

Activity mapping



To explore the different activities that women and men do each day and how these contribute to the local economy.

The tool asks participants to think about all the activities they did the day before and maps this out on cards for participants to categorise. This includes activities such as cooking breakfast, collecting water, resting, working in the fields, selling goods at the market, or participating in a community meeting.

Objectives

- Participants see that care for people and the environment is a critical part of the economy even if this is not paid work.
- Participants begin to discuss the division of labour between women and men and why some activities are more often done by women rather than men and vice versa.

Steps in the process

1. In a group discussion (can be in small groups), participants list ALL of the activities that they did yesterday.
2. Participants draw, or write if they can, one activity per card. Men and women will be given different coloured cards – for instance, men may receive green cards while women receive yellow cards.
3. The facilitator then asks: ‘Which of these activities helped you to take care of your family and friends?’

4. The participants then group these activities together including the four categories - housework, collection of water and firewood, care of children, care of adults. The facilitator places a card above these activities titled 'Care for people'
5. The facilitator then asks, 'Which of these activities helped you to take care of the natural resources that are around you?'
6. Participants then group these activities together and the facilitator places a card above these activities titled 'Care for the environment'.
7. The facilitator then asks, 'Which of these activities are paid or generate income?'
8. Participants then group these activities together and the facilitator places a card above these titled 'Paid work'.
9. 'Which activities contribute to the life of the community?'
10. Participants then group these activities together and the facilitator places a card above these titled 'social and cultural activities'.
11. 'Which activities are considered to be personal rest and leisure?'
12. Participants then group these activities together and the facilitator places a card above these titled 'rest and leisure'.

Questions for analysis

- Is there anything missing from this activities mapping?
- Does this activity mapping capture the main activities that you see in your community?
- Identify those activities that take up the most time for you.
- As women's cards and men's cards will be different colours it will be visually clear which activities men and women spend more time doing.
 - What activities do men and women do that are the same? What activities do men and women do that are different and why?
 - What activities do girls and boys participate in?
 - How much time do women and men spend on different activities?
 - Can both men and women do the care activities listed here?
 - Are there activities that are done more by younger women?
 - Are there activities that are done more by older women?
- How does the amount of money you have affect how much time you spend on care activities?
- Which of these activities do you do at the same time?

Power issues to consider

Gender: Having different colour cards for women and men will immediately show the similarities and differences between their activities. In most cases women and girls will be more involved in care work activities than men and boys. You will likely find that men have more time for paid work either as agricultural labourers, factory workers, traders etc. Many women will be involved in paid work and in unpaid work such as subsistence agriculture. Here facilitators want to show that women are involved in paid and unpaid work alongside unpaid care work.

To deepen the analysis facilitators can ask:

- What is the value of the unpaid and care activities?
- How does that impact on how we see women's and girls' contribution to the economy/community?

Age: Children and youth may have different activities than women and men as they may be in school rather than working. However, for some girls and young women their age may mean that they have to carry a heavier workload because of their low status in the household. For instance, young wives may not be able to ask their husbands to support them with their housework. Young women are also more likely to have younger children that require more care. Older women may also have to take on more care work, particularly in countries badly affected by HIV and AIDS.

Status: Widows and single women will often have more work to do than other women unless they have support at home. Widows and single women are likely to be involved in paid work or subsistence agriculture to meet their basic needs while also having to do most, if not all, of the care work at home.

Disability: People who are disabled or challenged physically and mentally and those who may be sick (due to old age or a disease) are often care responsibilities for other members of the household. This would imply increased unpaid care work for other household members and they may need to access community care and support.

Class: Some people in the community will also be able to pay for care services and goods while others will not. For instance, richer community members might be able to pay for electricity or hire domestic workers in their

households to help with the cooking and taking care of children. This will mean they spend less time on care work than poorer households.

Suggestions for use

- The process of using the activity mapping will support help participants think about and discuss power dynamics within the family, and appreciate the work that people do to care for people and the environment is a critical part of the economy, even if it is unpaid.
- If the process is rigorously recorded across time or across communities, then the evidence can be used to answer research questions, and as part of and influencing or advocacy strategy.

References

- Adapted from: [*Redistributing care work for gender equality and justice – a training curriculum*](#), ActionAid, IDS & Oxfam, June 2015.

For facilitators only

The table below shows an example of some of the different activities that might come up and how they could be categorised.

Code	Activity Category	Examples
WORK (PAID)		
1	Paid Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing wage or salary work • Working in own/family small business • Small-scale trading • Producing products for sale/market • Public waste collection
WORK (UNPAID)		
2	Care for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsistence agriculture • Livestock rearing • Recycling • Water board committee member
Care for people		
3	Collection of fuel or water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting firewood • Collecting water
4	Housework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing food/cooking • Cleaning the house • Washing clothes • Shopping for food and household products
5	Care of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding a child • Bathing and dressing a child • Playing with a child • Helping a child with school work • Accompanying a child to school or clinic • Being in charge of a child
6	Care of adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding a disabled, old or sick adult • Bathing a disabled, old or sick adult • Accompanying an adult to health clinic or any other public service • Moral support • Community work
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES		
7	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending adult education class • Doing homework
8	Social and cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socializing with friends and family • Praying • Attending a ceremony (e.g. funeral) • Attending a sports event
9	Mass media use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching television • Listening to radio • Using the internet • Reading Newspapers • Using mobile phones
10	Sleeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping • Resting in bed
11	Other self-care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating or drinking • Dressing oneself • Washing oneself • Receiving healthcare