**A Field Guide to Community Based Adaptation**

**Example of Field Assignment 2, Chapter 2**

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Course Project Example

Field Assignment 2. Step 4: Revising the Project Outline Based upon New Findings

Table 2.7. Comparing and combining needs and challenges from Field Assignments 1 and 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outline from Field Assignment 1** | **Livelihood Assets and Hazards from Field Assignment 2** |
| **Problems:*** Chronic diarrhea in children
* Chronic under-nutrition

**Causes:*** Lack of knowledge of health, hygiene and nutrition
* Overall shortage of food and specifically for the four months preceding the corn harvest
 | **Livelihood Assets and Resources Negatively Impacted by Hazards:*** Food security and nutrition
* Income from agriculture
* Crop productivity
* Access to water

**Hazards:*** Unpredictable beginning and end to rainy season
* Intermittent drought during rainy season
* Erratic rainfall during the rainy season
* Increase in frequency of tropical storms and extreme weather events (every two to three years); flooding
 |

By comparing the two assessments side-by-side you can see that there are similarities with food security and nutrition. The vulnerability and capacity assessment also added a new problem: insufficient agricultural income. This increases their vulnerability in times of stress and is directly related to the newly identified underlying causes (hazards in the list above). Let’s add insufficient agricultural income to the problem section of the project outline.

The community in the original needs assessment did not voice any climate change linked causes. In the vulnerability and capacity assessment they raised the fact that a change in the timing of the growing season, drought, unpredictable rainfall during the rainy season, and extreme tropical storms have reduced the productivity of their crops and access to water. These affect food security and nutrition, and reduced agricultural income. Let’s add these climate change linked challenges to the underlying causes section of the project outline.

The climate hazards identified by the community are clues to ideas that we can use in developing activities for the project in Chapter 5. For example a change in the timing of the growing season could lead us to consider an activity that would explore drought resistant or early maturing crops. Erratic rainfall during the rainy season could lead us to consider an activity that could include soil restoration by increasing organic material to better hold water and by adding mulch to reduce evaporation. You could also consider water harvesting and water conservation activities.

See revised project outline below.

**Revised Project outline (problems/causes/impacts) incorporating new information from the vulnerability and capacity assessment:**

**Problems:**

* Chronic diarrhea in children
* Chronic under-nutrition

**New problem identified in Field Assignment 2 activities**

* Insufficient income from agriculture

**Underlying Causes:**

* Lack of knowledge of health, hygiene and family nutrition
* Overall shortage of food and specifically for the four months preceding the corn harvest

**New underlying cause related to climate change**

* Unpredictable dates for the start and end of the rainy season, intermittent drought and erratic rainfall during the rainy season, flooding and extreme weather events have reduced crop harvests and access to water

**Revised Problem Statement:**

300 small children from 100 families in four Guatemalan villages are frequently ill with chronic diarrhea caused by little knowledge of health and hygiene, are chronically undernourished caused by little knowledge of nutrition and less than 12 months of food reserves. Their families suffer from insufficient agricultural income from reduced crop harvests and access to water due to unpredictable dates for the start and end of the rainy season, intermittent drought and erratic rainfall during the rainy season, flooding and extreme weather events. These challenges contribute to stunting and restrict the children's ability to attend and concentrate in school, leading to a reduction in their ability to develop and prosper as adults. These challenges also reduce the ability of adults to lead the productive, meaningful, prosperous lives they need to leave the cycle of poverty and contribute to the development of their communities.

**In Conclusion**

It's interesting to observe that the hazards, and the livelihood assets and resources were similar and consistent between the four workshop activities. On top of that, several of them are underlying causes to the problems which the community expressed in Chapter 1. For example, the climate challenges which have lead to reduced crop productivity are an important underlying cause to the challenge of chronic under-nutrition.

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