

### **EXERCISE 3.1: COMMUNITY MAPPING**

**Objective:** This participatory exercise identifies the areas and structures within a community that are of importance to community members.

In the case of an emergency, it can be used to highlight the facilities that support people affected by the emergency, areas where there is higher risk and locations that are important for community members.

**Materials Required:** Large flip chart paper and colored marker pens

**Time Required:** 20 to 30 minutes

**Instructions:**

Divide participants into groups of five to eight people, all living in the same neighborhood.

Tell them that they will need to think about where they live and draw a map of their neighborhood. The map should include major landmarks, important resources, roads and transport routes.

When drawing the map, ask participants to think in particular of the following issues related to the emergency (adjust according to your specific context and situation):

1. Where are the health facilities?
2. Where are other services that people would go to if affected by the emergency?
3. Where are the points that can increase the risk of being affected by the problem/outbreak? (for example latrines in the case of cholera, crowded spaces in the case of Ebola)
4. Where are the areas where people gather? (for example churches, markets)
5. Where are the schools?

Give the groups 15 minutes to draw the maps.

When the groups have completed their maps, ask them to place them on the wall in an exhibit.

Ask each group to describe their map.

Discuss in a plenary what these maps tell you about the problem being addressed. Areas of discussion can include:

1. Where are the places that people turn to if affected by the problem? Are there any important gaps?
2. What are the places where people are at greater risk of being affected by the problem? Do you see any patterns? Are there any ways that this can change?
3. Where can important information be shared with community members to reach many people at the same time?