deprivation was a few salary checks away – if jobs were lost, savings were limited and could easily be depleted. Privilege was a good Scottish job and European citizenship that placed you under the umbrella of the social welfare system.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Their children should be happy, clothed with many different cultural pursuits. They wish to return to their home countries, but they realize that their children have made the new country their home and they can no longer return.



3.4 Western Cape

The project was kindly funded by OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa) and conducted by the HSRC. The team for these hearings in the Western Cape was formed by Gray Maguire (Field research coordinator), Diana Sanchez (Project Leader) and Dylan Valley (videographer), with special thanks to Ikamva Youth and Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town.

3.4.1 General participant description

This report refers to the 11 individual interviews and 2 focus group hearings that were funded by OSISA (Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa), organized by the HSRC and conducted by Gray Maguire, Field Research Coordinator, in May 2012 in and around Cape Town. The groups interviewed consisted of one group of 13 young South Africans (60% women, 40% men) between the ages of 18 and 24, and another group of 7 male migrants from various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The individual interviews consisted of a number of black socio-environmental justice activists, development practitioners and community representatives (“stakeholders”).

Methods, problems and considerations

The methods for both the Stakeholder Interviews and the Focus Groups were the same. While the videographer and sound technician set-up the field research coordinator would explain the background to the project, read over the consent form and answer any questions before asking the participants to sign the consent form. Thereafter the field research coordinator would give some background as to the thrust of the questions (i.e. that they pertain to political, social, economic and environmental elements of inequality and sustainability) after which they would begin to work through the questions. The field research coordinator focused on keeping the questions flexible and changed the language of the questions to suit the audience and to avoid asking questions that the participants had already answered.

Stakeholder Interviews: The stakeholder interviews were arranged with established contacts of the field research coordinator whom were known to be active in the socio-environmental justice field and proceeded to arrange suitable times to interview them as to their views.

One of the problems was with one of the interviewees who was happy to be interviewed but was not aware of the fact that she would be on camera. It was agreed to interview her without including her face in the shot. A consistent problem was finding suitable locations with enough light and without excessive background noise to conduct the interviews, but this was dealt with as and when the issues arose. Other than that, the stakeholder interviews went smoothly.

The Focus Groups: The first focus group was in Khayelitsha, next to a secondary school. The group was invited by a local youth program and consisted of one group of 13 young people (60% women 40% men) between the ages of 18 and 24.

Soon after arrival we noted that there was a problem with regards to lighting. The team was informed that as it was a DA ward (Democratic Alliance party), all of the electrical wiring had been removed by members of other political parties. As such there was no lighting to be had, and given the overcast nature of the day the team was forced to conduct the interviews outside. This posed a different set of problems as the only space that was suitable was in a quad where some boys were due to be given some soccer coaching. This put pressure on the team to keep the interview short. In addition to this, even though the site was in a quad, the wind still blew quite strongly and as such sections of the audio were very poor quality. Other than that the focus group went well and the team got some good feedback from the group.

The second focus group was conducted with a group of 7 male migrants from various countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The reasons why there were no women present were unclear, as it was specifically communicated that the team were looking for a roughly 50/50 split across the sexes.

The team experienced two major complications with this group. The first was that many of those scheduled to arrive did not, which contributed to the lack of gender representation. The second was that the people who did arrive had not been informed that the interview would be filmed (despite specific instructions about this). The team discussed this issue with the group and they agreed to proceed just as long as their faces would not be on film.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

The individual Stakeholder Interviews represented people from:

- The Eastern Cape – Northern and coastal parts
- Western Cape – farming communities up the west coast, along the R62 and towards Arniston.
- Western Cape – Cape Town and surrounds, Mkhaza – Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, the Cape Flats

The Focus Groups included:

- The youth group – Makhaza - Khayelitsha
- The migrant group – Zimbabwe, Gabon, Congo-DRC, Kenya, Somalia

Number of participants

The groups interviewed consisted of one group of 13 young people (60% women, 40% men) between the ages of 18 and 24, and another group of 7 male migrants from various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The individual interviews consisted of a number of black socio-environmental justice activists, development practitioners and community representatives.

General age category of participants

One group of about 13 young people (60% women 40% men) between the ages of 18 and 24; all of the respondents were between 30 and 50 years of age.

Economic sector of participants

Both of the focus groups come from poor communities with many of the respondents living in informal settlements. The stakeholder interviewees were largely from the middle class even if many of them still reside in townships, and all of them live in brick houses.

Gender breakdown of participants

The groups interviewed consisted of one group of 13 young people (60% women, 40% men) between the ages of 18 and 24, and another group of 7 male migrants from various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The 11 stakeholder interviews consisted of 6 men and 5 women.

Population size of community

Wikipedia estimates that as of 2007 the city of Cape Town had an estimated population of 3.5 million.



3.4.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

The key trends identified by the respondents were all negative in that they perceived them to be getting worse. These included:

- Resource availability
- Community participation in decision making processes
- Control of resource allocation by the powerful
- Inequality – particularly with regards to peoples access to resources and services

Speculate About Causes

Field Hearing partner staff believe that, for South Africans, this is a reflection of reality. People may not know statistically that SA is the most unequal country in the world, but they experience it first-hand. They are also painfully aware of the lack of progress with regards to service delivery and the Human Development Index (HDI) in South Africa since the Post-Apartheid, and this was reflected in comments about how privatization and economic liberalization have negatively impacted on SA since the end of Apartheid. For the migrants, many of their responses reflected on unequal political power relations and the abuse of power stemming from this. Many of them felt that they had been actively deprived of resources that rightfully belonged to them and that political leadership was actively hostile towards equitable human development. For both focus groups, staff feel that the ever increasing burden of price increases on essential items has made them painfully aware of resource constraints.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The youth group felt that education around environmental issues was a critical concern, and it appeared as though there was some limited support for the commodification of some essential services. They also felt that greater support for NGO's was required.

The Migrant group felt that investment in increasing NGO capacity was a key element of creating sustainability as well as the promotion of democracy and the elimination of powerful ruling elites that determined resource allocation on ethnic lines.

The individual interviews came back with the following key themes:

- Changing the core economic model away from neo-liberal capitalism.
- Changing the distribution of resources away from a market led approach
- Nationalization of resources.
- Increasing public participation and inclusivity
- Skills development to decrease reliance on government

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Overall there was very little said about this. The youth group seemed fairly ambivalent when it came to inequality. The migrant group repeatedly referred to the ethnic link between power and access to resources. Only one stakeholder made mention of the fact that conflict as result of relative deprivation took on ethnic forms. Stakeholders who spoke on behalf of rural communities spoke about disparities between the privileged and the deprived at its most severe levels when competition existed between commercial farmers and emerging small scale farmers. Within communities they spoke of a strong sense of collaboration between the relatively privileged and the relatively deprived. Another element that came across was the perception that government was biased in favor of business when it comes to allocation of relative privilege.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

(These wishes are articulated above, in the section entitled “Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies.”)

3.4.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

The South Africans interviewed all spoke of a lack of participation in decision-making processes and a general lack of interest in them from government except for at election times. There was also much said about government being more supportive of business than of individuals, and that economic development was being pursued at the expense of the people.

Another key idea that came across was the skepticism around the “Green Economy,” with many of the respondents saying that their perception of it was that it was just another mechanism for business to carry on in the same way as it had before, just with a heightened awareness of environmental constraints. The key criticism here was that there is very little mention of the social dimension of sustainability in the “Green” economic model.

One respondent also spoke of the need to include an analysis of the racial dimensions of inequality so that this could be better addressed. Another respondent spoke of the need to find a common language about sustainability, and to remember that it means different things to different people. He said this means making both the concept and the language accessible to people and to ensure that the process of moving towards sustainability is an inclusive one.

The migrants’ comments were very heavily slanted towards change towards fairness, with accountability at a political level being the single most important step required to promote sustainability. The concept of a resource scarcity was not widely shared amongst the migrants, but rather the misallocation of resources.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

Besides two of the respondents who were coloured, all of the rest were black. It is important to note that it was one of the coloured respondents that spoke about conflict taking on ethnic dimensions. Other than that, race did not play much of a defining role in the determining people’s point of view. In addition to this, sex and age were only mentioned once as elements of inequality (or at all, for that matter), and this was by a middle aged man.

If we were to categorize the respondents into groups based on the comments that made their groups distinct, it seems that the three key perspectives came from:

1. the youth group – greater sympathy with governments position; acceptance of the commodification of resources; strong belief in education as the solution;
2. the stakeholders – condemnation of neo-liberal capitalism, demand for greater public participation and transparency; high level of skepticism about the green economy; and
3. the migrants – extreme distrust of political processes, a deep sense of isolation and alienation from all formal process; a perception of great abundance that was being unfairly withheld from them.

Differences based on economic circumstances

All the respondents were selected due to either their own position within a marginalized group or as a result of their engagement with marginalized groups. The stakeholders reflected the most financially well-off of the interviewees, and this was reflected in their higher level of education and political awareness.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

There are a few key initiatives that could be undertaken to remediate the situation.

On a national level:

1. Review of macro-economic policy and a move towards a more socialist economic structure that strongly encourages business to internalize presently externalized costs.
2. Ensure greater roles for public institutions in the management of resources.
3. Creating more effective mechanisms for public participation and active citizenship.
4. Investment in skills development and the inclusion of broader, more practical elements in education.
5. Increase state support for NGO's.

On a regional level:

1. Create oversight bodies that protect human rights and promote transparency.
2. Increase donor support for NGO's.

Assessment of likely options and outcomes

Some things are easier to achieve than others. In terms of economic policy, while this may be the central most crucial theme, there is enormous opposition to any change that does not aim for maximised profit for business. However, some options do exist. Following through on goals like the Polokwane Declaration on Waste Management of 2001 to stabilize waste generation, reduce waste disposal by 50% by 2012 and develop a plan for ZERO WASTE by 2022, represent significant opportunities to promote a sustainable society. Elements of existing policy such as Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) already include scorecards for skills development, preferential procurement, enterprise development and socio-economic development which can also be stepped up and adapted to deepen their effect. The energy sector also represents another significant area that can act as driver for sustainable development (as long as resources aren't wasted on poorly chosen technology).

Adapting our education system to include more practical components is relatively easy by comparison, and makes a great deal of sense in an environment of well-educated unemployment and academic inflation. It can also go a long way to reducing the pressure on government in terms of service provision.

Increasing the role of state institutions in the management of resources can be greatly facilitated by the creation of organs in each department that are responsible for the integration of programmes with other departments. Lack of integration and "silo" mentality are major contributors towards duplication of programmes and an un-integrated resource management approach. A similar division within the treasury could play an oversight role.

A key part of increasing peoples' perception and ability to participate in decision-making is to make local government more visible within communities. It will not only increase peoples' awareness of what local government does, but will also give them an increased ability to engage with government. Inclusion of material that educates students about the structure and mandates of the different spheres and

departments of government can increase both the perceived and the actual level of participation, while increasing merit based competition for programmatic support. Insisting that local government representatives hold regular meetings with their communities would also make a big difference.

Improving transparency could be greatly facilitated by investment in independent community media that is neither driven by a government or a business agenda.





3.5 Diepsloot

3.5.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Nestled between the up-market Fourways suburbs and Pretoria West in the Gauteng province, Diepsloot is a squatter camp initially intended to temporarily accommodate people who have been moved from Alexandra Township some 10 years ago.

Number of participants

One focus group discussion was conducted and 8 people participated.

General age category of participants

The Focus Group Discussion participants range from 28 to 63 years.

Economic sector of participants

They were a mixture of young and old men and women; South African nationals and one foreigner; uneducated, semi-educated and educated; unemployed, employed and volunteers.

Gender breakdown of participants

The focus group consisted of 4 men and 4 women.

Population size of community

Wikipedia estimates the population of Diepsloot at 49,735.

3.5.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends & Speculate About Causes

In your view what has improved or gotten worse in your community? Things such as health, the environment, social interactions, politics and economic opportunities... The greatest problem according to participants is unemployment. They say most people here are unemployed and it has been like that for years and it doesn't look like it's going to change any time soon. Although there are tenders that have been won and are contracted to work in the township, the contractors don't hire local people. Instead they bring their own people to work in the township. Participants feel that this causes a huge problem because these tenders are supposed to give them much needed jobs but they don't. And chances of getting a job elsewhere are slim since experience is a requirement they are hardly able to meet. Youth unemployment is the biggest concern for one particular participant who says the youth don't know what's going on anymore. Even community employment projects are dominated by old people, he says. Hence the plethora of youth doing drugs and being delinquents. The participants are unanimous in saying that another by-product of unemployment is crime. People commit crimes because they don't have money, and they can't be blamed for that.

A particularly interesting view is that rampant crime has seen the emergence of mob-justice (kangaroo courts) where facts and proof don't mean anything. A case of mistaken identity could lead one to lynching, sometimes even death. Also joblessness causes tensions and intolerance, especially since there are a lot of different nationalities residing there.

Some think joblessness leads to increased levels of abuse as men take out their frustrations on their women. Participants say that because families don't have money and most are unemployed, young girls get seduced by older men who flash money and promise them heaven and earth; and they also prostitute themselves.

The environment they live in is considered unclean, hence people—especially young kids—contract T.B. It's particularly worrisome for parents since their kids play outside. They say sewage pipes always burst and flow onto the streets, exposing people's excrement. The situation is so bad that sewage flows right past the front door. Hence most people fall ill. And although there are two clinics in the area (servicing 13 sections), they are useless because people get sent back and told that the daily quota of patients has been exceeded and they have to return the following day. There are also problems with ambulances, which take forever to come in case of emergency, and when people ask why they took so long, the paramedics say that ambulances are not taxis. "If we had money," one participant says, "we'd call for a meter taxi, but we are poor, that is why we call an ambulance. People look down on Diepsloot, they take us as animals."

They opine that Diepsloot ranks highest in Gauteng in HIV and TB rates. Why? Because it is forever filthy and damp, and people are unemployed and therefore don't eat healthy food. Every street flows with excrement and the kids get exposed to diseases. Most kids here have ring-worms on their heads. People who have T.B. take longer than usual (about 9 months) to get well because of the filthy environment. In their view, doctors should at least recommend that T.B sufferers get a grant so they can buy food and keep healthy. One says she once attended a course, and people from Diepsloot were given as an illustration of why T.B mutates from ordinary T.B to MDR- (Multi-Drug Resistant) and XDR-T.B. (XDR is the terminal stage of T.B). She says XDR is a death sentence. When you have it, you are not even discharged back home; they take you to a recently-opened hospital in Edenvale to await your death. And

it's easy to get infected and re-infected here in Diepsloot because of the poor environment. People with HIV/AIDS are particularly susceptible to T.B and have to go for a check-up every three months. And people don't want to use condoms so HIV/AIDS is rife here. However, another participant thinks that if you contract T.B and don't follow treatment then you have to go to the clinic and get a daily injection for forty days; if you don't, that's when you develop MDR.

Some in the group are community volunteers and they counsel a lot of young girls about family planning and safe sex. But people still continue to have abortions, which in their view are a bad thing. They say this happens despite clinics being free. "People [young women] are walking tombs." They say that despite the poverty, there is an abortion clinic—and one won't find these in any "white" suburb; only in black areas, "which goes to show we like bad things."

The issue of lack of housing has a huge effect on people living with HIV/AIDS. One found drinking in shebeens² as a way of over-nighting because they have nowhere to sleep. And people living with the disease aren't supposed to drink, as it is detrimental to their health. Government should build a Hospice here, given the high number of people living with HIV/AIDS, they say. Diepsloot residents have to travel to other areas such as Atteridgeville, Tembisa, or Helen Joseph to access a hospital (there is no hospital in Diepsloot), which are far and cost money. Sometimes when they get there, they are sent back because the daily quota has been exceeded.

In terms of relationships, what has changed and how? Youngsters don't have respect for the elderly. If an elder reprimands a young person, they rebel because they don't even respect their own parents. This problem is caused by the whole "rights" focus; when you reprimand someone they'll tell you about their rights. So the rights issue has broken down the element of respect in the township. Having said that, some social networks seem to be quite evident as some of the participants have home-based careers and visit the sick to feed, bathe and counsel them.

In terms of the political situation, things have changed. We have a new councilor and we see changes already because he consults with the people. People in Extension 1, which is the founding area in Diepsloot, have suffered a lot in terms of service delivery, because in the past, councilors focused on their areas of residence only; but now things look like they will change. Extension 1 continues to be underdeveloped; there are no houses there even though this has been promised many times in the past. For instance, in the past 3 weeks, 24 shacks burned down because of overcrowding. We went there as a community-based church organization to see to it that people got food, blankets, etc. Had politicians built houses like they have been promising, this would not have happened. So we are holding on to promises; whether they will materialize or not, we don't know.

The new councilor, though, has been in office since last year but we see the stuff he is doing. He consults the community. He doesn't wait for elections to go to the people. He doesn't say, "because I am a councilor I know better." He consults. For example, we used to have a serious mugging problem across the bridge because it was dark and the area was covered in big bushes, but since he installed a big apollo light and hired people to cut down the bushes and keep the area clear, muggings have decreased. So we see a difference. In the past, we didn't see any difference with the councilors we had. Now things are better. The new councilor's door is always open; people can go there anytime to consult him. When there are community events like the voluntary testing and treatment drive, the community involves him and he helps out. We have faith that a lot of changes will happen during the remainder of his term in office.

² A shebeen is a local drinking establishment.

Following the recent fuel price hike, taxi owners decided to hike taxi fare from R11 to R12. The councilor held a meeting with taxi owners and convinced them to keep the fare at R11. This shows that he is a man of the people, they say.

One youth, however, bemoans the fact that there are no youth development programmes. He has been resident in this area for eight years and yet he doesn't know who the councilor is. He suspects that once elected, they move to better areas (this particular participant didn't even know where the councilor's office is. However, it would seem that participants in this group who are confident to approach the councilor have the information and know the processes are people involved in community organizations). On the other hand, one participant is insistent that the community needs to take their fate into their own hands and stop expecting things to be done for them. He says the councilor is accessible to anyone who wishes to consult him.

These kind of gatherings are important, opines one, because we listen to and learn from each other. Those who don't know can learn from those who do, such as is the case now with this person who says he doesn't know who or where the councilor is. This is a good networking session.

As volunteers at the community-based church organization, they are responsible for feeding the hungry. But it's difficult, because this only caters for a limited number of people; the rest go hungry. "What causes this problem is that foreigners live among us. They too want food, because they don't have legal documents to stay in the country they can't access grants, and they make babies, which puts strain on the food reserves." We would love to help more people but it's impossible. There's just too much demand. One participant says she has seen people fight each other for food at the soup kitchen; that they run and she sometimes finds herself being mobbed by people looking for some more food. And HIV/AIDS is making the situation even worse.

There are many foreigners here and their arrival is not controlled. In many countries one has to get medical clearance to enter that country, but that doesn't happen in S.A. Hence we have so many diseases. There are many, many foreigners here. Also, they contribute to escalating crime because they are free to do anything here, unlike in their countries. We know there are decent foreigners who are here to work, but some are crooks: they mug people and assault them, say some respondents.

We seriously lack recreational facilities here in Diepsloot. There are no park or sports grounds at all. The only park we had has been used to build a school. Now we are left with a small one which is meant to service the whole of Diepsloot (13 sections). No wonder a lot of youth turn to crime because in the absence of jobs or something else to keep them busy, they become idle.

Another major issue for us is transport. Public transport is expensive because taxi owners take advantage of the fact that they don't have any competition. We don't have any buses or trains that operate in or near Diepsloot. If we had buses, people could afford to look for jobs. When petrol goes up, taxi fare goes up by a huge margin because they are not regulated. And this also affects people who have jobs already, because Diepsloot is far out. If one wants to make it to central Johannesburg by 8, they have to leave here by 5 a.m. If you get to the taxi rank an hour later, you are late already because the queue is too long. It's even worse on a Monday. Hence people lose their jobs because they are always late. You can only make excuses for so long; after that, employers think you are unreliable. It becomes a nightmare when it rains (with those long queues) because we don't have a taxi rank, so there is no shelter. There is a taxi rank but it hasn't been opened yet because taxi owners complain that it is expensive. They charge

R300 per taxi per month, which is a lot, especially considering the one in Randburg charges R30 per taxi per month. And we cannot stress the importance of having a taxi rank here in Diepsloot because all 13 sections don't have taxi ranks, so this one would be very helpful. Sometimes we wait a long time for a taxi and this affects punctuality. Taxi drivers would like to help and provide efficient transport, but they have to contend with traffic like everyone else because they transport people from all over. It would be better if there was a bus system because it's cost effective and monthly tickets allow one to budget properly, unlike taxis where you fork out money every day.



In terms of access to water, sanitation and electricity, what is the situation like? We have a problem of outages, especially in winter when usage is high. They mainly use pre-paid boxes, except in four extensions where there is no electricity at all and people use candles and paraffin stoves. In one section, electricity supply is only available during the day and discontinued at night. There is only one section with an apollo light, which is a huge deterrent for crime. If they could at least have apollo lights throughout, it would allow them to have a safe environment. Access to water has improved. In the past, the supply would just be stopped for days on end without any prior warning. (There is a communal tap for water). People would travel long distances to fetch water. Early this year (2012) the water supply was discontinued because it was said the water was poisoned. They would just discontinue water supply without consultation, because people in Diepsloot are treated like pigs.

What about the food situation? Most people go hungry over here. The only community gardens are the ones found in schools. So you are lucky if you have a school-going child, because they give them some vegetables once in a while. If you don't have a school-going child and you don't get a food hamper, the situation gets dire for you. One participant says she was looking for a piece of land to start a food garden for people living with HIV/AIDS so they could grow vegetables and eat a healthy diet, with no success. There was once a community food garden, but we don't know what happened to it. There is no open space here for a community food garden. The only land available is owned by a white person, and government has since made undertakings to buy it from him.

The food hamper sponsor (an Italian businessman) asked community volunteers to identify some land so that he can establish a center for ill people where they would be fed and properly taken care of. They mention some woman they used to care for on their home visits who had flooding problem. Her shack would flood every time it rained. All her possessions would float in water (knee-high). We approached the councilor to find alternative accommodation for her. We have since housed her in a shack on municipal property. In addition to that, she had a child under her care. What about the rest who still languish in uninhabitable houses? That's the reason the sponsor made a request that we find a plot where we can create a suitable environment to care for people like her.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Do you think it is important for your family or society to become sustainable? If so why? And if not, why not? Yes, it is important because most people will develop skills to be sustainable and learn to do things for themselves. They will produce their own food. People can't afford to buy enough food anymore because it's expensive. And we have that resource already in the community, because a good number of people work or used to work as gardeners and in similar fields. So we can use them to impart skills on how to become sustainable. Also the shops around don't provide a good array of vegetables and other healthy food so it is important that we grow our own food. In the rural areas people have land and grow their own food. They don't have to buy food. Places like Venda have large tracts of land, and people grow all kinds of vegetables and fruit and they want for nothing. Another thing is better infrastructure; especially proper roads with humps to curb reckless driving for our safety.

So in order to achieve sustainability, what would you like to see happening in your community? These industrial areas around Diepsloot burn harmful substances which destroy the ozone layer and in the long run would be harmful to us. Perhaps it would be better if they would burn these substances at night, when people are asleep, so that they don't inhale them—especially children. To add to that, people here steal our copper and sell it to scrap yards. Even young kids know that any piece of copper has monetary value. We need lots of trees here in Diepsloot as they are good for the environment and for people's health. There are no trees here. However, the soil here is not suitable for planting because it is sandy and underneath it is a black stone.

On that note, we need an awareness drive where people here would be educated about the importance of trees and a clean environment so that they learn to appreciate nature and not to destroy the little we have left. The youth should be made to understand and love the value of agriculture, and do away with the perception that it is for old people. The youth could use role models in that regard. If local government could put in proper infrastructure like roads, there could be easy access to the area and lights to control crime. I think for our society to be sustainable, our government should employ skillful and competent people in order for us to get proper service.

Our youth are idle and have no future. All they know is alcohol and being good for nothing. They have no ambition. There are a lot of them sitting at home with matric³ and are not interested in studying further. If they could approach companies or relevant people to assist them, then we would have a better society. Nowadays we see scholars drinking on their way to school, and you can't reprimand them because they have "rights."

Some feel the lack of respect displayed by children in their community stems from the rights they have. They say today's children have matric but can't read because they are not forced to read at schools. They say that, back in the day, pupils excelled because they were made to read and disciplined if they didn't do so. And we had discipline. We knew we had to be home by a certain time and that schoolwork was important. So today's kids abuse their rights. They don't listen. The only people who should have rights are adults. However, others say rights are important but need to be balanced with responsibilities.

³ In South Africa, matriculation (or matric) is a term commonly used to refer to the final year of high school and the qualification received on graduating from high school, although strictly speaking, it refers to the minimum university entrance requirements.

You touched on the issue of women in your society. What is their status like? Has it gotten better or worse? There aren't many women who are active in the community. Like me, as a volunteer, I help the community but there isn't anything that I bring to my family in terms of money. I spent the whole day doing community work and some men would have a problem with that. As a married woman it's not easy. Women have so many problems here in Diepsloot. Hence I was taken for training to help them cope. And women are the most affected by HIV/AIDS. Most women here are abused by their men.

Do you feel that you have access to participate in local decision-making processes? It's difficult for us to participate in local matters because of lack of information. In places like Alexander there are community radio stations through which the community gets informed about activities in their areas. Things like taxi fare hikes get announced through this media. But in Diepsloot you find that people make their own decisions without consulting the community. And it is assumed that you know about these issues. A lot of change and solutions rest with us as the community. If we have a problem, we must fix it ourselves. If we have a problem, we must consult our councilor or the relevant stakeholder and find a solution. We must unite and take our community forward.

What are you as a community doing to improve your situation and if you had the opportunity what would you do to improve the situation? With regards to education, we have a challenge of illiteracy among the elderly. Because they can't read and write, they cannot even sign documents. And although we have ABET centers (Adult Basic Education and Training), people are reluctant to go. Also its a hassle for some to go there because the centers are sometimes far and would require money to go there. People fear for their safety as well. So I am willing to help them to read and write.

People are willing to do things for themselves, but safety is their biggest concern. I found a job as a taxi driver and I had to wake up at 5 am to make my way, but due to safety concerns I had to decline the offer. Even though we have Community Policing Forum (CPF), the problem persists; members of the CPF get attacked and killed as well. The only thing the CPF is good for is to meddle in domestic affairs like when a man has abused his woman. But when it comes to hard crime they are nowhere to be found.

These criminals find refuge in dark alleys, like in Extension 1 where there isn't proper lighting. The situation is bad. Women get targeted a lot when they go to work in the early hours of the morning. And they rob you and hit you with a hammer for a lousy R14, a cell phone or food.

Back home a hammer was used to kill a pig, but in Diepsloot it's a weapon of choice for robbers. Most people have experienced a robbery or know someone who has. I know of an incident where there was a house robbery where a pregnant woman was raped and killed and the husband was also killed.

When I moved my family from Diepsloot to Cosmos city (a neighboring new establishment), I was thinking about my wife. They would have to kill me first before they touch my wife. Local businesses are robbed daily. Our safety is at stake.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Has the gap between rich and poor gotten better or worse? What's the situation like? There is small number of so-called rich people, so the impact of the gap between them and the poor is not so big (except for the fact that that pool is too small to be expected to help the poor). It's everyone for themselves here. Even when we have the rich among us, they are targets of robberies, so most of them move to other areas. There are a lot of poor people and a few rich people. Even if they wanted to help us, they can't because of the sheer numbers. We see this when we give out food parcels, there are more

people than there are hampers, and although we'd like to help out, we can't. There is also an element of corruption as people forge documents and apply over and over again, just so they can get more food parcels. You can't blame them: they are hungry. Even if we have rich people, you won't see them. They hide themselves because there are so many poor people and they can't help all of us. And they hide themselves because they are afraid of being targets of crime.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

In closing, is there anything you would like to add? I just want to say that we should have more meetings like this one and stand up as a community. So we hope that this group discussion won't just end here; that there will be concrete things coming out of it.

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Chapter 15. Uganda - Mbale

Richard Osaliya*, Rose Nandudu, Leonard Otika, and Robert J. Macheri

Part 1. Introduction

This is a report of the Equity and Sustainability Field Hearings conducted in the Mbale District of Eastern Uganda as contrition to the *Initiative for Equality (IFE)* efforts to draw out the ideas of the ordinary people and forward them for discussion in the Rio+20.

Field Hearing Partner

The hearings were undertaken by a group of volunteers who include Rose Nandudu, Environmental Management graduate; Robert Macheri and Leonard Otika, both holders of Masters of Science in Environment and Natural Resources, and Richard Osaliya (Team Leader), a Ph.D student at University of Nairobi (Kenya).

Primary Individuals

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Methods, problems and considerations

Field Hearings were conducted in the Mbale District of Eastern Uganda. Three group meetings and eight (8) individual interviews were undertaken. The hearings were constrained by the lack of resources for mobilization of participants and also for communication among the team members. Consequently, findings of the hearings undertaken by the team in the more remote (war stricken) Northern Uganda could not be reported.

Part 2. General Findings

2.1 General description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Three communities were consulted in Mbale District in Eastern Uganda. The communities that participated in the field hearing were drawn from Busoba Sub-county, a rural area; residents of Wanale Division in Mbale Municipality; and a section of workers within the Municipality.

Number of participants

A total of 89 people participated in the hearing in three group meetings. Eight (8) people were also interviewed.

General age category of participants

One group interview consisting of 12 people of average age of 20 – 35 was held in Wanale Division, and another consisting of 54 people of average 30 - 40 in Busoba Sub-county. The third meeting targeted employed persons and was held with 15 support staff of a local government office (3 men and 12 women, aged between 30 and 40 years). Eight individual interviews with three men and five women in their 20's and 30's were also undertaken.

Economic sector of participants

The participants were low income earners ranging from subsistence farmers in the rural Busoba, through low-middle income earners employed in urban Mbale with salaries of about USD200-USD400 equivalent, per month.

Gender breakdown of participants

A total of 89 people participated in the hearing in three group meetings. In one meeting there were 3 men and 12 women. Numbers for the other two meetings are not known. Eight individual interviews with three men and five women were also undertaken.

Population size of communities

Mbale District has a population of about 420,000 people, about 89,700 (44,900 women) of whom live in Mbale Municipality. Wanale Division has a population of 13,455 people and is a residential area. Busoba Sub-county has total population of 26,212 of which 13,333 are female.

2.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Over the past years, the communities have experienced a trend in the improvement of social services such as education, health, and clean drinking water. However, these remain inadequate among the poor with a growing disparity in access and quality of services between the poor and the rich. This has been attributed to poor services delivery by the government due to corrupt practices by government officials who swindle public funds meant for services provision. They then use such money to access better health services in private health centers and send their children to expensive and good school, leaving the poor in ill-equipped health services and Universal Primary Education (UPE) Schools. The infrastructure is equally poor with roads having potholes.

Still, there are additional positive trends. Advocacy for human rights, gender equality and women empowerment by NGOs and government that includes affirmative action by government such women representatives in parliament have improved access to property by women. People also engage in tree planting efforts. This includes access to land for agriculture which is the backbone of Uganda's economy. The food that is available is variable types such as rice bananas, cassava and millet. Communities are also enjoying political stability and security compared to the 1970s (Idi Amin's era). There is technological advancement and things are done faster. Related to technology is the use of energy saving gadgets.

Communities however, express several concerns over several aspects of their well-being that are increasingly worse. There is growing poverty due to low sources of income compared to the cost of living. Poverty is reinforced by increasing costs of living and high rates of inflation. Participants stated that some families in their communities are unable afford two meals a day and find providing some basics difficult.

The high incidents of poverty are exacerbated by outbreaks and prevalence of diseases such as cholera, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS. Participants were concerned about the strange "nodding disease" which is now prevalent among children in the northern part of the country. The disease is a neurological syndrome whose cause and cure are not known. These diseases are further aggravated by poor drainage systems in towns which are poor yet they drain into water sources such as wells.

Participants report declining agricultural productivity associated with perennial food shortages. They attribute these to declining soil quality, use of fertilizers, crop pests and diseases (such as the banana wilt disease), changing weather patterns and increasing environmental degradation. The rains are unreliable, droughts are prolonged and crop yields are now low compared to the late 1990s. There are also water shortages.

The continuing trend in environmental degradation is associated with deforestation fueled by charcoal burning, wetland degradation, poor agricultural practices, poor waste management—especially the use and dumping of polyethene bags—and water pollution. Land fragmentation accelerated by increasing populations is also a major cause of environmental degradation and reduced overall agricultural productivity.

Women's access to property and health services such as free maternal health care, free HIV testing and counseling and even Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), although grossly inadequate, has improved. Gender equality and freedoms have been enhanced with both government and several NGOs are playing a major

part in this. However, they still travel long distances in search for wood and water for domestic purposes even for a distance as far as 2Km. Unempowered women still suffer from men who exploit them over land, food and domestic responsibility.

Community general well-being (happiness) is hindered by individualism rather than communal association. Conflicts are many because of resources scarcity in families and in the communities. The other causes of declining levels of happiness include food insecurity due to drought; unemployment, high cost of living and increasing inequality. However, positives include political stability in the country and human rights situation which has improved.

The future for children is perceived as “getting worse” as resources, especially land, is getting scarce, largely due to growing populations. Participants also observe that some rich people force the poor to sell land to them. Further, the cost of living is increasingly high in both urban and rural areas, unemployment rates are high in Uganda, disease prevalence is also high and these are heightened by unfair competition due to nepotism and tribalism. While technological advancement is expected to bring positive change to the future generation, over utilization of natural resources is leading to depletion and may affected their livelihood and well-being.

There are recognized changes in weather and environmental conditions characterized by longer dry spells including drought and wet seasons involve high rains destroying crops, causing food shortages and landslides. Flooding is frequent and is associated with poor planning of buildings and construction in swamps which block drainage ways. Deforestation and soil erosion is high due to poor farming practices and population pressure. High temperatures are being experiences attributed to deforestation and destruction of wetlands. Water resources have been contaminated and no protection measures have been taken. Business institutions dump wastes to wells which are sources of drinking water. Sewage also ends up in these water sources causing diarrheal diseases such as cholera.

The participants also perceived a worsening trend in the economic situation in the communities. They argue that while unemployment is increasing and land for agricultural production compared to size of population is growingly limited, the cost of commodities and other costs such as transport are increasing. The soils for agricultural production have also lost fertility.

Speculate About Causes

Perceived causes of current trends in social, economic and environmental conditions include high levels of corruption, which is leading to poor public service delivery; ignorance of the impacts of environmental degradation and other issues; and poor quality of education in institutions; high levels of poverty; high population due to high fertility rates; unfair government policies; and industrialization. Climate change which has altered weather patterns and yet the population is still depending on rain-fed agriculture is also perceived as a cause of the trends. The main underlying factors causing the problems in the community are thus political, physical, human and economic.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

In order to build sustainable societies, participants perceived the need for: the development of technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment; protecting the environment and natural resources such as water and forests from pollution, over use and destruction; new energy sources that do not harm the environment; improving community access to resources such as water and

energy which should be accessed by everyone; and cultivation of a good relationship among all human race, including among women and men, the rich and the poor, among tribes and among nations.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Participants perceive that the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing. They attribute this to the ability of rich to access better services such as health and education; engagement of the rich in activities that make worse the conditions of the poor such as land grabbing, and degradation of wetlands which would support the livelihoods of the poor; public opinion by the poor often being ignored in planning and decision-making; and unfair competition. There are also unfair trade practices where prices are low for goods produced by the local communities such as farmers produce, while processed goods such as medicines are relatively expensive; judicial injustices; and unfair labor engagement conditions. Community participants also perceive that conflicts are increasing based political, ethnic, religious and social grounds, including family conflicts between parents and children over land.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

Participants articulated their wishes for the future to include: provision of quality social services such as health and education, and enabling environment for income generation activities, better housing, infrastructure and eradicate corruption. They suggest that a better situation for the families and communities can be created by: planting of trees, mass education on environmental issues, advocating for better farming methods; law and order, a poverty- and hunger-free community; proper management of waste, and advocacy for good relationships among all people, men and women; also adoption of energy efficient methods of cooking to save on wood fuel.

Participants called for the need for environmental conservation for today and for the future generation. There is a need for the following things to change: reduce the gap between the rich and the poor; end corruption; plan urban development; stop reclamation of wetlands; check high rate of population growth; address poor planning and unfair distribution of resources; and check excessive luxurious life and excessive consumption. A better situation should be created for water, land, forests and the environment for the benefit of children, women and the community.

2.3 Analysis & Recommendations

Summary of important findings

Notwithstanding an improvement in the provision of social services and in gender equality, the participants perceive a constrained provision of public social services and infrastructure by corruption among some public officials. This is facilitating the growing gap between the rich and the poor, as the facilities which would enable them (the poor) to efficiently use their meager resources to change their situation are not in place. Thus the economic conditions are worsening among the poor, who are exploited by the rich through unfair trade, unfair competition in access to resources for production including land, degradation of environmental resources including wetlands by the rich as they expand their investments; and injustices. Moreover, the opinions of the poor are not taken seriously and government policies and procedures such as the judicial system are only favorable to the rich, who are also in some case corrupt.

Communities observe a growing trend in environmental degradation including land degradation and deforestation; and changing and variable weather patterns associated with frequency of occurrence of

prolonged dry spells and more intense rains. They associated these occurrences with increasing prevalence of diseases, particularly malaria and cholera; crop diseases and reduced agricultural productivity, which in turn results in food shortages. They argue that while technological advancement is improving ways of getting things done, it is facilitating environmental degradation which is a major cause for a possible dark future for generations to come. Together with a high rate of increase in population, shortage in land and unfairness by the rich, environmental degradation poses a threat to the well-being of the future generation.

To address the trends, participants call for the approaches and technologies that ensure that production activities are environmentally benign; equity between the rich and the poor is enforced; the views of the poor are heard and addressed; and corruption is curtailed.

It is important to note that the addressing cause of environmental degradation and deriving ways of coping with the changing and variable weather patterns are important for both addressing the needs of the poor, building resilient communities and ecosystems; ensuring global well-being and meeting the resource needs of the future generations. Also important to address is the growing gap between the rich and poor; combating unfair exploitation of environmental and natural resources by the rich at the expense of the poor and listening to the needs and aspiration of the poor.

Differences based on region, ethnicity, gender, age

There is a unified concern by all participants, women, men, urban and rural alike, with all attributing the unfairness in trade and use of resources, and environmental degradation as the major causes of wrong trends in the communities. The impact of environmental (land) degradation and changing weather patterns on agriculture; prevalence of disease; and a perceived dark future for the generations to come are a major concern.

However, some slight differences in perceptions arise. Participants from the rural areas were more concerned with decline in agricultural production which is their principal source of livelihood. In the urban areas, provision of social services and infrastructure and well as the role of the rich in degrading environmentally sensitive areas were loud concerns. This probably because investments occur in urban areas, and their awareness on environment and responsibilities for service delivery are high. The urbanites are more concerned about the growing gap between the rich and the poor but the rural participants greatly feared the stinging poverty which they perceived as increasing. This implies that poverty among the poor is growing.

Women were appreciative of the improvement in the gender relations because they are the most vulnerable to gender imbalances. They were also more concerned about the declining agricultural productivity, probably because they feed the children and play more domestic roles and are thus the most affected.

Assessment of how to satisfy common concerns and wishes

Governments and the international community need to put in places policy and legal frameworks that promote equity in the use and conservation of natural resources. Community based programmes and projects that integrate environmental conservation and livelihood objectives should be developed, financed and implemented. These include, Integrated watershed management, eco-agriculture; conservation agriculture; conservation and renewable energy products among others. These should integrate scientific knowledge and indigenous knowledge including ecological indigenous knowledge.



Part 3. Field Hearings Detailed Findings

3.1 Busoba Sub-county group meeting

3.1.1 General participant description

A group discussion was held with participants from Busoba Sub-county in Mbale District, Eastern Uganda.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Busoba Sub-county in Mbale District, Eastern Uganda

Number of participants

54

General age category of participants

Age group ranged from 30-45

Economic sector of participants

These were peasant farmers who were learning how to read and write as well as learn book-keeping aimed at enabling them to establish income generating activities such as poultry, piggery and agricultural activities.

Gender breakdown of participants

The group consisted of men and women; no numbers are available

Population size of community

Busoba Sub-county has total population of 26,212 of which 13,333 are female.

3.1.2 Summary of participants' views**Assess Trends**

Participants perceive a good trend for women, in terms of improved access to land for agriculture which is the backbone of Uganda's economy. Women are able to access loans and are thus able to have a life with peace of mind. There is political stability and security compared to the 1970s (Idi Amin's era). People now have a right to association and are able to share ideas and knowledge, are accessing safe and clean water through piped water or boreholes provided by NGOs such as CDC, SPECON, and National Water and Sewerage Cooperation. Access to good roads and education has improved and the available food is in variable types such as rice, bananas, cassava and millet.

However, there is growing poverty due to low sources of income compared to the cost of living. These are coupled with high rates of inflation. In the present day life, some families cannot afford two meals a day and providing some basics is difficult. There are outbreaks and prevalence of diseases such as cholera, malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, and the strange "nodding" disease is now in the country. The available services and infrastructure are poor with roads having potholes, and drainage systems in towns are poor yet they drain into water sources such as wells.

There are food shortages yet soil quality has declined and deforestation is taking place fueled by charcoal burning. The rains are unreliable, droughts are prolonged and crop yields are now low compared to the late 1990s. There are also water shortages, wetland degradation, poor agricultural practices, poor waste management, especially the polyethylene bags, and water pollution.



3.2 Mbale Municipality

3.2.1 General participant description

A group meeting was held with 15 office workers in Mbale municipality.

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Mbale Municipality

Number of participants

The meeting had 15 participants; 8 individual interviews were also undertaken.

General age category of participants

The office workers were aged between 30 and 40 years; the 8 people interviewed ranged from 23 – 35 years of age

Economic sector of participants

The office workers are a low income group living in an urban area. The interviewees are low to middle income earners with salaries of USD200-USD400 per month.

Gender breakdown of participants

3 men and 12 women were in the group of office workers; individual interviewees included 3 men and 5 women

Population size of community

Mbale District has a population of about 420,000 people, about 89,700 (44,900 women) of whom live in Mbale Municipality.

3.2.2 Summary of participants' views**Assess Trends**

Participants noted perceived positive trends seen in technological advancement and things getting done faster and the use of energy saving gadgets. Women in families are having access to land for farming. People are also planting trees. Access to health and education services, and to clean water is improving.

However, they perceived that several aspects in the community are becoming worse. These include degradation of wetlands; poor waste disposal; technologies such as use of fertilizers are leading to soil degradation; resources are becoming scarce and thus imposing stiff competition on them; time to time epidemics like Cholera occur, environmental degradation due to land shortage; unfavorable weather conditions; and high costs of living due to high prices of commodities including fuel, food stuff and other commodities. There is also unfair competition for services such as health and education.

Happiness in the community is hindered by individualism rather than communal association. Conflicts are many because of resources scarcity in families and in the communities. This is heightened by economic pressure and inflation.

For the future of children, the perceived situation is that things are getting worse, as resources—especially land—are getting scarce. The cost of living is increasingly high in both urban and rural areas, unemployment rates are high, and disease prevalence is also high. These are reinforced by unfair competition due to nepotism and tribalism. Children are growing up with bad morals due to exposure to pornography on the internet, which leads to immoral sexual behavior and in turn exposure to diseases such as HIV and AIDS. They perceive that this kind of thing is endangering future generations.

There is some betterment for women due to improved and free maternal health care, free HIV testing and counseling and even antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) though grossly inadequate. There is women empowerment with increased participation in politics at different levels and reduction in domestic violence. Respect for human rights, especially for women, is now emphasized, even in the parliament, and the Millennium Development Goals incorporate women's needs.

However, women still travel long distances in search for wood and water for domestic purposes, even for a distance as far as 2 Km. Unempowered women still suffer from men exploiting them over land, food and domestic responsibility.

Conflicts are increasing based political, ethnic, religious and social grounds, including family conflicts over land.

Weather and environmental conditions are characterized by longer dry spells including drought and wet seasons involve high rains destroying crops, causing food shortages and landslides. There are also more crop disease and pests outbreaks. Flooding is frequent and is associated with poor planning of buildings and construction in swamps which block drainage ways. Deforestation and soil erosion is high due to poor farming practices and population pressure. High temperatures are being experienced attributed to deforestation and destruction of wetlands. Water resources have been contaminated and no protection measures have been taken. Business institutions dump wastes to wells which are sources of drinking water. Sewage also ends up in these water sources causing diarrheal diseases such as cholera.

Speculate About Causes

Participants perceive that the worse trends occurring in their community are driven by factors which include high levels of corruption which is leading to poor public service delivery; ignorance of the impacts of environmental degradation and other issues; and poor quality of education in institutions. They lament that the high level of poverty means that people cannot plan for the future. They also observe that the high population due to high fertility rates is another cause of the trends described.

Further, there is a perception that climate change, which has altered weather patterns, and yet the population is still depending on rain-fed agriculture, is the other factor causing negative trends in the community. They also decry unfair government policies and industrialization as a cause of persistent poverty and environmental degradation.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

Participants called for the need to address cause of disease outbreaks and facilitate sanitation and hygiene practices.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

Participants observe that there is a growing gap between the rich and the poor. They attribute increasing inequality to unfair competition which makes the rich to become richer and the poor poorer. To them, there are also unfair trade practices where prices are low for goods produced by the local communities. The rich are buying land from the poor at every low price because they threaten to grab it all. Indeed, the rich are observed to grab resources from the poor and they become poorer. This is because the law protects the rich regardless of what they do. *“And this is Uganda”*, a common saying in Uganda, stated by one of the participants, which implies that corruption is enshrined in the lifestyle of many Ugandans.

The gap between the poor and the rich is also perceived to be widening because the poor cannot afford good services such as education and health. While the rich go to better facilities, the poor end up in ill-facilitated government health centers and in Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools. Better services from high government hospitals are also subject to bribery.

The poor who are employed by the rich man are unfairly treated. They are under paid and without other allowances such as for food or transport. When they complain, they are sacked. This further facilitates the widening of the inequality gap. Further, participants perceive wrong lifestyle choices, where people want to consume what they cannot produce and to produce what they cannot consume.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

The wishes of the participants include the provision of quality social services such as health and education; the development of income generation activities; and better housing and infrastructure.

Participants thus believe that creating a better situation for families and communities requires implementing: planting of trees; mass education on the environmental issues; advocating for better farming methods; law and order; approaches that achieve a poverty and hunger free community; ensure attainment of good education; proper management of waste; and advocacy for good relationships among all people, men and women. They also believe in the need for the adoption of energy efficient methods of cooking to save on wood fuel.

Participants observe that achieving the above calls for the need to change the following: corrupt practices, poor service delivery, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, and high levels of poverty.



3.3 Group Meeting: Wanale Division, Mbale Town, Eastern Uganda

3.3.1 General participant description

Location (country, province or section, local community)

Wanale Division, Mbale Town, Eastern Uganda

Number of participants

12

General age category of participants

average age of 20 – 35

Economic sector of participants

The group composed of 5 primary school teachers, 2 school watchmen and their 2 wives and 2 peasants. These are low income earners, among them, the teachers who earn about USD100 per month are the most highly paid.

Gender breakdown of participants

8 women, 4 men

Populationsize of community

Wanale Division has a population of 13,455 people and is a residential area.

3.3.2 Summary of participants' views

Assess Trends

Participants perceive that poverty is still high and sometimes some members of the community have only one meal a day. There are high levels of inequality and prices for farmers' produce are low, while inflation is growing. This is causing increasing income inequality between the rich and the poor.

The community is increasingly facing high prevalence of malaria and diarrheal diseases due to lack of sanitation and hygiene facilities.

The participants observed food shortages due to crop pests and diseases such as banana wilt disease. Land fragmentation accelerated by increasing populations; wetland reclamation and deforestation are all an increasing trend.

The future of children in the community was perceived to be oblique. Participants observed that while technological advancement is expected to bring positive change to the future generation, over utilization of natural resources is leading to depletion and may affected their livelihood and wellbeing.

The well-being of the community is decreasing. Participants attribute this to food insecurity caused by drought and inadequate services such as health. Other causes include unemployment, high cost of living

and increasing inequality. However, positives include political stability in the country and human right situation which has improved.

The conditions of women are getting better in terms of gender equality and freedoms, with several NGOs playing a major part in this.

Conflicts are increasing fueled by politics, religion and tribalism. Conflicts between neighboring tribes are due to boundary issues. Family conflicts between parents and children and among children are driven by land issues.

The weather is getting worse and is associated with prolonged dry seasons. Subsequently, there are water shortages and food insecurity. Participants observe that bad weather has increased the occurrence of landslides in the hilly and mountainous region.

There is a general improvement of health due to improved health services including maternal health; sanitation and hygiene. Efforts to address the HIV and AIDS scourge have resulted in positive living.

Participants perceive that the economic situation is worsening. While unemployment is increasing and land for agricultural production compared to size of population growing limited, the cost of commodities and other costs such as transport are increasing. The soils for agricultural production have lost fertility.

Speculate About Causes

The participants perceived the major underlying factors causing the problems in the community as political, physical, human and economic. These include unfair government policies and politics, ignorance of community members, unfavorable climatic conditions, poverty, industrialization, laziness among community members, bad cultural practices (such as beliefs associated with circumcision that encourage teenage boys to marry after circumcision and other social behaviors associated with circumcision), and rapid population growth.

Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

The following are perceived as important for the community to move towards becoming a sustainable society: development of technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment; protecting the environment and natural resources such as water and forests from pollution, over-use and destruction; new energy sources that do not harm the environment; improving community access to resources such as water and energy which should be accessed by everyone; and cultivation of a good relationship among all human race, including among women and men, the rich and the poor, among tribes and among nations.

Perceptions of Privilege and Deprivation

The gap between the rich and the poor is growing. The rich are able to access better services such as health and education. At the same time, the rich engage in activities that make worse the conditions of the poor, such as land grabbing, and degradation of wetlands which would support the livelihoods of the poor. Public opinion by the poor is ignored.

Articulating Wishes for the Future

There should be good service delivery and easy access to health services; religious freedoms; conservation of the environment for today and for the future generation; accessibility to water resources for everyone; and good relationship between the rich and the poor; among all people.

There is need for the following things to change: the gap between the rich and the poor; corruption; over-exploitation of resources; the poor provision of public services; unplanned urban development; reclamation of wetlands; high rate of population growth; poor planning and unfair distribution of resources; excessive luxurious life and excessive consumption.

Participants argue that a better situation should be created for water, land, forests and the environment for the benefit of children, women and the community.

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ANNEX A: CVs OF PARTNERS

CURRICULUM VITAE

S/N o		
1	Personal Data	Ms. Priscilla M. Achakpa
	Contact Address	Women Environmental Programme Block E, Flat 2 Anambra Court Gaduwa Housing Estate, Apo, After Legislative Quarters P.O. Box 10176, Garki Abuja FCT, NIGERIA Tel: +234 9 2910878 (Office) Home Tel:+234 9 2910873 Mobile: +234 80 23235798 E-mail: priscilla.achakpa@wepnigeria.net or pmachakpa@gmail.com
	Date of Birth	January 23rd 1964
	Sex	Female
	Marital Status	Widow
	No. of Children	1
	Languages spoken	English, Hausa and French
	Hobbies	Traveling, Meeting people and Listening to Gospel /Country Music.
2	Objective	A development practitioner that focuses on pro poor development and peace programmes aimed at improving the livelihood of poor people and giving them a voice.
3	Personal Qualities	Strong drive for results, innovative, likes new challenges, possesses excellent interpersonal relationship and highly motivated. Strong capacity to work independently with proven ability to get job done and good team player.
4	Educational Qualification	<p>1. M. Sc Development Studies – Benue State University Nigeria, In view</p> <p>2. Professional Certificate, on Strategic Management for Leaders of NGOs, Harvard University Business School, 2009</p> <p>3. Postgraduate Diploma, Land Management and Informal Settlement Regularization; Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam(IHS), The Netherlands, 2008</p> <p>4. Certificate, Land Governance, Building Trust and Transparency in Land Administration: UN-Habitat, ITC Netherlands & Kwame Nkuruma University, Ghana, 2008</p> <p>5. 2002 Diploma, Project Management and Programme Administration, Management for Development, (MDF) Ede Wagening, The Netherlands</p> <p>6.1997 – 1998: Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM); Abubakar Tafawa University, Bauchi.</p> <p>7. 1993 – 1996: Higher National Diploma (HND) Bus. Admin. & Mgt. Studies Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna State,</p> <p>8. 1986-1989: National Diploma (ND) Business. Administration, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna State</p> <p>9. 1976-1981: Govt. Teachers College, Mkar Grade Two Teachers' Certificate</p>

5	Summary of Work Experience	I have over fifteen years of experience in development work, gender issues, research and documentation, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, conflict intervention and peace building, negotiations, ecclesia, labour movement and poverty reduction intervention programmes. I have undertaken consultancies and worked in several areas, which include Institutional assessment, evaluation, facilitation, product review, impact assessment, group mobilization, organizational development, information management and dissemination, participatory methodologies among others. I have held position of authority both in a work place, in networks and within religious development organizations in Nigeria and internationally and have accomplished these responsibilities successfully. I am very proficient in the use of computer packages such as MS word, PowerPoint, Excel and the use of Internet.
6	Positions Held	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advisory Board Member, International Conference on Drylands, Desert and Desertification, 2012 2. Expert Member, Land Governance Assessment Framework , World Bank Nigeria Country Report 2010-2011 3. Advisory Board Member, Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Natural Resources-FAO 4. Secretary, Women In Nigeria, Kaduna State 1999-2001 5. Member Facilitating Women’s Major Groups; UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 16th & 17th Session 2007/2009 6. Member of the expert Group on Framework and guidelines on land policy in Africa-ECA, AfDB and AU, 2007-date 7. Coordinating Committee Member and Board Member, Transition Monitoring Group, 2008-date 8. Council Member; African Social Forum (ASF) 2007 9. Board Member, Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN); a network of CSOs on water in Nigeria 2005-date 10. Treasurer, Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) 2005 - 2008 11. Advocacy Committee Member: Caritas Africa, 2004-2006 12. Country Coordinator: Christian Organisations Against Trafficking Network (COATNET) Africa, 2004-2006 13. Chairperson: 1st Nigeria Social Forum (NSF) 2004 14. Secretary, Northern Women’s Wing, Nigeria Labour Congress(NLC) 1994-1996 15. Vice Chairperson, NUBIFIE, Kaduna State 16. Coordinator, International Association of Volunteer Efforts(IAVE) Northern Nigeria, 1996-2001 17. Board Member of 12 NGOs/Association in Nigeria
	Awards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woman of Peace Award: to Priscilla M Achakpa for Mediating and Bringing Peace to Agila Community in Benue State Nigeria, 2010 2. Environmental Awareness Creation Award: to Women Environmental Programme for Her Meritorious Support to Environmental Causes in Nigeria by the Environmental Outreach Magazine, 2010 3. Rewards, Recognition and Award Scheme for Non State Actors Selfless Award to Priscilla M Achakpa by NGO NETWORK, 2010 4. Certificate of Recognition: In recognition of Outstanding Contributions Towards a Cleaner and Healthier Environment in Nigeria, by Nigeria National Volunteer Service(NNVS) Federal Republic of Nigeria, 5th December 2009 5. 2007 Independent Sector Promoters Award: In recognition of Outstanding Service and Excellent Performance in Women and Environmental Rights by NGO Network, March 22, 2007 6. National Environment Award: Outstanding Advocacy Works in Gender and Environment by National Environment Newspapers and Federal Ministry of Environment, 22nd November 2006 7. Friends of Children and Youth Award: In recognition of Outstanding Contribution

towards the Plight of Children and Youth by Wulia Foundation, June, 2005

Professional Services, Research and Consultancy Works

7

1. Consultancy to conduct Gender Sensitive Leadership Training on Climate Change Adaptation for Senior Government Officials and CSOs in Nigeria; African Adaptation Programme, Federal Ministry of Environment and UNDP Nigeria, May- July 2012
2. Consultancy for the Assessment of Gender Based Adaptation Programmes in Nigeria; African Adaptation Programme, Federal Ministry of Environment and UNDP Nigeria, May- October 2012
3. Consultancy Services for Conflict Mapping in Adamawa and Niger States, UNDP-Nigeria, November 2010-January 2011
4. Consultancy Services for the Establishment of Information Action Centres, Nigeria, UNDP-Nigeria, November-December 2010
5. Consultancy to carry out Research into Root Causes of Gender Based Violence and Assessment of the Repertory Center- UNFPA, Nigeria November – December 2010
6. Consultancy to conduct inventory on Volunteering NGOs/initiatives in Nigeria, UNDP, January-February 2010
7. Consultancy to produce a chapter on Community Empowerment/ Strengthening Negotiation Powers on Enumerations: Writeshop Workshop, UNHABITAT Navisha, Kenya October 2009.
8. Consultancy services for strengthening community based early warning & conflict monitoring mechanism in central states of Nigeria, UNDP, June-November 2009
9. Team Member; UNHABITAT/AGFE Mission to Port Harcourt on Forced Evictions, Nigeria, March 2009
10. Monitoring and Evaluation of Virtual Poverty Funds of MDGs Projects in Nigeria; office of the Senior Special Assistant to The President of Nigeria-2007-2009
11. Research on Assessing Gender Knowledge and Awareness on Climatic Changes in northern Nigeria (Kebbi, Benue and Borno States); Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change(BNRCC/CIDA) 2009-2010
12. November 2008 – 2010 Expert Team Member; Development of Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources, FAO/UNHABITAT
13. 2007–Date Expert Team Member; Development of Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa: Africa Union(AU), AfDB and UNECA
14. Evaluation of the Integrated Food Security Programme for Diocesan Development Services Idah, Kogi State, Nigeria, June 2008
15. Review of CEDAW implementation in Nigeria and preparation of Shadow Report, New York June, 2008

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. The Impact of drought and desertification on women in northern Nigeria. Research conducted for Women Environmental Programme 2007 supported by Misereor 17. Consultancy to Implement a Project of Maternal Mortality and Reproductive Health for Adamawa and Taraba States, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, November 2007 18. Consultancy to Disseminate the National Gender Policy for Katsina, Niger and Edo States, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development, 2008 19. Development of a five year strategic plan for Diocesan Development Services(DDS), Idah, Contracted by Trocaire, Ireland, August 2007 20. Women Political Empowerment for three states in north east region 2006/2007(Yobe, Borno and Gombe states) Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria. 21. A review/editing of the VVF baseline Survey for the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, May/June 2006 22. Drew Up a National Action Plan for the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development, May/June 2006 23. An Assessment Report of Potential Approaches and Impacts of Projects Executed by Church Based Organizations, For GKKE/MISEREOR, Germany April 2006 24. Baseline Survey for NBA Shared Vision in Nigeria, the Civil Society Participation for UNEP/Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria. July 2006 25. Baseline Survey for the informal sustainable communities in FCT, for Misereor June 2006. 26. Background Study on Water and Energy Issues in Nigeria to Inform the National Consultative Conference on Dams and Development, for Federal Ministry of Water Resources /UNEP; August 2006
8	Membership of Professional Organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Network of Women Environmental NGOs, Nigeria 2. Association for Women in Development, AWID 3. Gender and Energy Network 4. Gender and Disaster Network 5. Global Land Tool Network 6. Gender and Climate Change Network 7. Prentice Nigeria Limited: Management consulting and Education Support Services 8. Member, International Association for Volunteer Efforts, (IAVE) Nigeria 9. African Centre for Strategic Studies(ACSS) Nigeria Community Chapter
9	Research Works Published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of Gender Knowledge and awareness, vulnerability and adaptation strategies to the impacts of climate change in northern Nigeria, 2011-CIDA/Building Nigerians Response to Climate Change(BNRCC) 2. "Hunger on the Urban Fringe: Land Rights, Gender and Agriculture" - Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, 2008. 3. Fuelwood consumption and land clearing in Benue state: Presented at the Federal Secretariat, Makurdi during a 3-day workshop on Forestry and livestock as tools for economic development, 22-24, October, 2010. 4. The role of organic manure in the fertility of soils in Konduga, Borno State. The Sahel Analyst Vol.(1), 32-40, 2009 5. Communities organizing for infrastructure improvements in city slums, Abuja, Nigeria – Misereor, 2010 6. Climate change adaptation in Africa: its implications and socio-economic prospects for farmers in the sub-sahelian agro-ecological zone of Nigeria. A TECHNICAL REPORT submitted to The African Radio Drama Association (ARDA) and Partners, 2007 7. Community enumerations and household mapping in informal settlements in abuja – cordaid, 2009. 8. The role of Anthropogenic factors in the Degradation of Rural Lands." In Book of

		<p>Proceedings of Association of Nigerian Environmentalist (ANE). 2010 Annual Conference</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. “Implications of Gender Roles in Rural Land Degradation” In Savanna. A Journal of Environmental and Social Sciences Vol. 21. 10. Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa-Expert Member- African Union, African Development Bank and Economic Commission for Africa, 2010 11. Member of the research team on regional assessment studies on land policy in West Africa, 2010- Africa Union, African Development Bank and Economic Commission for Africa 12. The Smoldering Peace on the Plateau: Mapping Conflict and Prospects for Lasting Peace in Plateau State, 2004 13. Living Conditions in Abuja: The Challenges of Nigerians Emerging Capital City, 2005 14. Women and Development in Benue State, Progress Report, 2002 15. Conflict Research: A Training Manual for Peace Workers, 2004 16. Uneasy Peace: A Report on Violent Conflicts in Catholic Ecclesiastical Province of Abuja, 2004 17. Introducing New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) 2003 18. Gender and Governance, A training Manual 2006 19. A Baseline Survey of Informal Settlements in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, 2006 20. Training Manual: Women Participation in Political Leadership, 2007 21. Electronic Voter Registration: Building Confidence in the System? Women Environmental Programme, 2007 22. 2007 Elections: Who’s Mandate: Women Environmental Programme 2007 23. The Perspective of Women’s Entrepreneurship in the Age of Globalization, Edited by Mirjana Radovic, published by Information Age Publishing Inc, 2007 24. Background Study on Water and Energy Issues in Nigeria to Inform the National Consultative Forum on Dams and Development. J.K Okoye and Priscilla M Achakpa. Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources/ Society for Water and Public Health Protection, Nigeria 2007 25. Beyond the Tears and Rubble: Ongoing Demolitions in the FCT: Women Environmental Programme 2009. 26. Training Manual for Community Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion: Women Environmental Programme, 2009 27. Conflict in the Middlebelt Region of Nigeria: Engendering Peace in Agila Community, Women Environmental Programme, 2010
10	<p>Papers presented/Facilitated</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender and Water Governance: Federal Ministry of Water resources, Nigeria and Change Managers International, Abuja, 17th November 2011 2. Relationship Between Gender and Drylands Management: <i>3rd International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification, the Route to Restoration held at Sede Boqer campus of Ben Gurion University in Israel 7th-12th November 2010</i> 3. Enhancing Women’s Human Right Through their Inclusion in Peacebuilding organized by IMPACT, Benue Hotels Makurdi, Benue State Nigeria, 21/05/2009. 4. Perspectives to Gender and Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other natural resources: FAO Rome, Italy, November 24th-25th 2008 5. Renewable Energy, Poverty Alleviation and Gender Issues: International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) 22nd- 26th October 2007

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Land Rights and Women Empowerment: Breaking the Sounds Barrier: Workshop organized by: Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) Abuja 31st July 2007 7. Strategies For Involving Women In Framing Environmental Policies; First International Conference on Environment Research, Technology and Policy, Accra, Ghana, July 16-19 2007: 8. The Challenges of Creating Social Safety Net. International Conference on Transformative Cities of the 21st Century: The challenges of Leadership at the occasion of 30 years of Nigeria's Federal Capital City, Abuja, December 12th 2006 organized by the Federal Capital Territory Authority 9. Promoting Citizen's Participation in Urban Management for Sustainable Development: A Practical Approach: on the Occasion of a National Conference on Sustainable Slum Development in Urban Areas organized by the House Committee on Habitat, National Assembly, 25th-28th October 2006 10. The impact of environment on household health in North Central Nigeria, IDRC Canada, 2003 11. The Political Aspect of NEPAD: Prevention and Promotion of Peace., GKKE, Berlin, 2003 12. Ethnicity, Survival and the Role of Volunteer Activity in Building a Stable Democracy in Nigeria. Paper for a Conference, XVI World Volunteer Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 14-18 January 2001
11	Reference	<p>Mrs. Elizabeth Jeyol Benue State University, Makurdi, Benue State Nigeria E-mail: lizjeyol@yahoo.com</p> <hr/> <p>Prof David I Ker Vice Chancellor Veritas/Catholic University of Nigeria Abuja E-mail: davidiker@hotmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Sarah Jibril Director Women Environmental Programme Block E Flat 2 Anambra Court Gaduwa Housing Estate, Apo After Legislative Quarters P.O.Box 10176 Garki Abuja Nigeria E-mail: info@wepnigeria.net</p>

ALLAGAPEN Dashini

Address 7, Avenue des lilacs
 Morcellement Ber
 Lacaverne Vacoas
Telephone 6962064
Mobile 9144021
Email dashini.allagapen@gmail.com
Date of Birth 1st January 1989
NIC Number A010189300050F

EDUCATION

2008-2011 BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Specialisation: Agricultural Extension)

Result: 2nd class 1st division with Honours

Modules: Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, Crop Science, Agronomy and Horticultural Crop Production, Agricultural Engineering and Applications, Biotechnology, Biology and Control of plant pests, Diseases and Weeds, Introductory Applied Systems, Economics, Management and Extension, Agricultural Systems and Agricultural Management Information System, Agricultural Extension: Principles, Methods and Management, Emerging Technologies in Crop Production and many others.

Dissertation: My dissertation was based on a study on the impact of stone crushing operation on soil compaction and emergence of sugarcane crop. Through the dissertation, I have come to know more about the history of sugarcane cultivation in Mauritius and the mechanisation development in the country. In addition, the experimental part of the dissertation helped me to develop an analytical mind with the ability to solve problems. It has also helped to strengthen my abilities to compile, analyse and present data effectively. I also developed excellent planning and analytical skills, together with good time management to ensure the project was finished on time.

2007 Higher School Certificate (A-Level) - Swami Sivananda SSS, Bambous

Main Subjects	Grades	Subsidiary Subjects	Grades
Mathematics	C	General Paper	d
Chemistry	E	French	a
Biology	E		

2005 School Certificate (O-Level) - Swami Sivananda SSS, Bambous

Subjects	Grades	Subjects	Grades
Mathematics	3	Chemistry	3
English	4	Biology	3
French	2	Computer Studies	3
Additional Mathematics	3		

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **At present: Technical Assistant at Small Farmers Welfare Fund**

Main duties include:

- To Register small farmers
- To carry out field visits
- To work on various projects for farmers

- **June-August 2011: Temporary Technical Assistant for Croplife Mauritius**

Main duties include:

- Perform a Market Survey on Container Management comprising of the following:
 1. Design of questionnaire
 2. Meet different stake holders
 3. Compile information gathered
 4. Analyse information gathered
 5. Produce a report and a power point presentation on the findings

- **June- July 2010: Harel Frères Limited-Belle Vue Sugar Estate (Mechanisation department)**

Main duties include:

- Assisting the mechanisation technician in doing the daily scheduling of tractors and implements
- Field visits to monitor working conditions
- Helping the mechanisation technician to solve specific field's problems and find appropriate solutions.

- **February – July 2008 Barclays Bank PLC (Tele-Agent)**

Main duties include:

- Sales of loans, credit cards and bank accounts through telephone
- Takes appointments of clients

I developed very good communication skills through my experience at Barclays Bank PLC. I learnt how to deal tactfully with clients and also I had been able to work under pressure of my seniors.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE PROFILE

Adaptability: I have demonstrated my ability to integrate in different cultures by playing a full role in the student life at the University of Mauritius.

Team working: During my stay at the University of Mauritius, I developed an excellent team working skill mainly due to various group assignments and projects and also due to the different exams group work.

Individuality: My 3rd year project has helped me to develop my individual skills during various research works. During that period I developed excellent planning and analytical skills together with good time-management to ensure the project was produced on time. I also learnt how to work in extreme pressure.

Awareness: My experience from my degree course has helped me to develop a good understanding of the Agricultural situation and its application in the country.

Technical Knowledge: I am at ease with the various Microsoft office products (2007 and previous versions) as well as the internet. During my degree course I was exposed to different IT related module which has helped me to develop my skills such as PowerPoint presentation and creation of websites.

Languages: I am fluent in both written and spoken English and French.

(References available on request)

HOSENALLY Nawsheen

CURRICULUM VITAE

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cell (230) 910-1841 Home (230) 697-0237
nawsheen.hosenally@gmail.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 27th July 1989

Marital Status: Single

Language: French, English (Fluent – written and spoken)

EDUCATION

2008 - 2011

BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Specialization: Agricultural Extension)

Second Class – 1st Division

University of Mauritius

EXPERIENCE

March 2012 – Present

Country Representative for Mauritius

Young Professionals in Local Development (YPLD)

November 2011 – Present

Agricultural Innovation Facilitator

Platform for African-European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD)

November 2011 – Present

Consultant

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

November 2011 – Present

National Support Team for Incoming Exchange

AIESEC in Mauritius

June 2011 – August 2011

Sales Coordinator

Meaders Feeds Ltd, Mauritius

December 2010 – June 2011

Vice-President

Incoming Exchange Department

AIESEC in University of Mauritius

October 2010 – December 2010

Organizing Committee President

Red Ribbon Initiative – Phase 2 (Project on HIV/AIDS)

AIESEC in University of Mauritius

June 2010 – July 2010

Trainee in Agricultural Chemistry

Ministry of Agro – Industry and Food Security, Mauritius

November 2009 – November 2010

Secretary

Agricultural Society – University of Mauritius

June 2009 – August 2009

Trainee in Agricultural Extension

Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU), Mauritius

SKILLS

- Leadership and Team management
- Project management
- Cross-cultural communication
- Event Management
- Computer and Internet literate; good working Knowledge of MS Office, Web 2.0 tools, basic web page design (HTML, PHP)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 1st prize winner of the Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition (YoBloCo Awards) by the Technical Centre of Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) in 2012
- Best Leadership Role for term 2010/2011 in AIESEC UoM
- One of the best participants for Essay competition on “Youth finding solutions to challenges in agriculture and rural development using ICT” by the Technical Centre of Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) in 2010

REFERENCES

References available upon request.

Curriculum Vitae

Gray Maguire

April 2012

Nationality: South African

ID Number: 8012095241086

DOB: 9 / 12 / 1980

Dependents: 1 child (age 4 years)

Languages: English; Afrikaans; Zulu (basic)

Education: In progress – BA (hons) – Environmental Management - University of South Africa (UNISA), Cape Town

Completed - BA - Development Studies – University of South Africa (UNISA), Cape Town - 2009

Matric (Grade 12) South African College School (SACS), Cape Town
(English first language best speaker – 1996)
(Afrikaans first language best speaker – 1995; 1997)

Courses: In progress – Participant in ELLA (Evidence and lessons from Latin America): knowledge sharing and learning platform on selected economic, environmental and governance issues.

DDP-EU Community Facilitation Workshop: Promoting democracy through increased community participation in democratic processes

Green Building Council SA – Green Star SA Office AP course

Field Guides Association of Southern Africa level one and two Qualifications

Registered and assessed tour guide with DEAT and THETA (WC 1373)

Work Experience:

Freelance Sustainability Consultant:	October 2010 till present
Environmental Consultancy: General Manager	February 2008 to September 2010
PBO: Project Manager	February 2008 to September 2010
Tourism Consultant And Guide	September 2002 to May 2007
Lodge Manager	June 2001 to August 2002
Overland Guide	April 1999 to June 2001

Interests: I enjoy an active lifestyle that includes sporting interests such as rock-climbing, mountain biking and running. I am also an active member of civil society and support various environmental and social justice causes.

PERSONAL STRENGTHS AND MOTIVATION

During the nearly ten years that I worked in the tourism industry across Southern, East and Central Africa I developed a deep commitment to furthering development goals. Initially this resulted in the commencement of my degree but eventually led to a six month unfunded solo research expedition through twelve countries. In doing this I was also fortunate enough to identify some of the beneficiaries of the Nomad African Trust of which I was the founding active member.

This trip was instrumental in helping me to define our developmental challenges within a broader continental context and increased my awareness of policy alternatives being implemented elsewhere. It also opened my eyes to the level of environmental dependency and vulnerability that affects Africans so acutely and as such helped me to define my core aim as facilitating African development within a sustainable and just framework.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Development Practitioner: October 2010 till present

Due to a high level of civil society participation over the last few years and my background in environmental management I have been well placed to assist socio-environmental justice organizations such as **Earthlife Africa**, the **Institute for Zero Waste in Africa (IZWA)**, **Project 90 x 2030** and **Indalo Yethu** with their goals. But in order to address issues on a macro-scale my work has also included policy and governance work such as convening the Tourism component of the **Alternative Information Development Centre's (AIDC) "Million Climate Jobs"** research, co-ordinating the Climate Change policy strategy for **Catholic Welfare and Development (CWD)**, field and desktop research for the **African Centre for Cities** "Alcohol Control, Poverty and Development in South Africa", field and desktop research for Ruth Massey's PhD at **Stellenbosch University** titled: "Informal settlement upgrading and the effect of governmentality on women's social networks: a case study of New Rest and Freedom park, Cape Town" and research and presentations into the gender impacts of energy policy under the IRP for the **Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)**. The work that I have undertaken with these organisations has included:

- Work-shopping and facilitation
- Research – Field, desktop and training programme development
- Media liaison – Press releases in print articles, radio and television
- Public presentations
- Campaign management and coordination

Green Earth Consulting and the Nomad African Trust: - February 2008 to September 2010

After I completed my research expedition in the beginning of 2008 I resumed my studies, which I had put on hold for the duration of the trip. Due to my interest in environmental issues and my desire to contribute towards sustainable development, Henk de Kock and I decided to establish an environmental management consultancy, **Green Earth Consulting**, of which I was the General Manager. My responsibilities included:

- Product development
- Project design and implementation
- Sales and Marketing
- Website management

In the same period I was asked to design development based tours for **Nomad Adventure Tours**. This led to the establishment of their voluntour programme as well as the founding of a Public Benefit Organisation called the **Nomad African Trust**, of which I was the project manager. My responsibilities at the Trust included:

- Project development
- Fundraising strategy development
- Beneficiary management
- Financial management
- Legislative compliance

African Welcome Safaris: - September 2002 to Jan 2006

My work with **African Welcome Safaris** started in September of 2002 and continued in various capacities until January 2006. In this time I was active in most of the operational and organisational aspects of the company. At the start of 2006 I decided to re-enter the overland tourism industry which in turn led to my development related trek across Africa. It was also during this period that I began my degree in Development Studies. My responsibilities with **African Welcome Safaris** included:

- V.I.P client liaison
- Tour planning and itineraries
- Marketing
- Fleet maintenance and licensing

Isinkwe Wetlands Lodge: - June 2001 to August 2002

Prior to my work at **African Welcome Safaris** I was the Lodge Manager at **Isinkwe Wetlands Lodge** between St Lucia and Mtubatuba in Kwa-Zulu Natal. In the time that I was at the lodge I earned my Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (F.G.A.S.A) Level One and Level Two qualifications and registered with the Department of Environmental Affairs, Agriculture and Tourism upon my return to Cape Town. My responsibilities there included:

- Marketing
- Setting up guest activities
- Managing the Lodge finances
- Management of Lodge employees
- Planning building alterations to the Lodge

Nomad Adventure Tours: - April 1999 to June 2001

I closed the hospitality based photo development company I had started towards the end of high school when I was offered a position with **Nomad Adventure Tours**. This led to me running tours through South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda (and the birth of my love for Africa).

In this capacity I also ran tours on a freelance basis for **Indaba Expeditions, Which Way** and **World-Wide** (now known as **The Africa Travel Company**). As African travel has always remained one of my major passions in life I have continued to run these tours on occasion. My responsibilities in an overland capacity have included:

- Financial management
- Maintenance of the vehicle and equipment
- Maintaining passenger relations
- Route planning, when weather and national conflicts demanded changes
- Tour leadership

CONCLUSION

I am deeply passionate about contributing towards sustainable development in pursuit of a just society across the African continent and relish opportunities to enact my commitment to social justice.

CONTACT DETAILS

You can contact me either by e-mail at graymaguire@gmail.com or on +27 (0)84 335 5778.

CURRICULUM VITAE

György Málovics

University Degree

PhD in Economics (2010): University of Pécs, Faculty of Economics

Topic of PhD thesis: A stakeholder-based Approach to Corporate Sustainability

M.Sc. in Economics (2002): University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Education

2003 – 2006 University of Pécs, PhD Program in Regional Policy and Economics

1997 – 2002 University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, economics and business administration

1993 – 1997 Deák Ferenc Bilingual High School, Szeged

Professional experience

2011 – Associate professor. University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

2009 – 2011 Senior lecturer. University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

2002 – 2008 Junior lecturer. University of Szeged, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Teaching activity

Corporate Social Responsibility (BA)

Introduction to Environmental Economics (BA)

Environmental Economics (MA)

Environmental Policy (MA)

Environmental Valuation (MA)

Education management

2009 – Coordinator of the Regional and Environmental Economics master program

2008 – 2009 Participation in the development of the curricula of the Regional and Environmental Economics master program

Research Fields

The economics of sustainability

- Sustainability theories
- Sustainability measurement
- Corporate sustainability

Local sustainability

- Environmental justice
- Programs for local sustainability
- Participatory action research and sustainability

Membership in professional bodies

2003 – Member of Hungarian Regional Science Association

2007 – Member of International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)

Language Skills

English: reading: excellent writing: excellent speaking: excellent
German: reading: good writing: medium speaking: medium

Selected research experiences

2011-2012 – FP7-SiS-266244: PERARES / Public Engagement with Research and Research Engagement with Society

2011-2012 – HURO/0901/205/2.2.2: Landscape-scale connections between the land use, habitat quality and ecosystem goods and services in the Mures/Maros valley

2010-2011 – HURO/0801/194: Habitat and ecosystem goods and services evaluation in the Mures/Maros and Crisul Alb/Körös river valleys

2009-2010 – BAROSS-DA07-ELEM-07-2008-0001: Measuring the Innovation Potential of the Southern Great Plain Region on Sub-regional Level Based on Advanced Statistical Methods

2009-2010 – F-66-07-00004: Inter- and intragenerational environmental justice network

RESUME JANUARY MVULA
BIODATA

PROFESSION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Name: January Watchman Sex: Male Nationality: Malawian
Surname : Mvula Civil Status: Married Date and place of birth: 19/03/74, Malawi

ADDRESSES

Current Address:
Namatubi ADP World Vision Malawi
P. O. Box 335, Karonga

Cel: 265 888745752/999771726
Email : Email: jwjmvlula1974malawi@gmail.com
Janurarymvula@wvi.org

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Sena: Mother Tongue Chichewa: Fluent English: Fluent)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Institution/Place</u>	<u>Area of Study</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
June2006/June2007:	Institute of commercial Management UK	1) Project Planning and Scheduling 2) Project Management, 3) Financial and Commercial Framework, 4) Managing work and Cost, 5) Computer and Project Management 6) Nature and Organisation of Project Management.	Advanced Diploma in Project Management
Jan. 2003/Dec, 04:	Magomero Community Development College	Community Development	Certificate in Community Development
Dec 1995-June 96	Nsanje Sec School	MSCE (Malawi)	Malawi School Certificate of Education
Dec 1993-June 94	Livunzu MCDE	JCE (Malawi)	Malawi Junior Certificate of Education

QUALIFICATION STILL STUDYING

August 2009 to: June, 2012	University of Malawi (CHANCO) Under Pan Africa E-Learning Project Together with Amity University of India	Bachelor of Finance and Investment Analysis	Understudy
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Key qualifications:

- Office management
- Participatory development programme/project proposal writing;
- Programme/projects monitoring and evaluation;
- Project/Programme administrative and budget management;
- Training needs assessment for vocational training programme formulation;
- Poverty reduction through literacy and livelihood development;
- Capacity building for Community Based Organisations (CBO) and Co-operatives development;
- Decentralisation, Good Governance and Local Development
- Youth sensitisation and mobilisation for livelihood development.
- Economic Empowerment Programme for poverty reduction eg Village Savings and Loan Association.

WORK EXPERIENCE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Institution/Place</u>	<u>Functional Title/Description of Work</u>
January 2005 To 31 st January 2009	Chikwawa District Assembly	<p><u>Desk Officer Sustainable Socio Economic Empowerment Programme for Poverty Reduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of a Sustainable Socio Economic Programme for Poverty Reduction (SSEEP) in Chikwawa and Nsanje a programme funded by UNDP aiming at empowering vulnerable groups to enhance their living conditions in a sustainable manner; • Manage programme implementation at the Districts and community levels: through development of proposals formulation of work plans, and budgets and ensure timely execution of activities in partnership with line ministries represented at the District and the structures at the community level • Organise adult literacy classes in communities and to empower them through the Development of livelihood activities such as Goat rearing, piggery, Bee keeping, Poultry, Irrigation farming etc. ; • Organise training of beneficiaries in Business management and Appropriate technologies; • Assist communities to generate incomes from initial financial support received from the programme and link them to microfinance institutions; • Organise assessments on agricultural production and environmental issues in the implementation areas in order to development interventions together with communities as well as linking them with donors through participatory proposal development. • Monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented in the communities and document the best practices as well as challenges faced for planning purpose • Documentation of best practices e.g. SSEEP Programme Livelihood Guidelines and Passing over Methodology. • Support the establishment of cooperatives societies in the districts.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Institution/Place</u>	<u>Functional Title/Description of Work</u>
January 2005 To 31 st January 2009	Chikwawa District Assembly	<p><u>Community Development Officer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitizing and mobilising local leaders as well as the communities on Development issues in their areas • Training Local leaders on development as well as Project formulation, identification, implémentation and Community based monitoring tools • Promotion of Community Participation by using PRA and PLA theatre for change, REFLECT, • Assisting in the Preparation of Proposals on Self Help Projects and linking them to Donors/Funding agencies • Working with various Non Governmental Organization on development projects at District level as well as at area level • Conducting village meetings on development issues with the communities • Guiding the local community on the establishment of development committees in various development activities • Advisor of Village Development Committee (VDC) and Area Development Committee (ADC) on development issues • Trainer of Trainers of VDC's and ADC's

<u>Period</u>	<u>Institution/Place</u>	<u>Functional Title/Description of Work</u>
January 2005 To 31 st January 2009	Chikwawa District Assembly	<p><u>Functional Literacy and Integrated Rural Development</u></p>

- Assisted in the formation of 50 Literacy REFLECT Circles in TA Chapananga
- Conducted needs assessment on literacy in 120 villages in TA Chapananga which led to the establishment of 50 literacy Circles
- Trainer of Trainers in REFLECT approach
- Desk Officer for Integrated Literacy Programme funded by UNDP (2005-2009)
- Trainer of Literacy Instructors
- Supervision of Literacy Classes and REFLECT Circles
- Assisted in the development of Chikwawa District REFLECT Facilitator manual
- Author of two post literacy books titled Chuma Chobisika and Kuchulukana in the year 2007 at Mbolebole Motel in Mponera Dowa

Period Institution/Place Functional Title/Description of Work

January 2005 **Chikwawa District Assembly**
To 31st January 2009

Social Research

- Designed a questionnaire to assess the output of SSEE (Sustainable Socio-Economic Empowerment Programme for Poverty Reduction) in Chapananga which assisted in coming up with the gaps and successes of SSEE in poverty reduction and linking them with Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) as well as the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategies MPRS January 2008
- Designed a questionnaire on farmers Market linkage which assisted Chapananga Livestock and Marketing Cooperative Society LTD in linking with potential buyers in Blantyre March 2007
- Conducted an assessment on livelihood activities amongst Chididi women in Nsanje which led to the birth of Chididi Women Groups Savings and Capital Building Project which is being funded by Volkat Vision and implemented by Sustainable Rural Community Development Organisation (SURCOD) 2010

Period Institution/Place Functional Title/Description of Work

January 2005 **Chikwawa District Assembly**
To 31st January 2009

Rural Economic Activities Programme

- Assisted in the formation of 20 savings groups in TA Kasisi, Mlilima, Masea, Katunga and Makhwira
- Trainer of trainer of business groups in Business Management, Group dynamics
- Linkage of business groups to Micro Finance Institutions
- Promotion of small Businesses into Associations and Cooperative Societies in Chikwawa
- Linkage of business groups into various appropriate technology skills e.g. Beekeeping, Juice production, Bakery
- Supervision of saving groups and provision of technical advice

Period Institution/Place Functional Title/Description of Work

January 2005 **Chikwawa District Assembly**
To 31st January 2009

Project Management

- Developed the proposal to construct a Biogas plant at Chagambatuka CBCC November, 2007
- Project Coordinator Chagambatuka Biogas project funded by Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust June 2008 up to date
- Developed a proposal on Chididi Women Groups Savings and Capital Building Project which is just being funded by Volkat Vision.
- Desk Officer for Sustainable and Socio Economic Empowerment Programme for Poverty reduction since 2005 up to date
- Procurement of Project materials
- Budget management and operational planning skills
- Designing tenders and Bids for Project Procurement
- Multi-sector planning at District level Chikwawa District Assembly 2005-2008

<u>Period</u>	<u>Institution/Place</u>	<u>Functional Title/Description of Work</u>
January 2009 Up to date	World Vision Malawi	Data Processing Officer

I. PURPOSE

Manage the SD Plus and STEP 1 systems and Sponsorship Correspondences at the Cluster/ADP office, in accordance with policies, procedures and standards in fulfilling the expectations of Communities, Sponsors and Support Offices and other stakeholders to bring about Children's, Families', Communities' and Sponsors' Human Transformation

II. MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 VISION AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Participate in the development of Design Documents and Annual Operating Plans for the Cluster/ADP.
- Administer the plans effectively and efficiently.

2.0 MENTORING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Take part in training of Sponsorship Development Facilitators and Community supporting structures especially in STEP operations and Sponsorship Management in general.
- Mentor the SDFs from time to time with regards to quality Sponsorship correspondences.

3.0. MANAGEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

- 1.1 Receive, analyze and key in all information concerning Registered Children and process for onward transmission to National Office.
- 1.2 Receive and read data files from the National Office, create and send data to National office weekly.
- 1.3 Prepare and send discrepancy memos to National Office
- 1.4 Analyse and revolve SD related queries according to CRS standards.
- 1.5 Process child to Sponsor mail timely and accurately ie
Print sponsor labels for special mailings, mail, GN Thank you letter, introductory letters for all sponsored children in assigned ADPs.
- 1.6 Inputting data for Registered Children (RC) for growth and partnership holds in SD plus
- 1.7 Update child information in SD Plus and STEP annually
- 1.8 Conduct annual Sponsorship Diskette (SD) reconciliation between the ADP and Support Offices.
- 1.9 Capture all information on child visits in STEP I
- 1.10 Capture GNs, queries, mail and other information in STEP I .
- 1.11 Print Management Reports from STEP I.
- 1.12 File all sponsorship information systematically.
- 1.13 Back up and re-index SD plus and STEP databases daily.
- 1.14 Take part in building sponsorship capacity in the program.

4.0. MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 2.1 Monitoring of Sponsorship Key Performance Standards (KPIs) in the assigned ADPS by giving weekly updates to Sponsorship Development Coordinators.
- 2.2 Compile Monthly, quarterly and annual reports on KPIs.

5.0. GENERAL AREAS

- 3.1 Perform other duties related to sponsorship management as assigned by the Supervisor.
- 3.2 Attend and participate in daily devotional and weekly chapel meetings.

GENERAL MOTIVATION STATEMENT

" I have several years of working experience in the field of poverty reduction through literacy, livelihoods and cooperative development, vulnerable youth and livelihoods, participatory decentralised development planning and management. I am convinced, I can assist countries and institutions in achieving sustained urban and rural community development".

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

DRIVING LICENCES: Yes (Malawian {SADC}).

COMPUTER LITERACY: Regular user of PC, 6 years of total experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, power point and Internet.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: 2002- 2003 Primary School teacher at Chididi P. School and Mpatsa P. School.

PUBLICATION

2007/10-11: SEEP/UNDP

Published two books meant for post Literacy activities

CHUMA CHOBISIKA

KUCHULUKANA

REFERENCES

1. **HILDA SAMBAKUSI**
District Community Development Officer
P.O BOX 23
CHIKHWAWA
Cell +265888577220
2. **RACHEL KATHYANGA**
ADP Manager
World Vision Malawi
Namatubi ADP
P/Bag 3
Chitipa
Email.: elisha_kapalamula@wvi.org
Cell +265999373537
3. **Mr. LTL Palani**
District Commissioner
Neno District Assembly
P/Bag 1
Neno MALAWI
Cell +265888308225

Appendix II: Short CV of Team Leader



CV-: RICHARD OSALIYA

Name	RICHARD OSALIYA	
Profession	Physial Planner/ Environment & Natural Resource Management Specialist	
Date of birth:	12/01/1980	Years of experience: 8
Nationality:	Ugandan	
Marital status	Married	
Contact	P.O. Box 7611 Kampala – Uganda Tel: +256782451815/ + 254789259212 E-mail: osaliya@yahoo.com ;	

Membership in professional societies

- **Member, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)**
- Member, Uganda Institute of Physical Planner's (UIPP)
- **Approved for membership of the Uganda Association of Impact Assessment (UAIA)**
- Member, East African Association of Impact Assessment. (EAAIA)
- Member, International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)

Relevant community Services

- **Expert Reader, Land for Life Award, by The UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, April, 2012**

Key Skills	• Natural resource governance	• water quality assessments
	• Strategic Environmental Assessment	• vegetation surveys
	• Cumulative impacts assessment	• soil studies;
	• sustainability assessment)	• wetland biodiversity and management
	• Environmental Impact Assessments	• environmental pollution
	• Development of Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans	• settlement analysis and planning
	• GIS techniques	• Development of technical and research proposals
	• Socio-economic and environmental research development and implementation	• statistical analysis
• land use studies and planning;	• scientific writing including preparing articles for submission to peer reviewed journal	
• ISO 9001: 2008 Certified Internal Auditor	• Watershed management	

Key qualification and experience

- Currently PhD candidate (Dryland Resource Management) at University of Nairobi, holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning (2005) and a Master of Science in Environment and Natural Resources (2010) and has worked as a Part-time Lecturer with the Department of Land and Architectural Studies, Kyambogo University and School of Public Health, Makerere University.
- Since 2004, worked in socio-economic and environmental *research* and consultancies and with several multi-lateral organizations, and able to conduct critical analysis in the *socio-economic, and environment and natural resources* field.
- A certified **ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems Internal Auditor**
- Since 2010, engaged in consultancy in Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit where he conducts physical, biological and socio-economic environmental assessment studies of development projects. This includes collecting, analyzing data, and report writing; consultations with Lead Agencies (those such as dealing in. Environment, Forestry, Wetlands Department, Local Governments, Ministries,);
- Worked for more than two years (2005/7) with Makerere University – University of California San Francisco Malaria Research collaboration (MU-UCSF), undertaking *field data collection using questionnaires, PDA field data entry and GPS mapping*. Undertook *data entry, data cleaning, data backups, file management, and Ms Access database management*. As part of the IT and data management team, assisted staff in simple computer troubleshooting, giving him *practical computer and IT skills*.
- Among others, worked with Dr. Emmanuel Kasimbazi of Faculty of Law, Makerere University on several projects and Consultancies as a research assistant on topics of *Environmental Law, Environmental Assessment and Audit, and Environment and natural resources management*. Clients include IUCN, Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Uganda Wildlife Society.
- Worked as Intern and consultant with both Africa Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) GTZ-project: “Cooperation among River Basins in Africa” in 2007, and GTZ-transboundary water cooperation in the Nile Basin Project, in 2010, where I supported processes of formulation of basin wide policies, strategies and guidelines for climate change adaptation and trans boundary environmental impact assessment. He took part in *impact chain* formulations (GTZ-Nile Basin Project), and *Monitoring and Evaluation* (AMCOW).

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIUM OR CONFERENCES

Date : 27 - 29 October 2010
 Symposium : 11th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium;
 Venue : Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
 Paper presented: The potential of storm water and effluent from a Constructed wetland for re-vegetating a degraded pyrite trail in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda
 Co - authors : F. Kansiime , H. Oryem-Origa, and E. Kateyo

Date : February, 2010
 Workshop : Regional climate change workshop;
 Venue : Entebbe, Kampala
 Organisation : Nile Basin Initiative and supported by GTZ

Date : August, 2009
Workshop : Practitioner training on environment assessment of legal framework in East African countries
Venue : Dar es Salaam – Tanzania
Organisation : Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA) and Eastern Africa Association of Impact Assessment

Date : 2009
Conference : International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Annual Conference
Venue : Accra-Ghana
Paper presented: *Evaluation of environmental legislation for regulating petroleum impacts in Uganda*

Date : 2007
Conference : International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Annual Conference
Venue : Seoul-Korea
Paper presented: *Water governance and sustainable use of water resources in Uganda through EIA*

Publications, essays and conference presentations

Year : 2011

Article title : The potential of storm water and effluent from a Constructed wetland for re-vegetating a degraded pyrite trail in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda

Referee
Dr. Laban A. MacOpiyo
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Resources Management and
Agricultural Technology,
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Referee
Dr. Kasimbazi Emmanuel
Faculty of Law

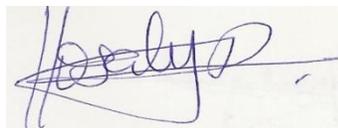
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Referee
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Signed

Date 29th May, 2012

O S A L I Y A R I C H A R D

CURRICULUM VITAE: DEBORAH S. ROGERS
March 2012

Formal Education

PhD - Stanford University, CA (2010); processes of cultural change

MS - University of Wisconsin, Madison; ecology and environment

BA - Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD; biology and ecology

Current Position

Director, Initiative for Equality (Rapid City, SD, US; October 2011 – present)

Founder; directing think tank and global network of academics and activists working on issues related to social, economic and political inequality; developing Board of Advisors and global network; coordinating Equity component of global civil society input to Rio+20 Earth Summit process; convening session “Equity, Equality and Pathways towards Sustainability” for Planet Under Pressure conference; speaking at conferences; providing website content; developing funding proposals; coordinating volunteers, and more.

Past Work Experience

Academic Officer, International Human Dimensions Programme, UN University (Bonn, Germany; 1 year)

Develop projects and presentations supporting the inclusion of social, economic and cultural considerations in global environmental change research; lead on global survey of social sciences and humanities scholars concerning global change; lead on development of “Assessment and Synthesis of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Findings Relevant to Global Environmental Change”; grant-writing, and more.

Project Manager and Grants Administrator, Rapid City Regional Hospital (Rapid City, SD, US; 2.5 years):

Managed a \$5.5 million National Cancer Institute (NIH) grant and research project to study health disparities (cancer mortality) among Native Americans (Lakota) in western SD. The project included behavioral research to determine causes of health inequalities, community education and outreach, several radiation therapy clinical trials, a genetic testing protocol, and patient services. I had responsibilities for all non-clinical aspects of the project, including study design, data analysis, human subjects protection, staff training, peer review articles and presentations, managing community education, overseeing Lakota language translators and other consultants, managing staff, developing interface with hospital administrators, and more.

Human Biology Instructor, Oglala Lakota College, (Kyle, SD, US; 1.5 years):

Taught courses in Human Biology and Ecology at several Oglala Lakota College centers on the Pine Ridge Reservation (Kyle, Pine Ridge, Porcupine, Allen) and in Rapid City, SD. Other duties included developing curriculum contrasting Western scientific perspective with the traditional Lakota worldview, mentoring Lakota students who wished to transfer into 4-year universities, and finding fellowships, internships and other funding opportunities for students.

Executive Director, Technical Information Project (Rapid City, SD, US; Pierre, SD; 14 years):

Founded and directed NGO, which provided information and analysis on sustainable development in South Dakota and surrounding Northern Plains states, and capacity-building services to civil society groups in the region. My responsibilities included organizing and running a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation; technical and legal research; socioeconomic and environmental impact assessment; framing and articulating the issues; developing and advocating for policy recommendations; media relations and public speaking; editing and writing for a monthly newsletter; participating in administrative and court hearings; membership recruitment, volunteer organizing and fund-raising; managing staff; recruitment and interface with directors; board development training, and more.

Honors, Appointments and Memberships

- * Chair, White Papers/Policy Briefs Committee, member, Developing World Working Group, *Planet Under Pressure* conference (2011)
- * SCORE Grant for research collaboration at Prague University of Economics (summer 2009)
- * Funded "Visitor", Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity, UCL, London (October 2008)
- * Rogers and Ehrlich 2008 paper selected "100 Top Science Stories of 2008," Discover Magazine (2008)
- * Funded attendee, Santa Fe Institute's Beijing Complex Systems Summer School (summer 2008)
- * National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2006 - 2009)
- * Stanford Department of Biological Sciences "Excellence in Teaching Award" (2007)
- * Coordinator, Stanford University interdepartmental Cultural Evolution Seminar (2006 - 2010)
- * Founder and Chairperson, Bridges for Intercultural Understanding (Rapid City, SD, 2003 - 2005)
- * South Dakota regional "Keller Conservation Award" (1995)
- * Designated "West River Notable" by SD Rapid City Journal (1991)
- * Featured South Dakotan, SD Public Television (1-hour show aired April 3, 1990)

Recent Publications

- Rogers, Deborah S., Duraiappah, Anantha K., Antons, Daniela Christina, Munoz, Pablo, Bai, Xuemei, Fragkias, Michail, Gutscher, Heinz. 2012. A Vision for Human Well-being: Transition to Social Sustainability. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 4:61–73.
- Kosoy, Nicolas, Brown, Peter G., Bosselmann, Klaus, Duraiappah, Anantha K., Mackey, Brendan, Martinez-Alier, Joan, Rogers, Deborah S. and Thomson, Robert. 2012. Pillars for a Flourishing Earth: Planetary Boundaries, Economic Growth Delusion and Green Economy. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 4:1–6.
- Rogers, Deborah S., Omkar Deshpande and Marcus W. Feldman. 2011. The Spread of Inequality. *PLoS ONE* 6(9): e24683. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024683.
- Duraiappah, Anantha K. and Deborah S. Rogers. 2011. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Opportunities for the Social Sciences. *Innovation (The European Journal of Social Science Research)*, 24 (3): 217-224.
- Rogers, Deborah S., Marcus W. Feldman and Paul R. Ehrlich. 2009. "Inferring Population Histories Using Cultural Data." *Proceedings of the Royal Society-B*, 276 (167): 3835-3843.
- Rogers, Deborah S. and Paul R. Ehrlich. 2008. "Natural Selection and Cultural Rates of Change." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105 (9): 3416-3420.
- Rogers, Deborah S. and Daniel G. Petereit. 2005. "Cancer Disparities Research Partnership: Bringing Clinical Trials, Patient Services and Community Education to Lakota Country." *American Journal of Public Health*, 95 (12): 2129-2132
- Daniel G. Petereit, Deborah S. Rogers, Linda Burhansstipanov, Judith Kaur, Frank Govern, Steve Howard, Christen H. Osburn, C. Norman Coleman, Jack F. Fowler, Richard Chappell, Minesh P. Mehta. 2005. "Walking Forward: The South Dakota Native American Project." *Journal of Cancer Education* 20(1): 65-70.
- Petereit, Daniel G., Deborah S. Rogers, Frank Govern, Norman Coleman, Christen H. Osburn, Steve P. Howard, Judith Kaur, Linda Burhansstipanov, C. Jack F. Fowler, Richard Chappell, Minesh P. Mehta. 2004. "Increasing Access to Clinical Cancer Trials and Emerging Technologies for Minority Populations: The Native American Project." *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 22 (22): 4452-4455.

Recent Presentations

Global Soil Forum Workshop: Carbon Sequestration and Ecosystem Services, IASS, Potsdam, Germany (10-11) "Social Dimensions of Ecosystem Services" (with Falk Schmidt)

Asian Development Pathways and Transitioning Towards a Green Economy workshop, Asia Pacific Network and CNC-IHDP, Nanjing, China (10-11); Class 1: "Why Equity and Well-being are Essential to Sustainability" Class 2: "Policies and Pathways to Equity and Well-being"

International Social Sciences Council/Belmont Forum workshop, UNESCO, Paris, FR (06-11) "Survey of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholars on Engagement in Global Environmental Change Research"

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meetings, Bonn, DE (06-11) "Social Sciences Contributions to Climate Change Research"

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio+20 Side Event, New York, US (03-11) "Societal Transformations Towards a Green Economy"

French National Research Agency (ANR) CEP planning workshop, Paris, FR (11-10) "Understanding Human Values, Institutions, and Behaviors on a Changing Planet"

Capitalism's Crises Seminar, Stanford University, US (04-10) "The Spread of Inequality"

Cultural Evolution Seminar, Stanford University, US (04-10) "The Spread of Inequality"

Prague University of Economics, Czech Republic (06-09) "Current Controversies in Evolutionary Theory of Relevance to Economists"

Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University, CA, US (05-09) "Lessons Learned on the Science-Policy Interface"

Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM, US (04-09) "Inferring Population Histories Using Cultural Data"

Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity, University College London, UK (10-08) "Migration, Cultural Exchange, and Settlement Sequence in Polynesia"

Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity, University College London, UK (10-08) "Biological Consequences of a Cultural Choice: Simulating the Demographic Effects of Socioeconomic Hierarchy"

Cultural Niche Construction Workshop, Durham University, UK (10-08) "Cultural Linkages and the Consequences of Socioeconomic Stratification"

###

1. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Highlights:

- **Village for solution:-**Recently the PAN IN THE VAN approach for inclusive sanitation WASH developed by us has been selected as one of the promising approach in WASH and presented in World Water Forum 6 at Marseille, France from 12-17 March 2012
- **Water Aid India-** Consultant for the validation and field study of three districts in MP through Water Aid partners.
- **DFID India** – EEDS Team Leader and Lead consultant for Scoping study on Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Madhya Pradesh for DFID (gaps and suggestion the area of intervention to support MP in next five years 2012-2017)
- As an **International Consultant /Researcher on water and Sanitation** –Retained by **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** Located at **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific. (UN-ESCAP) Bangkok** (Thailand) (Form 2 Nov to 31 Dec 2009) Project TA - 6325 (REG): Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices - to support preparation of Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO)2010 report on “satisfying household water and sanitation needs in all communities. My job was to review and consolidate results and findings of recent studies on household water security, household surveys (DHS, MICS), MDG data and country-based surveys, Review recent and new studies related to evolving new concepts for water security/insecurity with a view to consolidating the findings and recommendations. Assist with the administration and management of five to seven countries (**India, Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Philippines and Myanmar**)-based assessments of water and sanitation and to provide support for analysis of the Asia-Pacific results of the latest UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS). Respond to requests for information relating to the country-based.
- Organize workshop for more than 12 countries participants on waste management & biogas technology at **ARTIFACT at Germany** and exposure visits orientation for the participant of various country like Egypt, Netherlands, Denmark etc
- **WSP-Sanitation Expert** to facilitate Capacity Building Training programme as part of Team for **CLTS – WSP, World Bank** supported assignment on **CLTS** (through STEM, Bangalore) in Madhya Pradesh April 2010-2011.
- **United Nations Children fund (UNICEF)** Worked in a water sector and contributed in the area of **WATER SAFTY PLAN** and also individual household water security. My experience is mostly related to PHED /NGO-Water aid / UNICEF Bhopal.

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** work for Public Private Community Partnership initiative and localizing MDGs with the partners –Governments, Corporate, NGOs and Panchayats.
- **Water Aid**- consultant to facilitate the advocacy on WASH conceptualization in MP and also study on usage 2011, 2012
- Designed and developed “**On site capacity building approach** known as **Pan in the Van** (with a mobile van Unit) for training, communication and Production in the rural / isolated areas” It is new approach having 12 tools and effective for pre and post triggering and programme sustainability.(UNICEF Supported & tested in MP for Sanitation and Water Security plan)
- Develop sustainable approach “Kick to Kitanu and Ek pe Ek Gyarah” to **School Led Total Sanitation.**
- Organized more than 100 capacity building programmes(demo/exposure/ToTs/field camps) on WASH for various stakeholders from international/national /state and local level supported by various agencies/government.
- Designed and develop **Model School toilet** with child friendly facilities water reuse and incinerator for MP under the consultancy from UNICEF/Jila Pachayat Guna and Bharat Scouts Guide .The design is adopted by MP Serve Shiksha Abhiyan for up scaling.
- Invented -**Light Weight Concrete Composite Ecosan Pans** supported by **UNICEF**, New Delhi, and **Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden.**
- Designed and developed Squatting type Composite **Micro concrete Pan and Prefab toilet.**
- Design and development of a **kitchen waste biogas plant** for community/ household and improve cooking stove

Energy Environment & Development Society (eeds) & free lance

Duration: June 08- till date

- Guiding and managing overall operations of Energy Environment & Development Society- A state level resource agency based in MP as “Executive Director”
- Conducted assignments individually for various agencies / NGOs in the field of WATSAN and capacity building
- Technical consultant to the Bharat Scouts & Guides MP and Jilla Panchayat Guna for model school toilets
- Construction agency for Bharat Scouts & Guides MP and Jilla Panchayat Guna for model school toilets
- Project development- to pilot a model for five gram panchayats on livelihood through agril enterprises and climate change adoption
- Working on the development of the concept of Material production and service marts for building, energy, water and sanitation material - Enabling Decentralized service & Production at Community Level“

- Bonafide 'PROJECT FACILITATOR - CUM- EVALUATOR OF CAPART- Council' For Advancement Of People's Action And Rural Technology (Under The Aegis Of Ministry Of Rural Development Government Of India.

United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi, India **Duration:** May 2006 to May 2008

Project Officer (Public Private Community Partnership-PPCP)

Responsible for overall management Public Private Community Partnership initiative which was a project on localizing MDGs etc. based on PPCP model with the partners i.e. Governments, Corporate, NGOs and Panchayats.

Highlights:

- Conceived, designed and piloted the PPCP model in 3 states with state and districts and lead the Programme at the national level
- Created enabling environment at national and state level, facilitate policy formulation, framework / guideline for preparation of district PPCP plan, institutional mechanism and demo in one sector. Also developed partnerships network and capacity building packages for stakeholders including IEC material, case studies etc.
- Direct filed support extended for pilot of model under Confederation of Indian Industries-CII-UNDP initiative at district Dungarpur (Rajasthan)
- Assisted the team engaged in formulation of model strategy for the PPCP initiated in the new country Programme for 2008-2012.

United Nations Children fund (MP & Chhattisgarh) Bhopal, India

Duration: Jan 05 to Oct 05

Senior State Consultant (Water and Environmental Sanitation Programme)

- To assist state efforts aimed at accelerating implementation of the Total Sanitation Campaign and Swjaldhara programme by providing technical inputs for designing, planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of hygiene and sanitation promotion interventions

Highlights:

- Policy advocacy and assistance in piloting the project with NGO partners for demo of WSP in accordance to WHO guidelines for Water quality monitoring and surveillance edition in two district of M.P.
- Development of manual, training and IEC material on drinking water
- Published international paper
- Develop network of civil societies and experts on the issue

UNICEF/Public Health Engineering Department, Chhattisgarh, Raipur, India

Duration: June 04 to Jan 05

State Consultant (Public Health)

Supported Public health Department (a state nodal department) for accelerating implementation of the Total Sanitation Campaign Programme and Swjaaldhara for "National Rajiv Gandhai drinking water mission".

Highlights:

- Major contribution in development of supply mechanism and institutional system to accelerate the TSC and Swjaldhara implementation in the state
- Development of Pilots for Water safety Plan, integrated water quality management and Mother Rural Sanitary Marts
- Organization of National level workshops on the theme
- Representation of National level reviews and monitoring
- Training and IEC support for the functionaries

Energy Environment & Development Society, Bhopal, India

Duration: June 98 to Jan 04 and Oct 05 to April 06

Executive Director

As a head of the organization overall management of EEDS including providing technical support, implementation of projects, networking and advocacy

Highlights:

- NGO SCHOOL- Conceptualize designed and establishes the capacity building institute for development workers and civil societies known as NGO-School-organizing various courses in-house and field training in MP, Chhatisgarh, and HP etc. in collaboration with EDP cell, University of Technology Bhopal. (M.P)
- Started NOG secretariat to support civil society groups for organizational development and capacity building
- Established EEDS as one of the reputed organization in the state
- Design capacity building Packages for NGOs, field functionaries PRIs & various stake holders on WATSAN.

Action for food production- A National level NGO, Aligarh (UP) India

Duration: March 94 to Jan 98

Project Manager

- Head of national level center for action research and training for innovating technologies in rural development, agriculture and livestock (Dairy, Poultry, Goatary). The center have 350 Acre campus training Facilities , livelihood division , renewable energy park ,water and sanitation park, land reclamation units ,fisheries and dairy farm Agro-Forestry , and IEC material development unit

Highlights:

- Represented organization at national/ international level for technology development in the field of water & solid waste management
- Members of the team which developed a popular low cost biogas plant “DEENBANDHU” model under the CIDA, SDC, and EZE support. So far more than 5 lacs plats are constructed by the government.
- More than 25 international and 122 national training and 10 excursions for international groups wee organised under my leadership
- Supported a network of 80 NGOs through AFPRO-CHF biogas Network from different parts of country

Action for food production- AFPRO Hydrabad & Coimbtore

Duration: March 91 to May 98

Specialist

Technical support to civil societies/NGOS in southern region (Andhra Pradesh Tamilnadu, some part of Karnataka, Kerla and Maharashtra) in project planning, supervision of implementation, evaluation and monitoring including networking in field of WATSAN, NRM, renewable energy and technology

Highlight:

- Coordination with national and international agencies like CIDA,ICEF,EZE, German Agro Action, Action aid, Water aid and UN organisations and various government departments.
- Organised more than 110 training programme, prepared 40 proposals and provided extensive field support (average field 100 days /year)
- Handled AFPRO-CHF biogas Network supported by CIDA

M.P. State Agro Industry Ltd. (A Govt. of MP Undertaking), Bhopal

Duration: Oct 85 to Jan 91

District Manager (district Datia and Gwalior)

As a head of the district unit was responsible for overall administration of organisation in the district with administration, finance, technical support and programme delivery. I was also responsible for preparation of schemes, cases for subsidy, orientation, site inspection etc.

Highlight:

- Lead the teams in the areas of agriculture & rural development, renewable energy, water and sanitation to implement the various schemes and also disbursed subsidies in close coordination with district administration and line departments
- Managed district unit with administrative and financial supervision with a team of 20 staff members
- Close coordination with different private parties /companies /NGOs marketing product in agriculture and rural area

M.P. State Agro Industry Ltd. (A Govt. MP Undertaking), Bhopal

Duration: Aug 87 to Jan 91

Workshop Engineer (Sagar Region)

- As a unit head I was responsible to provide technical back to 10 district units by sales and fabrication work of agricultural implements, water, sanitation and other Equipment. Custom Hiring, agro processing and promotional activities.

Highlights:

- Directly involved in procurement and other financial and administrative tasks
- Field construction of Biogas plants, waste disposal units, water harvesting structure, low cost latrines, and work shed

Government Polytechnic, Khurai (M.P.)

Duration:

Oct 87 to Jan 91

Lecturer (Part-time)

In a Post Diploma Course in Rural Management I have extended my services for teaching Agriculture, Rural Management, Water & Sanitation and Rural Energy. Conducted trainings and other related activities

2. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS :

- I. **Master of Technology** in **Energy Engineering** - renewable and non renewable Sources of Energy- with first class and distinction from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal- (a Deemed to be University) 1999 - 2002
- II. **Post Graduate Diploma** in **Environment Management And Sustainable Development** with first division marks from Barkutalah University, Bhopal in 1999-2000
- III. **Bachelor of Technology** in **Agricultural Engineering** with first division marks from J N K V V Jabalpur (MP) in 1985 with 72.26 % marks. Main subjects - Soil & Water Conservation, Rural Technology, Agriculture, Dairy, Renewable Energy, rural electrification
- IV. **Higher Secondary** with first division marks from M.P. Board of Secondary Education Bhopal in 1980, main subjects Physics, Chemistry, Math, English and Hindi with 70.25 % marks

3. OTHER ACOMPLISHMENTS:

- Innovations in the field of Sanitation Marketing and alternate approaches
- State level consultation for Aganwadi & SSHE complex design.
- Facilitate work including demo construction of School Sanitation and Hygiene Complex.
- A new approach to involve PRI is developed on development project.
- Develop Status Report on Rural Marts in Chhattisgarh.
- Draft a policy document for effective implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign and its convergence with other schemes through Implementation Support & technical Monitoring cell (effective speedy implementation of Hardware components)
- Develop an innovative concept for sustainable supply mechanism in local area known as Mother Rural product Mart-MRPM (approved by State Government)
- Developed MIS / Formats for technical monitoring.
- Developed Post Card Information System of Monitoring of SSHE Programme.
- Developed presentations on different programme of NRM and TSC and IEC material in local language.
- Developed presentations on QCRA-Fluoride
- Trained NGOs and other Government Staff at Jhabua and Dhar on Conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal for various development themes.
- Developed training material and survey tools and supervise for fluoride in Jhabua through NGOs and Government counterparts.
- Assist in formation of WES-NET-a network of Water and sanitation Organization /Institutions of M.P.
- Develop QCRA tool for Arsenic and Field tested the tool. Identified NGO partner at Chhattisgarh.
- Planned and design Water Reuse Systems at district education training Institution at Sehore.
- Involved in the planning of WATSAN technology park at Bhopal
- Develop new / alternate design for Hand washing system for school.

- Mobilize state government to adopt innovative approach for implementation of SSHE and household latrines.
- Design and developed a new Sanitary Pan using Micro-Concrete material.
- Designed and Developed a Model RSM with Micro-concrete pan production unit An Integrated Program on rural energy for the villages adopted by JNKVV Jabalpur.
- Designed and Developed Khurai Agro Seed cum Fertilizer Drill (Duffan, Tiffan)- MP State Agro Industries Ltd. fabricated and distributed more than 15000 nos. in one year for the farmers
- Design & Development of “ AAP Biogas Indicator.” a low cost instrument indicate the gas availability in the biogas plant
- Establish Institution and Development of network of organizations/ Civil Societies
- Developed concept of NGO Secretariat - All support under one roof

Video documentation/ films:

- Video film on construction and low cost Micro-Concrete sanitary Pan
- How to break ice –Water and Sanitation
- Video film on Biogas Technology in India
- Slide and Tape -Deen Bandhu Biogas stepwise construction
- Slide and tape program on Biogas technology and different rural technologies
- Video film on Hydra Water Lifting Pump-As Non Conventional source of Energy
- Watershed program - (Ice breaking) Display material
- Strategic approach for decentralized waste management

Software Package Designed:

- For Waste management including Hospital Waste
- Biogas Plant design.
- Display package on story board for Water and Sanitation and Appropriate Technology
- Development of a follow-up and monitoring system for Natural Resource management program through people’s participation
- Innovative presentation for the participatory approach involving local groups in micro-planning and development program of rural development n (tribes effected) protected area of MP
- Package for the Project design and development for the Consultants and small NGO’s

Publication:

- Co-author international paper on Water Safety plan in Jhabua
- Co-author of the manual on Integrated flurosis management published by National Environment Engineering Research institute ,Nagpur, India
- IEC material on Sanitation
- Paper presented in an International Seminar on Socio-economic development of rural women through non conventional sources of energy
- The renewable sources of energy - Presented in the International conference on Power.
- A case Study on Rice Husk Based power plant Paper presented in The International conference.
- Article published in the Science –Tech on renewable energy and sanitation

- Paper presented in an International Seminar on “ A Water Lifting Device for Sustainable development HYDRAM (Non conventional source if Energy)”
- Manual for field functionaries to implement Water and Sanitation Programme supported by DFID.
- Training Material for Entrepreneurship development in New & Renewable Energy Technology (USAID IREDA / APPC)
- Training material on waste management technologies for Engineers at ARTEFACT, Germany.
- Telgu version of the lecture noted on Biogas Technology (Translation done by Mr. Krupa Verma, Action Coop)
- Program Guide for the students of Third World Center, University of Nymegen. The Netherlands (Social. Science Excursion).
- Base line survey for the planning of Integrated Watershed Development program.
- Trial & Testing of Shramik Bandhu Biogas plant programme.
- Experiences of land reclamation programme at AAP Aligarh.
- An overview of AFPRO/CHF Biogas Programme.
- AFPRO Aligarh Project - Workers participatory management
- Conceptualize and developed more than 50 project proposals for Grass-root NGO to be submitted to various funding agencies.

4. TRAININGS /WORKSHOP ATTENDED & CONDUCTED:

- Co-ordinate /conducted a workshop on appropriate technology for Participants of 12 countries organised by ARTES, University of Arts & Science Flensburg, Germany (June 22-26,1992)- International workshop
- Supervise work of construction of Deenbandhu Biogas Plant for the **ARTEFACT, Germany International workshop**
- Documentation of construction process of Deenbandhu Biogas Plant for dissemination of technology for training & Post -graduate students in appropriate technology International workshop
- Excursion visit of Social science students of the **THIRD WORLD CENTRE, University of Nymegen, The Netherlands** from 22 Aug. to 4 Sept.1993 and 1994 in Andhra Pradesh.
- Social science excursion for the students of Third word centre to LATUR earth quake affected area
- Excursion programme for the Canadian students deputed by Canadian hunger foundation in the month of Jan 1995
- Training for the senior programme officer, Social Funds Government of EGYPT
- Workshop / meeting of **GREECA** attended by the representative of Denmark, Germany and India
- Paper presented in the International Seminar Conducted by Inter National network for sustainable energy -Infor SE on sustainable energy for socio-economic development for central Asia region at New Delhi from 18-20 May 1994
- Brainstorming workshop on Millennium Development Goals-MDGs (organised as Coordinator) at Udaipur 21 Sept 06
- UN system staff orientation Programme (June 2006)
- State workshop on Design and development of School Sanitation organised by UNICEF and PHED at Raipur Chattisgarh. Sept 2004
- National review on UNICEF Programme by Government India at Kolkata Aug 2004
Orientation programme on State orientation on Total Sanitation Campaign of M.P for

District collectors and policy makers UNICEF activities in Chattisgarh in Water and Environmental sanitation. May 2004 (Raipur)

- Peer review workshop on Water Recycling Approaches at NEERI Nagpur (June 2006) District level orientation programme for NGOs, field functionaries of district and Officials at Jagdalpur, Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon in Oct 2004
- Orientation programme on Ecological Sanitation by Sweden Development Agency and UNICEF at Trichinapally.
- Mason /Supervisor training programme on Low cost sanitation for district teams at Rajnandgaon.
- Mason /supervisors/ sub Engineers programme on Water and Environmental sanitation at Jagdalpur November 2004.
- Training on Water recycling at Sehore Sept 2005
- Water Recycling and fluoride mitigation training programme at Jhabua

Trainings and workshops related to other sector :

- Lift irrigation device for sustainable development - HYDRAM
- Socio-economic Development of Women and Biogas programme in A.P. and Karnataka (AFPRO /CHF Biogas network)
- Training on Biogas technology for supervisors at CAT, Nagercoil Tamil Nadu (1990)
- Training on Biogas technology for extension workers /supervisors at AFPRO Aligarh Project, Aligarh (Dec.1991)
- Training on Smokeless Chulha construction & maintenance at Nai Talim Samiti, Sevagram Wardha (November 1991)
- Training on Biogas technology for supervisors at VASORD, Hyderabad (October 1991)
- Training on the construction of Deen Bandhu Biogas Plant for the master mesons of Jila Parishad, Raichur Government of Karnataka (August 1991)
- Training on Deen Bandhu Biogas Plant for the Engineers /Agriculture Officers / Supervisor's at Jila Parishad Raichur, Government of Karnataka (May 1992)
- Training on Biogas technology at SEDS, Anantapur (AP) September 1992
- Training on Integrated Watershed Management for Engineers /Planners at CRIDA (ICAR), Hyderabad December 1992
- Training on watershed management for supervisors at Nai Talim Samiti, Wardha, Maharashtra (October 1992)
- Training programme conducted by Regional Biogas Research & Training Centre (MNES), Govt. of India APAU, Hyderabad
- National Orientation Programme on rural development for Engineers /Managers / Bankers organized AP government
- Entrepreneurship development in New & Renewable Energy Technologies conducted by USAID & IREDA at Hyderabad
- Training on Biogas Slurry management and composing method from 7 - 11 Sept.1993 at RUSHA VELLOR (Tamilnadu)
- Training on watershed development at SALT Hyderabad Nov.93
- Orientation course for integrated watershed development programme at PEACE Hyderabad October 93
- Participatory rural Appraisal at HASS, Nalkonda (AP) April 92.
- Orientation to the local community on watershed development project community participation in watershed development, Nai Tamil Samiti Wardha
- Training on dry land horticulture from 25 to 30 Sept. 93 at Chodaveram Vizag (A.P.)
- Training on Integrated Watershed management at Satyodayam from 10-19 Jan.1994

- Training on watershed management for the beginners at Joypor district Koraput organised by SEDP (4-7 Aug 94)sponsored by ODEF
- One day orientation course (28 July 1994) on Hydram pumps at Bhopal. (M.P.) for Action Aid group
- Training on Entrepreneurship development in the field of non conventional energy for rural youth (3 weeks Conducted by Agricultural University, Hyderabad)
- Exposure visit on Hydram for Project staff of OXFAM India Trust supported projects 23 Sept.1994.
- One day Exposure on Hydram for Project staff of ODAF (EZE Support Group) supported project 24 Sept.1994.
- Training on sustainable agriculture and Biogas slurry use for NGO's from 9-13 Jan 1995 at Aligarh
- Training of live stock bare foot technicians in March 1995
- Training on HRD Social, Gender issues, project planning and documentation from 25 Feb to March. 4 , 95

5. OTHER DETAILS:

- Computer package used QPRO, DBASE, Windows 2001 (Excel, MS office, Internet etc.)
- Professional membership of Solar Energy Society of India (life Member), Water and Sanitation knowledge network, Solution Exchange –a UN initiate for knowledge network and member of a number of Civil Society groups.
- Fluency in Languages English and Hindi



(Ajit K Saxena)

Curriculum Vita

1. **Family name:** Zhang
2. **First names:** Lei
3. **Date of birth:** Nov. 19, 1970
4. **Nationality:** Chinese

5. **Education:**

Institution (Date from - Date to)	Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained:
1988 – 1992: Shanghai Normal University in China	BA in English literature and linguistics
1996 – 1998: Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands	Master in Environmental Science, Environmental Management Subject Supervisor: Prof. Arthur P.J. Mol
1998 – 2002: Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands	PhD in Environmental Science, Environmental Management Subject Title of Dissertation: “Ecologizing Industrialisation in Chinese Small Towns: Environmental Management Strategy Towards TVIEs” Supervisor: Prof. Arthur P.J. Mol, Prof. Rusong Wang

Professional trainings

- 1995 Three months advanced training course on International Project Management by MDF at Ede, The Netherlands, focusing on Logic Framework and Objective-oriented Project Planning approaches
- 1999 International seminar and training on ISO 14000 by ESCAP, Beijing
- 2003 Summer course Improving Teacher Effectiveness at Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Summer course Writing and Presenting Scientific Paper at Wageningen University, The Netherlands
One day training on project acquisition for EU funding at Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- 2007 Three days course “Professional in Supervision of PhD Students”, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- 2007-2008 International Advisory Trial course at MDF for certification, Ede, The Netherlands. Certificate as international advisor obtained in July, 2008

6. **Language skills:** Indicate competence on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 - excellent; 5 - basic)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Chinese	1	1	1
English	1	1	1

7. **Membership of professional bodies:**

Director, Ecopolis Education and Training Department, International Council on Ecopolis Development (INTEcopolis)

8. **Other skills:** (e.g. Computer literacy, etc.)
- Workshop mediation
 - Computer skills: office

Curriculum vitae

9. Present position:

- Associate professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Renmin University of China, Beijing, since June 2009
- Assistant professor, Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research Center (one day per week time input since 2007)

10. Key qualifications:

- **Education and research on environmental policies and management in transitional economies:** teaching “environmental policy evaluation”, “environment and society” and “environmental politics of superpowers” courses at Wageningen University and Qingdao Agricultural University in China. Researches in China covering topics of environmental management of rural industries, sustainable development of small towns, environmental impact of rural land institutions, governmental environmental auditing, sustainability of land conversion program, industrial environmental governance, environmental state reform and environmental risk management in China.
- **Specialist on China environmental management and policies:** worked as a specialist in a UNDP project on sustainable development of small towns in 1997, in China Agenda 21 Administration Center from 1998 to 2000.
- **International project acquisition, co-ordination and management:** worked as the coordinator in the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University for its cooperation projects in China since 2002.
- **International advisor on project and organizational development:** the owner of China Flows Consult company from 2003 to 2004, mainly advised Dutch and Chinese companies for marketing and cooperation; trained to be certified international advisor at the Management Development Foundation in The Netherlands, including competencies for project acquisition, formulation, management and follow up, ID/OS framework for institutional development and organizational strengthening.
- **Good networks with Chinese governmental organizations:** via research and consulting activities, established extensive network with Chinese universities, research institutes and governmental organizations.
- **Experience with Chinese environmental NGOs:** such as WASTE in the Netherlands, Green Peace and Global Village in China.

11. Professional experience

Date from - Date to	Location	Organization	Position	Description
Since 06-2009	Beijing	School of Environment and Natural Resources, Renmin University of China	<i>Associate professor</i>	<p>Education tasks: teach courses on “Environmental Policy Evaluation”, “Environment and Society”</p> <p>Research: conduct researches on Chinese environmental issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participate in the development of project proposal on “Evaluation of sustainable development of Taihu Watershed”, part of national program on water protection - responsible for project “Evaluation of China’s policy pertaining to eco-environmental protection in Western China” - responsible for project “Evaluation of Huainan Energy and Resources Efficiency”, funded by GTZ - worked as institutional specialist for project “PES scheme in Min River basin, Fujian province”, funded by Asian Development Bank
Since 06-2006	The Netherlands	Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre	<i>Assistant professor</i>	<p>Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands</p> <p>In addition to the tasks mentioned below since 2002:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of and teaching a PhD course on “Environmental Politics of Super Powers: China and U.S.A. - Coordination and daily supervisor of PhD students in Project “Environmental Auditing towards Governments”, jointly funded by KNAW and the Chinese Academy of Sciences - Projects developments in China: initiated and developed a joint-research project on Risk Management in China (in process), planned to submit to KNAW in May 2008 for funding. The Chinese partner is the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Science - Researcher in KNAW-MOST funded programme on Sustainable Utilization of Rural Resources in China, 2008-2012, conducted a research on the sustainability of the Chinese land conversion program in Ningxia Region and published a SSCI article on it - Initiation and development of Agreement between Wageningen University and Renmin University in Beijing for exchange of students and research cooperation - Design and conduct research on the “role of farmer cooperatives in rural environmental and health management” - Participate in EU-funded project on “Renewable energy policy in China”.

Curriculum vitae

2006	Uzbekistan	Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration	<i>Teacher</i>	One week teaching on Environmental Policy course at Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, Uzbekistan
2005	Thailand	National Research Center for Environmental and Hazardous Waste Management	<i>Teacher</i>	One week teaching on Environmental Policy course at the National Research Centre for Environmental and Hazardous Waste Management, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
2002 to 06-2006	The Netherlands	Wageningen University and Research Centre	<i>Lecturer and post-doc researcher</i>	<p>Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teaching on Environmental Policy Evaluation course to international master students - Supervising the thesis work of the international master students - Research project identification, formulation and promotion in China - Coordination for the Joint PhD Program Environmental Studies Wageningen University-Tsinghua University - Study advisor for international master students in Environmental Sciences in Wageningen - Project manager for joint-research with the Chinese Academy of Sciences “Environmental Auditing towards Governments”, funded by KNAW and Chinese Academy of Sciences - Project formulation and application for Asia Facility funding on “Eco-labelling of Agro-food products” (not selected) - Post-doc researcher in Project “Sustainable Resource Use in Rural China: Institutions, Policies and Markets”, funded by KNAW - Representative of Wageningen University in China for the promotion of MSc programs
1998-2002	China and the Netherlands	Wageningen University and Research Centre	<i>Ph.D candidate and researcher</i>	<p>Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted research on ‘Ecologising Industrialisation in Chinese Small Towns’, funded by KNAW - Completion of the Ph.D dissertation - Involved in the formulation of project proposal on ‘China Land Property Rights and Sustainable Use of Land (LARISDE)’ and the project officer of the project, funded by INREF
1998-2000	China	China Centre for Environmentally Sound Technology Transfer (CESTT), Administration	<i>Environmental management specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on the environmental management aspects of the relevant projects implemented by CESTT - Internal and external communication - Project co-ordination and policy studies - Being responsible for SMEs/TVEs related projects

Curriculum vitae

		Centre for China Agenda 21 (ACCA21)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainly worked for UNIDO funded Eco-investment Promotion Program in Taihu Basin, as CESTT expert for eco-investment project evaluation - Project Identification Mission on SMEs Process Instrumentation in Anhui Province, which was funded by the Royal Embassy of The Netherlands, as CESTT expert - UNDP funded Project on Investment Promotion for Cleaner Production in Benxi, as CESTT expert - AIT Project on SMEs, as CESTT expert - Research Project on 'Ecologizing Industrialisation in Chinese Small Towns', which was funded by The Dutch Academy of Sciences and the Ministry for Science and Technology of China.
1997	China	UNDP	National environmental expert	National environmental expert for UNDP Project on Capacity Building for Sustainable Town Development in China
1993 – 1996	China	Ningxia Agricultural Department	Project management and English-Chinese translation officer	<p>EU/WFP Project Management Office,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project co-ordination and external communication - English-Chinese translation and interpretation - Project documentation and reports writing - Mainly worked for UN WFP Project 4071 on Poverty Alleviation and Environmental Rehabilitation in Three Rural Upland Counties of Ningxia Hui Region, and EU-Ningxia Land Reclamation Project
1992 – 1993	China	Ningxia Agricultural School	English teacher	Teaching of English Educational administration in the Dean's Office,

12. Other relevant information (eg, Publications)

Publications:

Dissertations:

1. **Zhang, L.** (1998), "Challenges and Opportunities: A Study On Environmental Management of TVEs in China", MSc thesis, Department of Environmental Sociology, Wageningen University Publication, The Netherlands.
2. **Zhang, L.** (2002), "Ecologizing Industrialization In Chinese Small Towns", Ph.D dissertation, Wageningen University Publication, The Netherlands

Journal articles:

1. **Zhang, L.** (2001), "The Potential Power of ISO 14001 in Chinese Small Towns", *J. Greener Management International*, Issue 33, 81-96, Spring 2001, Greenleaf Publishing, UK
2. Shi, H. and **L. Zhang** (2006), " China's environmental governance of rapid industrialization", in: Special Issue "Environmental Governance in China", *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 15, No.2, 272-293, April 2006 (SSCI)
3. **Zhang, L.**, A.P.J. Mol and D. Sonnenfeld (2007), "The Interpretation of Ecological Modernization in China", *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 659-668, August 2007 (SSCI).
4. **Zhang, L.** and Q. Tu (2008), "Payment for environmental services: SLCP implementation in Ningxia region, China", *J. China & World Economy*, Vol. 16, No.2, Mar-Apr. 2008, Blackwell Publishing, p66-81 (SSCI)
5. Han J.Y., Arthur P.J. Mol, Yonglong Lu, **Lei Zhang** (2008), Small-scale bioenergy projects in rural China: Lessons to be learnt. In: *Energy Policy*, 2008, 36 (6), 2154-2162, Elsevier (SSCI).
6. He, G.Z., Y.L. Lu and **L.Zhang** (2009), "Risk management: lessons learned from the snow crisis in China", in: *China Environment Series 2008/2009*, by China Environment Forum at Washington, DC , Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, P143-150.
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/park_schiller_baumgartner_he_commentary_ces10.pdf
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9. Ren, J.M., **L. Zhang**, R.S. Wang (2010), "Measuring the Sustainability of Policy Scenarios: Emergy-based SEA of the Chinese Paper Industry", *Ecological Complexity*, No.7, 2010, p156-161 (SCI).
10. **Zhang, L.**, A.P.J. Mol, G.Z.He, Y.L. Lu (2010), An implementation assessment of China's environmental information disclosure decree, *Journal of Environmental Sciences*, Vol.22 , No.10, p1649-1656 (SCI)

11. **Zhang, L.** (2010) , “Watershed eco-system protection and policy evaluation”, China Water Resources (Chinese key journal), 2010.1, No.643, 62-64 (in Chinese). 张磊, 2010, “让政策评估为流域水生态环境保护保驾护航”, 中国水利(中文核心期刊), 2010.1, 总第 643 期, 62-64 页
12. **Zhang, L.** et al., 2010, “Farmer cooperatives: an important partners in rural environmental governance”, Journal of Yunnan Normal University (Chinese key journal), No. 8, 2010. 张磊, 等 (2010), “农民专业合作社在农村环境治理新格局中的角色”, 云南师范大学学报, No.8, 2010
13. He, G.Z., **L. Zhang**, Yonglong LU, A.P.J. Mol, 2011, Managing major chemical accidents in China: towards effective risk information, in: Journal of Hazardous Materials, 187, p171-181 (SCI)
14. Tu, Q., A. Mol, **L. Zhang**, R. Ruben, How do trust and property security influence household's contribution to public goods?, China Economic Review (2011), doi:10.1016/j.chieco.2011.07.011 (SSCI: 0.947)
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16. He, G.Z., **L. Zhang**, Yonglong LU, A.P.J. Mol, 2011, Profiling the environmental risk management of Chinese environmental agencies, submitted to Frontiers of Environmental Science and Engineering in China (under review)
17. He, G.Z., Y.L. LU, **L. Zhang** , A.P.J. Mol, Y. Feng, 2011, Evaluation of the Chinese governmental environmental information disclosure implementation, in: Environmental Science (Chinese), 32:11. 贺桂珍, 吕永龙, **张磊**, Arthur P.J. Mol, 冯嫣, 2011, 中国政府环境信息公开实施效果评价. 环境科学, 32 卷 11 期。
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19. **Zhang L.**, He G.Z., Mol A.P.J., 2011, Public Knowledge on Environmental Risk and Risk Management in China: A Survey on University Students in Beijing (submitted to China Quarterly).
20. **Zhang L.**, Luo Y.X., Yu, Y.X., 2011, Potential of Farmer Cooperatives in Emerging Environmental Governance in rural China: the case of Sichuan province (draft)
21. Zhu Y., **Zhang L.**, 2011, Supermarkets networks: emerging environmental infrastructure, in: Environmental Protection, Issue 8 of 2011, Vol. 466, p33-34, China environmental sciences press. 朱源, 张磊, 2011, 连锁超市: 新兴环境基础设施, 环境保护, 8:466, p33-34.

ANNEX B: BASIC QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS TO ASK FOR EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY FIELD HEARINGS

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS

Purpose of Field Hearings

1. to continue the global dialogue on the human future, drawing in the ideas of all people (not only highly educated people, business people, or decision-makers)
2. to reach and amplify local voices in order to create opportunities for all people to say what “sustainable societies” should mean
3. to channel the input of people into the Rio+20 Earth Summit process
4. to ensure that the subject of equity and equality is addressed in the Rio+20 Earth Summit process

Types of Questions

These draft questions below include both specific questions and open-ended questions. The specific questions limit the answers received because they frame the issues in one particular way. However, they will help us gain solid information on what people perceive as the main problems, causes, solutions and goals for their community and nation. The open-ended questions will give people a chance to think more creatively and come up with their own way of framing the issues.

INTERVIEW SCRIPT & QUESTIONS

Introduction & Questions

The purpose of Field Hearings is to continue the global dialogue on the human future by reaching local voices from people of diverse communities and amplifying their voices to global audiences in the Rio+20 Earth Summit process, and to ensure that the subject of equity and equality is addressed.

I. Demographics

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS: Please note down (1) the general age category and (2) the economic sector of your interviewees.

II. Assess Trends

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS: For questions 1 – 10, you may mark down their answers on a 5-point scale if you wish, but do not need to read them the scale.

- 1—much better or increasing
- 2—somewhat better or increasing
- 3—no change or unclear
- 4—somewhat worse or decreasing
- 5—much worse or decreasing

COMPARED TO FIVE YEARS AGO:

1. Are the following things getting better or worse for you, your family and your community?
health?
environment?
social relationships?
political situation?
economic situation?
2. Are the lives of children and young adults in your family and community likely to be better or worse than the lives of adults over 50 have been?
3. Is the level of happiness for you, your family and your community increasing? or decreasing?
4. Is the level of inequality between rich and poor individuals in your community increasing? or decreasing?
5. Is the position of women in your community getting better? or worse?
6. Is there more, or less, conflict between groups of people in your community? in your nation?
7. Is the weather or environment surrounding your community getting better? or worse?
8. In general, is the health of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?
9. In general, are the economic circumstances of people in your family and your community getting better? or worse?

III. Speculate About Causes

What do you think are the main underlying factors causing the problems faced by your family and community? What do you think are the main reasons causing these things (identified in Section II above) that are getting worse?

IV. Changes Needed for Sustainable Societies

“Sustainable Societies” are societies that meet people’s needs without harming the communities and environment over the long term. “Sustainable Development” means improving the circumstances and capabilities of poor nations without harming the communities and environment over the long term.

FOR EACH OF THE ITEMS BELOW:

Do you think it is important to your family and community in moving towards sustainability?
What would you want to see happen?

- a. developing new technologies and materials that are less harmful to the environment?
- b. protecting resources from pollution, overuse, or destruction--water? forests? agricultural land? grazing land? natural areas? wild animals?
- c. new energy sources that do not harm the environment?
- d. other environmental protection?
- e. ensuring people do not use more than they need?
- f. ensuring jobs for everyone?
- g. ensuring access to resources (water, energy, etc.) for everyone?
- h. ensuring health care for everyone?
- i. ensuring education for everyone?
- j. meeting other human needs?
- k. relationships between men and women?
- l. relationships between different ethnic groups of people?
- m. relationships between rich and poor people in your community and society?
- n. relationships between rich and poor nations?
- o. other relationships?
- p. influence of government officials and political leaders?
- q. influence of large businesses and companies?
- r. influence of outside companies? cultures? nations?
- s. other influences?

SECTION V: INEQUALITY

1. Do you feel deprived or privileged in your society?
2. What are the deprived communities in your society?
3. What are the privileged communities in your society?
4. What benefits do privileged communities enjoy?
5. What problems do deprived communities experience?
6. Do you have access to resources such as water, agricultural or grazing lands, health services, sanitation, education, and work opportunities?
7. Do you have access to the formal and informal decision-making processes in your community (such as...)?

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS: GIVE EXAMPLES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SUCH AS LOCAL LAND RIGHTS COMMITTEES; IRRIGATION COMMITTEES; RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, etc)

8. What do you see as the causes for these differences in wealth and influence in your community?
9. Do you think these differences in wealth and influence are helpful or harmful in your community?
10. What do you think could be done to reduce these differences in wealth and influence?

VI. Articulate Wishes for the Future

In the future, if your family and community had the resources, what would you do to create a better situation for...

- a. children?
- b. women?
- c. men?
- d. health?
- e. education?
- f. poor people?
- g. farmers?
- h. other businesses?
- i. government and political leadership?
- j. water, land and forest resources?
- k. the environment?
- l. other aspects of life?

ENDING REMARKS

Thank you very much for being willing to share your ideas with us. We will take all these ideas and create a report about what people around the world told us, and take it to the Rio+20 Earth Summit in Brazil next summer.

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