



Green Roads for Water Training in Sudan

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Community Engagement for GR4W

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Community engagement

Key messages

- Community engagement is essential to **make full use of the opportunities for road development.**
- Community engagement **differs in the different steps of road development** (planning, design, construction and maintenance).
- **Communities can be a major force in the implementation of roads and green roads programs at scale**



Threats of Neglecting community engagement



1. **Community develops negative image towards the government**

2. **Community resist againsts road projects**

When ignored, local communities may actively resist against plans. Examples: boycott, sabotage, damage, legal action and wider protests.

3. **Creates conflicts within the community** and poor future prospects for development in affected area.

Benefits of community engagement



1. Gain better **understanding of communities' needs and aspirations** and incorporate their **local knowledge** into the green road programs
2. Community engagement **increases transparency and improves community's trust to the government and willingness to collaborate**
3. **Creates a greater sense of community ownership** which leads to the sustainability of the projects
4. Facilitates the **sharing of responsibilities**
5. **Empowers the community** because it participates in decision making

Community engagement tips

Consultation:

- In a **local language, with local content**
 - Taking into account the existing social structures
- **Consider all social identities** such as gender and age
- **Understand the overall influence of road** (open question)
- **Understand roads as more than roads:**
 - Employment opportunities (in road construction/maintenance,)
 - Capacity building opportunities (learning new skills)
 - Economic opportunities (from roadside tree planting; increased water for irrigation/livestock drinking water development of new livelihoods and local business etc.)
 - Improving the physical environment



Different Stages in community engagement



How to engage communities at each different stage of road development

Infrastructure Development Stage	Engagement through:	Infrastructure development	Infrastructure usage	Related economic opportunities	Related environmental services
Conceptualization and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government Representative interest groups Stake holder dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road alignment selection Decisions on type of contract and construction method 	Choices on supporting transport measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choices on type of economic opportunity to promote Decisions on use of road reserves Special economic zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major choices on multi-functionality Road alignment to optimize environmental functions specific to local opportunities
Design and preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community discussion Local government Participatory methods Consultation with other parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of roads and water crossing and additional measures Freeing up land for road and road reserves Community contracts Agree on interface in participation 	Design to accommodate specific transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeing up land for side activities Roadside tree planting concessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of measures and locations for road water management Consultation on location of road drainage structures Consultation on location of water harvesting structures and borrow pits
Construction of road and water infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups Local government Participatory methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community road construction groups Start up contractors Community contributions in land and labor Complaint handling mechanisms 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community concessions "Start up" contractors Training in income generating activities Additional provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and individual development of roadside water management infrastructure
Maintenance and continue care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups Local government 	Community road maintenance groups/contracting societies	Community road safety measures	Roadside tree planting	Maintenance and rebuilding of water structures part of individual responsibility



Recommended methods for community engagement



Communication campaign

To create awareness and trigger communities

- Radio campaigns
- Posters and billboards
- Awareness raising events
- Social media



Well-being Method

This method tried to understand the opportunities and issues from the life priorities of the persons directly concerned



Participatory Rural Appraisal

This method engages group discussion around mapping, preparation of time-lines, doing a transect walk and priority setting



(1) “Well-being” method

Points of Departure:

- ✓ Both parties are equal
- ✓ Well-being is the central interest
- ✓ 3 stages



(1) “Well-being” method – The 3 stages

Common human understanding

The first stage concerns the establishment of common human interest.

As humans, there are a number of areas that touch us all deeply, whatever our background: our health, our autonomy and security and the future of our children.



(1) “Well-being” method – The 3 stages



Following the common human-interest stage, more reflective questions can be asked.

These encourage light analysis of one's situation and that of others and gives a lot of mutual and often unexpected holistic insight.



(1) “Well-being” method – The 3 stages

Thematic discussions

From these two stages, one can move to topics that originally triggered the learning visit (e.g. road construction program, mobility and access and environmental effects).

One can raise these in a conversational way and see how they relate to the person’s well-being.



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

Key points:

- ✓ Social research technique used in the field
- ✓ Requires trained facilitators and substantial investments to be effective
- ✓ Aims at strengthening the analyzing and decision-making power of the affected communities
- ✓ It can be used during all phases of road design



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

Activities/Stages

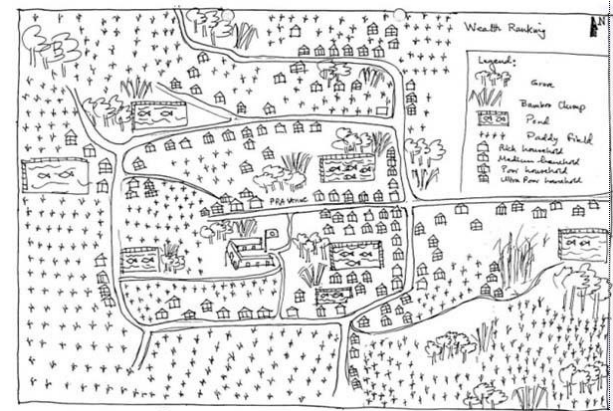
1. Mapping
2. Transect walk
3. Timeline
4. Ranking



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

1. Mapping

- **Community mapping is used to collect information from the community concerning the location of resources and land uses that might not be obvious from observation alone.**
- This may help to explain how the community views their situation and where they see opportunity and constraints.



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

2. Transect Walk

- **Transect walks are systematic walks through the project area.**
- During the walk the field worker observes, ask, listen to people, look the landscape and the local practices and at the same time he/she interacts with the community members encountered.



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

3. Timeline

- To better understand how things evolved, a timeline is constructed. It also helps to put the present in context and see how things may turn out.
- Questions can be asked on different important aspects - like the main economic activity, means of transport, population settlements and more.
- The development of these timelines helps to collectively understand the past and future trends better.



(2) Participatory rural appraisal

4. Ranking

- In the ranking or scoring exercise, community members are asked to list their priorities in terms of their water needs. It helps communities to prioritize solutions and challenges.
- It simply implies giving a score (vote) to the different discussed items and then prioritizing according to the items that got the most (or the least) votes.



Examples of community engagement at scale

Ethiopia: Community mobilization for road water harvesting through the annual national **soil and water conservation “Watershed”** programs



Examples of community engagement at scale

Nepal: Involving community groups in mountain road maintenance



Group discussion

- How is community engagement in road development and maintenance currently takes place?
- *How it affects the sustainability of road projects?*
- *How it can be improved?*



Useful resources

- Community engagement: A Resilience Perspective
<https://thewaterchannel.tv/videos/community-engagement-a-resilience-perspective/>
- Road Water Harvesting in Tigrai, Ethiopia
<https://thewaterchannel.tv/videos/road-water-harvesting-in-tigrai-ethiopia/>





Thank you!

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