

Seasonal Calendar Mapping

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Short description

A Seasonal Calendar is both a calendar and a chart that shows the changes taking place in the community throughout the year. It also identifies the times of stress, vulnerability, risk, and assets, as well as how people react to them. Since Dahshour is a rural area within greater Cairo, a large percentage of the residents are farmer communities, the seasons of the different crops (dates mostly) impact the dynamics of the whole village. On one hand, the collection seasons attract tourism and create small markets in the public spaces (especially on the main roads) to sell the crops. While on the other hand, these seasons produce bulks of agriculture waste. In addition to harvesting, the village also celebrate several cultural and religious events, which also impact the village dynamics.

Tags/ keywords: Method, mapping, agriculture, rural communities, time, calendar, social events, economic activities, vulnerability, risk, climate change.

Objectives

- Determines patterns and trends throughout the year.
- Mapping threats as well as potential in relation to periodical events.

Benefits

- It gives insights about the variation and availability of resources along the year.
- It brings the different variables together and shows the relationship between problems and times of the year.
- It is useful in bringing people together to discuss important events and variables they all face.

Resources for Application

- Duration of the Exercise: 1-2 Hours
- Human resources: 1 Moderator + 2 for documentation
- Level of expertise of Moderator: Expert in dealing with local community
- Tools: Map - Annual calendar - Flipchart - Colored crayons

Steps

1. Divide the attendees into sub- groups.
2. Set a timeline for the calendar and set a period of a number of months.
3. The calendar does not have to start with January for the community can set it according to an important event in the area.
4. These events may be the harvest, stream, religious and local events, etc.
5. The moderator prepares questions related to a variety of peoples' lives and their events.
6. Participants should write the seasonal calendar according to these events and variables, which they feel important.
7. Encourage the participants to fill the calendar using visual tools, like drawings and objects if possible.
8. Try to relate these events to a current issue in the community (for instance, labor problems and the harvest season? How many males and females work in farming?)
9. Determine the most important issues that are caused based on the seasonal calendars.
10. Ask questions like: What are the busiest months of the year? How does income vary over the year for men and women? How does expenditure vary over the year for men and women? When are holidays and how many days are off in each month? What's the pace and magnitude of the produced waste from harvesting?

In case of having several different groups, each group will do its own calendar and present it to the other groups for feedback and comments.