

## COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

This activity enables participants to identify and discuss the built and natural assets in their village and to explore the different ways women and men relate to their environment. For the researcher, community asset mapping provides gender and age disaggregated data and surfaces gendered cultural and community practices.

**TIME NEEDED** At least 1 hour

### RUNNING THE ACTIVITY

1. Divided into four groups (young women, older women, young men, older men) and give each group a large piece of paper or two large papers taped together and coloured marker pens.
2. Draw an example asset map (using an example from a very different area), and explain each asset category as part of the process— natural, e.g. rivers, mountains; built, e.g. roads, tracks, hamlets, faith-based e.g. churches, services e.g. schools, aid post; business, e.g. trade stores, main markets, informal markets, plantations, smallholder farms. Ask each group to draw their own map of their community. Display the maps on a wall or floor and ask people to do a ‘walk and talk’ in small groups to look at what was similar and what was different in the maps. The facilitator can then lead a large group discussion of ‘what was interesting’, clarify details and draw out points of gender or age differences.



### SPECIAL TIPS

The leader can conclude this activity by explaining asset-based community development and the importance of building on community strengths and assets. S/he can note the importance of each of the assets and how together they can make a ‘rich’ community for all.

Communities can also look at where assets are needed, and how that might be realistically be achieved, for example planning for a bank agent not a bank building.