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Magee Example Project OL 343 Assignment 5
Online Learning: OL 343 Adapting to Climate Change: The Community Focus
Center for Sustainable Development: <http://www.csd-i.org/>

Part One. Prioritize the results of the workshop

A. Historical Timeline: is the community seeing a change in climate?

The most important timeline changes which they have seen in recent history (10/20/30 years back) are droughts which led to famine and excessive rainfall which led to floods.

The workshop participants comprised people of different age and therefore they had different experiences in hazards over the time period. When they were asked to share their experiences in the difference between today's hazards and those that used to happen in some years back, they said they have changed considerably and are no longer the same. They said the difference lies in Pattern, Time and Intensity of occurrence of such hazards.

They differ in patterns of occurrence in the sense that in the past floods and droughts were not frequently alternating each other as it is happening now. They used to experience a period of enough rainfall for many years before they came to experience hunger. And according to them, drought was not very common 30 years back.

Difference in time were noted by referring to the onset period of rain season where in the period of 30 years back, the onset of rainy season used to begin in August and the season persisted for a very long time - the dry season persisted for only one month and that is June alone, but other months throughout the year were occupied by rain season.

Intensity of hazards differs from the past due to extraordinary elongation of the dry season that they are experiencing right now. According to their current experience, nowadays rains start from November and last on April and the rest of the year is covered by dry season.

The community was aware of the fact and had observed the pattern that these changes in the climate are now a recurring pattern and not a short-term trend, but they were not aware of the broader climate change context and reasons behind this climate change. The participants were told that these changes are related to changes in the climate that are happening around the world and that the climate was not going to go back to the way it was 30 years ago, which they understood.

These local observations validate the scientific information that I uncovered in assignment one.

B. Vulnerability Matrix: What is a prioritization of the community's greatest hazards they face?

The community members identified the following hazards in their community

- Floods affects all the people especially crop growers who grow their crops in the valleys or by the river.
- Drought affects all the people as well but the most vulnerable ones are the ones who does not keep livestock because livestock acts as major means to gain livelihoods during prolonged droughts by being sold and use the money to buy food from other communities which managed to have good harvest in the previous growing season
- Malaria has found to affect all the people but under 5 children being the most vulnerable group
- Hunger which is the result of prolonged drought affects all the people but the people at high risk are women and children because they are some times left alone at home by the husbands/fathers and neglected. Some families where women are bread winners for their family; those women get lots of trouble to both to care for children and search food to feed the family especially during hunger.
- Lack of health services in the village is a problems that affect all the people but it severely affect pregnant women who can sometimes have to walk tens of kilometers in search of a clinic and consequently face labor complications and sometimes they lose their lives (they gave a recent example of a lady who lost her life when she was on the way to a nearby health centre located about 20 kilometers from this village)

C. Vulnerability Matrix: What parts of their lives (livelihood resources) are the most vulnerable?

This activity was not carried out in the community visit because of a mix-up with the training manual being taken back to the office before the facilitator was able to do the exercise. However, based on the community's responses to the rest of the discussion, the following livelihood resources could be inferred to be the most vulnerable:

- Crops - Food Security
- Poultry raising – preventing diseases
- Well-Nourished Children
- Income Generation

D. Coping Mechanisms

From my observations and the discussion in the workshop, I note the following current strategies against the three most important challenges. **We have already discussed aspired strategies in the workshop.**

CHALLENGES	Current strategies	Aspired strategies
Strategies against famine due to droughts	● Doing casual labor works and gaining some wages in return ● Keeping livestock which are sold during drought and gain some money to buy food ● Helping one another as they are able ● Growing drought resistant crops such as cassava, millet and sweet potatoes ● Using more vegetables than ugali (porridge-like staple)	● Find alternative sources of food sold at cheaper price from either the government and/or other relief organizations and buy more to store for future use. ● Changing farming methods especially from varieties that takes longer time to reach maturity to the ones that takes relatively short time to mature ● Find the possibility of digging more water wells which will help in running irrigation schemes

	food made from flour) in a meal	Considering investing in environmental conservation strategies by planting more trees within the village especially on the bare land.
Strategies against floods	- Advising the people who live by the river and in the valleys to consider shifting from those areas to others since they are at high risk of floods - Prohibiting people from trying to cross the river when water is flowing	- Making advertising boards on both sides of the river warning people (especially those who are not natives of Wagete) to warn them not to try crossing the river when it is full of water - Asking support from the government and other development organizations to build a permanent bridge which will help people to safely cross the river
Strategies against poultry diseases	- Utilizing the local knowledge of disease control by using natural herbs - Slaughtering the incurable poultry	Continue working together with agricultural extension officers of the government and other development partners in finding more ways of diseases control

The participants noted in the workshop that they needed more training in how to increase their soil fertility and crop productivity in times of drought as this was becoming a more regular occurrence in the area. The idea of improved soil and water conservation techniques was then mentioned to them and they were very eager to learn more about these activities, which gives more community support for this project idea.

Part Two. Comparing your project outline to new information that you may have learned that the workshop.

Original will Project Outline: Problem list combined with potential interventions/activities/solutions that I chose

[Problem 1] Lack of health services in community (leading to poor healthcare)

Health care advocacy program [Solution to underlying cause: little government support in providing health care]

[Activity 1] Form a health committee to engage government in improving health care

[Activity 2] Train community members as health workers/promoters – advocated by health committee

[Problem 2] Lack of access to quality education

Education support program [Solution to underlying cause – lack of support from parents, teachers and government in education]

[Activity 1] Form an education committee to engage government and teacher commitment in school

[Activity 2] Workshop on parental involvement

The CBA activity from my 341 Assignment 2 project outline:

[Problem 3] Reduced crop yield

Farmer Soil and Water Conservation Program [Solution to underlying cause: unpredictable rainfall patterns have reduced crop yield]

[Activity 1] Farmer workshop on soil and water conservation techniques

[Activity 2] Mulching for increasing organic material in the soil

New program related to climate change that I added to outline in assignment 2 OL 343

Farmer Extension Program [Solution to underlying causes: Unpredictable/late start to rainy season; mid-season drought/early end to rainy season, and increased temperatures have reduced crop harvests.]:

[Activity 1]. Participatory mapping and identification of local crop and buffering challenges

[Activity 2]. Farmer workshop and follow-up on early maturing and/or drought resistant crops/varieties for adapting to climate variability, as well as cash crops that could have a profitable harvest in times of heavier rain.

[Activity 3]. Farmer workshop and follow-up on buffering against the late arrival of rain and/or an early end to the rainy season

How do the prioritized results from last week's workshop relate to your project outline?

1. Do you need to modify the definition of the problem now that you have more information?

No, my project is parallel and support well of what I learned from the community, and the community identified the need to learn more about soil and water conservation, as well as using improved varieties of local crops..

2. Do you need to add a problem that is a major priority which wasn't included in your original outline?

I'm going to leave my problem statements as they are. We do not want to have a very complex project, the intervention that I have proposed can have an significant impact.

3. Do you need to modify the definition of one of your underlying causes now that you have more information?

No, the underlying causes that they identified in last week's workshop are parallel to my underlying causes.

4. Does the community have activities that would be good to include in your outline?

We could include support for farmers planting trees around their farms to improve soil fertility, as they identified. This support could include mentioning some of the benefits of tree planting during the soil and water conservation trainings, as well as helping connect farmers with available seedlings of appropriate tree varieties.

Part Three. Refining your project outline.

My project outline is parallel and in support of what I learned from the community -- so I don't need to make any changes.