

BLM 4.1 – Community Mapping Scenario (Women)

Women of the Village

Welcome to all of the women of the village! CHF will be working in your community to enable you to gain access to the resources you need to improve your standard of living. The first step is for you as a community to determine what resources you have and map out where they are located.

Below is a description of your village and the resources you use or have access to in your daily lives as women. Read the description and complete Tasks 1 and 2.

Village Description

There are 10 families in the village and each family has a house. There are three families that you consider middle class; they have small houses but they have soil that is good for growing crops. There are five families that you consider very poor; they have small houses and soil that is very poor. There are two families that you consider rich; they have cows and a small fenced-in area beside the home where the cows are kept, in addition to a house and land with fertile soil.

Each family has a small vegetable garden beside the house. As a woman you are responsible to plant and tend to the garden. You use the vegetables in cooking to improve your family's nutrition.

There is a stream located three kilometres from the village. It takes you about 45 minutes to walk there to collect two buckets of water. There is a path from the centre of town to the stream. You use this water for cooking and drinking at home. There is an area of the stream where women typically gather to wash clothing and bathe.

BLM 4.1 Continued – Community Mapping Scenario (Women)

As women, you each have a small number of chickens that you look after at your home. The eggs and meat provide protein for your diet. Sometimes you sell eggs or a chicken at the market to earn money to buy things such as spices. There are four stalls at the village market: egg stall, chicken stall, crops stall and the household products stall, selling things such as spices, salt and soap.

The forest is four kilometres away from the village. You must walk there to collect wood which is used for firewood to cook meals. There is a path from the centre of the village to the forest where you often travel with other women to the forest.

There is a road that runs along the edge of the village. The road goes to the town where there are many shops and services. You have never been to the town, but you know it is a long distance and takes approximately eight hours to get there by bus.

As women of the village, your main priorities are to care for your family and prepare meals. Preparing meals includes collecting water for cooking and drinking, collecting firewood for cooking, and finding different sources of food to provide nutrition and good health for your family. As the forests continue to be cut for firewood you are forced to walk longer distances to collect wood. This takes more time and you are unable to care for your vegetable garden. Crop yields from your garden continue to decline.

Task 1: Draw a map to show where these resources are located and what your village looks like. Use your imagination to draw the map!

Task 2: As women of the village, decide on one project you would like CHF to help you implement in your village that would improve your standard of living. Describe the project, the direct benefits and the indirect benefits for yourself and the community.