

Community Profile and Needs Assessment

Module



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Updated in January 2013



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Overview

This module teaches how to make a survey to create a profile of who is in a community and to find out the various community needs. It is made of two Topics:

1. Community Profile

Developing a community profile is actually part of the planning process. All communities have needs - things that they must have to survive as a community, such as housing, access to education and health care, management and so on. To improve the community, you must be able to identify needs and then meet those needs. How can you identify the needs of the community if you don't understand the community? This is where a community profile can be useful.

2. Needs Assessment

Needs assessments identify what services will benefit the community and make it a better place to live. Some communities find it very difficult to know what programmes they should be operating because they are unsure of what the community members' needs are. It is very easy to confuse needs and wants. A needs assessment is a good way to clearly identify the needs which exist in the community. Once you understand what the needs are you can think about programmes which might meet those needs.

How to Use the Module?

This module is arranged as a series of "**topics**", i.e. like chapters of a book. In each topic, you will find:

- Learning content for you to study
- Self testing activities with answers provided

Topic 1 - Community Profiles

Introduction

Welcome to Community Profiles and Needs Assessment. This is your first topic for this module and it is called Community Profiles. In this topic you will be learning:

- What a community profile is
- Why communities and organisations develop community profiles
- What information is needed to develop a community profile
- How to develop a community profile.

Developing a community profile is actually part of the planning process. All communities have needs - things that they must have to survive as a community, such as housing, access to education and health care, management and so on. To improve the community, you must be able to identify needs and then meet those needs. How can you identify the needs of the community if you don't understand the community? This is where a community profile can be useful.

Think about your own community for a few minutes - you probably think you know everything there is to know about it. Try to answer the following questions:

- How many males and females are there in the community?
- How many children under the age of five are there?
- How many people over the age of sixty are there?
- How many illiterate people are there?

How did you do? Could you answer those questions? Not many people can. However, if you develop a community profile you should be able to answer those questions.

What is a community profile?

A community profile is a community development tool. It is made up of a lot of information which forms a picture of the community. It is a description of the people in the community, including their history, culture, services and organisations.

A community profile breaks the community population down into categories, such as:

- age groups

- gender groups (male/ female)
- occupational status (employed/ unemployed)
- marital status (married/ divorced/ single/ widow/ widower)
- family groups
- educational levels
- and many other things.

A community profile also helps you to get an understanding of what the community is really like and includes information on:

- history
- resources
- organisations
- culture.

The purpose of a community profile

Obviously, collecting all of the information needed for a community profile requires a lot of time and energy. So, there must be a good reason why people are willing to develop community profiles.

Community profiles are vital in helping community members, leaders and organisations understand the community in which they live and work. Community profiles outline the type of people living in the community. Once you have this information, you can identify the real needs of the community.

Ask yourself the following question,

How could I identify the needs of the community, if I don't understand who makes up the community?

You can't - that's why you need to develop a community profile.

A community profile reflects the different groups which make-up the community. This information can then be used to:

- **Help community members understand the different groups in the community, so that they can be more tolerant of one another and work together more effectively for the good of the community**
- **Help people understand the different needs of the different groups in the community.**

For example, if there is a large number of old people in the community this may indicate a need for increased health programmes. If there is a large number of young people this may

indicate the importance of education programmes and sports activities.

- **Help to compare one community with another.**

If the average life expectancy of the people in one community is well below the life expectancy of the population in other communities, then it is likely that there are some health issues which need to be looked at. Once these health issues have been looked at, the community is in a good position to initiate health programmes to improve the health of the community members.

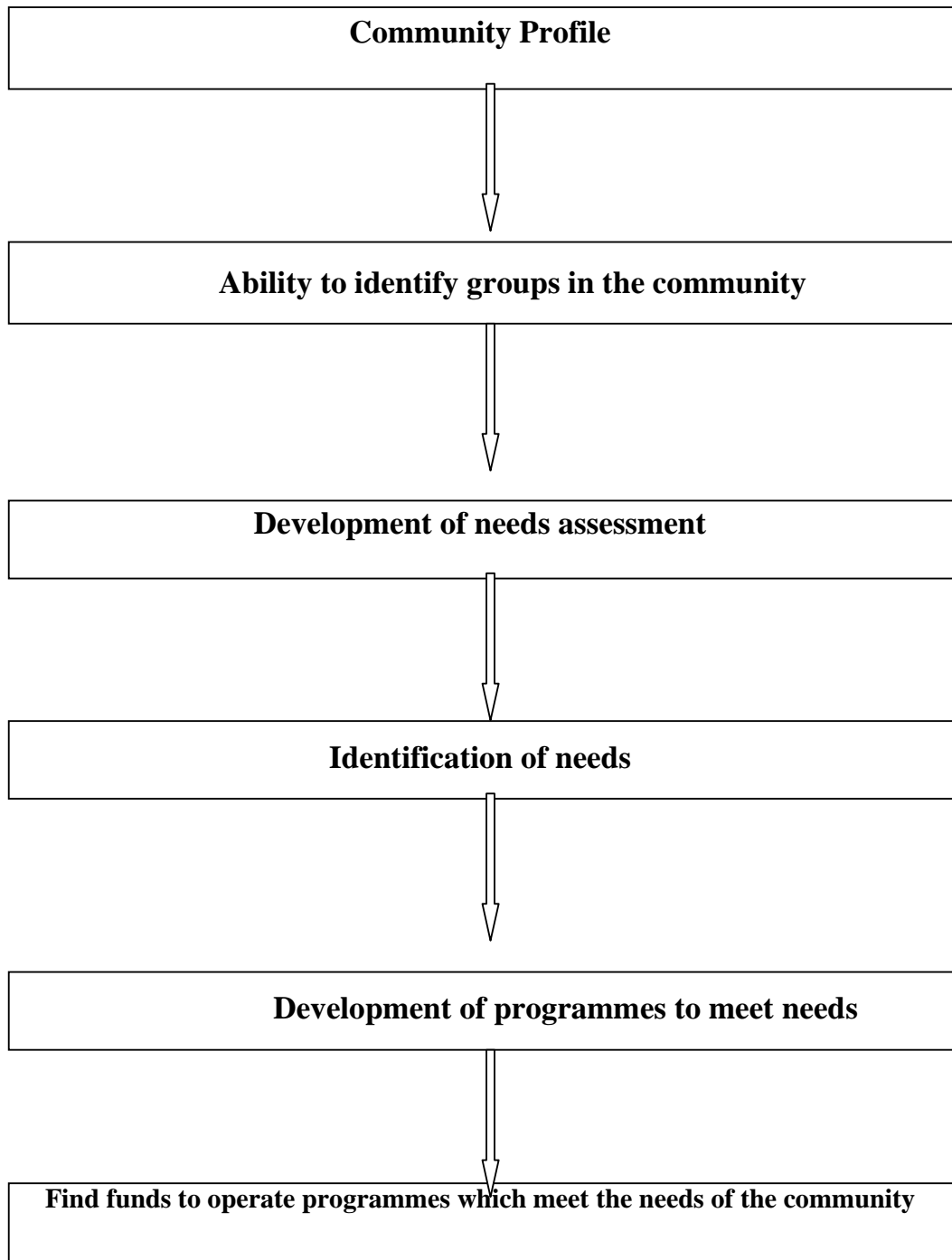
- **Develop programmes to meet the needs of the community and its members.**

Community profiles help in the design and development of programmes which will suit the community and its members. If the programmes are suitable, the community gets the right service and avoids wasting money and resources.

- **Conduct a needs assessment of the community**

Once the community has developed its profile it will have a good understanding of the groups which make up the community. Once these groups are identified it is possible to conduct a needs assessment of the community i.e. to work towards identifying the needs of the different groups in order to be able develop and implement programmes to meet those needs.

These 5 things are related. Look at the flow chart below.





Self testing activity 1.1

In your own words, explain what the flow chart on page 5 of the student learning material is telling us.

Types of information in community profiles

Community profiles involve collecting many different types of information, including the following.

Demographic information

This information relates to people and where they are located. It includes such things as:

- Population numbers
 - How many people live in the community
 - How many people of different ethnic groups live in the community
 - How many people of different religious groups live in the community
- Gender - male/female
- Age groups - breakdown of ages of people in the community
- Birth places - which state or division
- Residence - where people live most of the time
- Family types – single parent/double parent/extended
- Language - Ethnic language/Myanmar language/English/other
- Housing – occupied by a single family/more than one family
- Income - breakdown of amount of income
- Employment status - employed full-time/regular part-time/irregular day labour/unemployed
- Types of activity - administration/agriculture/trading etc
- Education - years completed
- Recreation.

Resources

This information relates to those things which the community owns or has at its disposal, such as:

- Staffing - people employed to work for the community
- Machinery – e.g. tractors, generators
- Tools – e.g. farming tools
- Livestock – e.g. chickens, ducks, buffalo

- Vehicles - cars, trucks, motor cycles
- Equipment - telephone, fax, computers, radios
- Funding – regular and occasional
- Buildings – e.g. houses, office, meeting hall, school
- Land – paddy land, garden land, forest, grazing lands, etc.



Self testing activity 1.2

List 10 resources , which your community has.

Organisations and services

This section should include an outline of all the organisations and services which operate within the community. Organisations and services usually fall into the following groups:

- Health care - clinic, hospital, permanent medic, visiting medic
- Education – primary, middle or high school
- Management - community office, community committee
- Training - regular training programme, occasional training opportunities
- Women’s organisations - welfare activities, production activities



Self testing activity 1.3

List five organisations providing services to your community.

Community history

This section provides information on how the community first became established and major events in the community which have occurred since that time. Information related to community history would include:

- Date of establishment
- Reasons for establishment – e.g. fertile soil
- Major events - establishment of school, major disease or fire, building of community office etc
- Major developments – part of community relocated, access to community development funds.

Culture

This information helps people to understand the way the community behaves or operates. This section of a community profile would include information on:

- Main ethnic groups – Myanmar, Shan, Kachin, Kayin etc
- Minor ethnic groups -Indian, Chinese, European, etc
- Major languages spoken – Myanmar ,Sgaw Kayin, Pwo Kayin, Mon,
- Main religious groups – Buddhist, Christian, Animist, etc
- Major cultural events taking place in the community.



Self testing activity 1.4

List the major cultural groups in your community and briefly describe the cultural background of your community.

Below is an example of a community profile. You would not be expected to produce a profile of this size. However, reading such a profile will give you an insight into how big some community profiles can be. It will also expose you to knowledge of life in an area of another country. The description has been shortened, as you will notice when written “ etc”.

PROFILE OF ISAAN (Northeastern Thailand)

The Northeast region of Thailand, known as Isaan, is home to the second largest group of people in the country after Thai. In Thai language, Isaan refers to ‘the people, the dialect and the land area’ of the Northeast. A person can be Isaan, speak Isaan and be from Isaan. The Isaan region includes 170,218 square kilometres, about one third of the country’s total area. In 1997 the population of Isaan was 21,086,501 or 35% of Thailand’s total population.

Life in Isaan

The Land

Isaan is located in what is known as the arid tropics. It is mainly flat land (known as the Korat Plateau,) averaging 100-200 metres above sea level. It is surrounded by mountains in the west and south and by the Mekong River in the north and east. Soil quality is the poorest in Thailand, possibly in all of Southeast Asia. Roughly a third of the land area is considered unsuitable for cultivation. The mainly sandy composition has poor water retention, and in many areas large salt deposits result in high salinity. Rainfall averages 1200-1400mm per year, but falls almost exclusively during the May-October rainy season and is very unpredictable. About 80% of the region depends on rainfall, rain-fed storage ponds, and wells for its water supply. Even so, the population is almost entirely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

The People - Introduction

Isaan are a hard working, good-natured people of Laotian descent (they came from Laos). They are in the Central Thai culture, but for the most part they still form a distinct cultural group, as shown by the use of their own language, their eating habits and their distinct social class.

Language/Literacy

The Isaan dialect comes from and is very similar to the Lao language. Lao is written using the Lao script which is distinct from Thai. Over the years the central Thai government has made a deliberate effort to unify the language of

Thailand. Some Isaan people still remember government imposed book burnings to destroy Lao (and as was supposed communist) literature. One man recalls that afterwards the elders took the ashes of their ancient Lao texts and molded them with clay to make amulets to wear around their necks to remind them of their heritage. Most Isaan people today are no longer fluent readers of the Lao script.

Etc

Adult literacy is approximately 70%.

Economics

Isaan is the poorest region of Thailand, due to the poor land, weather conditions and a lack of development. The following table, with data for 1998 from the National Statistical Office, will give an idea of how Isaan compares to the rest of the country. In addition to income, we have also listed per capita debt. The numbers in parentheses indicate the change since 1994, so you can see that Isaan is catching up only slightly and is falling further behind in debt.

	<i>Per capita income</i>	<i>Per capita debt</i>
Nationwide	40,104 (52.5)	18,831 (128.0)
Bangkok area	89,078 (49.2)	38,747 (86.6)
Central (excl. Bangkok)	42,108 (48.8)	18,024 (71.3)
North	33,864 (58.7)	16,766 (160.4)
South	34,692 (46.1)	13,421 (122.7)
Northeast (Isaan)	25,176 (53.3)	13,661 (209.7)

The above figures are in Kyat - the 1998 exchange rate was approximately 40-45 Kyat/\$US (currently it is 35-40); the exchange rate in 1994 was approximately 25/\$US.

Occupations:

85% of the population is rice farmers dependent upon rain-fed agriculture. Others are merchants, day-labourers, teachers and other government employees, etc.; there is not much industry.

Income sources:

In addition to their primary occupations, Isaan people get extra income from the following sources.

- Money sent home from relatives working in Bangkok or overseas (estimated to be 5-10% of the Isaan population.)
- Tobacco or other cash crops (grown after rice)
- Handicrafts - silk weaving, baskets
- Borrowing funds (being in dept is common)

Modernization/Utilities:

- Roads within the northeast are being improved.
- Primary schooling is available throughout the region.
- Clinical outposts are expanding to the smaller districts.
- Telephone lines are in all provincial capitols and many district towns. There is a programme to get at least one mobile telephone into each village.
- Over 95% of all villages have electricity. Those villagers with electricity in their homes soon manage to purchase a television and small refrigerators.
- Most homes now have a toilet with septic tank.
- Most villagers still depend upon hand-dug wells for drinking water. Large rainwater storage tanks are widely available.
- Bottled gas is available but used by a minority of villagers. Most cooking is still done with charcoal or firewood collected in the fields.

Living Conditions

Food: The main food of the Isaan (and Lao) diet is "sticky rice". This highly glutinous rice is steamed and eaten with the fingers. Because it digests slowly means that it will keep off feelings of hunger for as long as possible. Eating food without sticky rice is not considered a meal.

Isaan people use of a wide variety of foods from nature. Some are things that the rest of the country would not consider "food". Most green plants are eaten - young leaf tips of mango, cashew, leuceana, and many other trees are favorites. Most water plants are eaten. The favorites among the greens seem to be the bitter, sour, and the astringent. When eaten with food cooked in hot chili peppers the chemical reaction in the mouth often produces surprisingly sweet and pleasant taste sensations.

Among greens the most essential is *dommakhung* better known in Thai as *somtam*. This is made from shredded unripe papaya pounded in a mortar with a pestle along with chilli peppers, salt, sour fruits and the all-important ingredient – 'plah rah', fermented fish. It is this last ingredient that gives the dish its strange smell (some would say stink) as well as sometimes infecting the food with a wide selection of parasites if the plah rah is not well boiled.

Etc

Shelter: Traditional Isaan homes were made of raised wooden post construction. Old homes are carefully disassembled and resold. Wooden homes are preferred but the expense of wood. puts it out of the range for most people except the rich or those able to find their own trees to cut.

The current shortage of wood has been influenced by recent government policies. During the time of the Vietnam War the Thai government, under strong suggestion from western governments, started large-scale clearing of forested areas around the country, in an effort to destroy the hide-outs of

communists. Many of the largest were in Isaan. In less than 15 years, forest cover in Isaan was reduced from 30% (1973) to 13% (1987.)

Etc

Clothing: Isaan village girls usually prefer to wear western style clothes (jeans and tee-shirts) and sandals. Once married, however, most soon get pregnant and go back to wearing the traditional sarong, a tube-shaped piece of cloth that is wrapped around the waist (like a longyi). Even long after the child-bearing years are over this will be the garment most women wear. Usually they will own a silk version or two to wear on special occasions. Some Isaan women raise their own silk worms and weave beautiful silk, both to use for themselves and to sell.

Etc

Health Care: The best care is available in the larger cities. Here is where good doctors are able to support themselves. Most doctors make their money selling medicine. People like injections for fast action but often take a variety of pills. Preventative medicine is not widely practiced.

Society

Isaan Communities:

The following table gives some statistics about the population of Isaan and the current Christian presence in this area.

Province (<i>Changwat</i>)	Population (12/31/97)	Percent w/ Grade 6 Education (1990)	Percent Rural (1990)	Avg Monthly Income per Household (1994) ^{***}	Districts (<i>Amphurs</i>)
Amnat - Charoen	360,340	*	*	4,856	8
Buri Ram	1,494,836	9	96	4,392	16
Chaiyaphum	1,115,519	10	98	4,842	14
Kalasin	974,460	12	96	4,374	14
Khon Kaen	1,726,594	14.5	87	6,371	22
etc					
Total					

In addition to the 19 cities (*Muang* or provincial capitals) and the 269 towns (*Amphur* or district centers,) there are approximately 3,500 sub-districts (*Tambon*) and approximately 35,000 villages (*Muubaan*.)

Family structures: Children are the centre of the family. The primary relationship tends to be parent-child, usually the mother-child relationship.

Most males express little interest in their own children and complain if their wives give them only daughters. Some men have minor wives in other places.

Government sponsored family planning has been highly successful. Most families have only two children. Sterilization at government hospitals is free after the second child.

The youngest daughter is the one who is usually given the responsibility to care for the parents in their old age. She in turn will inherit the family home.

Neighbour relations: With the change from barter society to cash economy relationships with neighbours, particularly in rural villages has changed a lot. In the past, neighbourhood groups came together to plant the rice fields for each other and then at harvest time they would share the work. Today this tradition of *long khaek* (trading work for work) has almost disappeared and has been replaced with hiring on a cash-per-day basis. Fewer rice fields are actually being planted out in the traditional rows due to the expense of daily labour. While harvest is significantly reduced most farmers resort to broadcast plantings of their rice fields today to cut the cost of labour.

Rule/Authority/Selection: Traditional Isaan systems of rule and authority selection have been replaced with the central Thai government's system imposed from Bangkok. Village headmen are no longer lifetime appointments but serve for five year terms elected by the villagers themselves.

Social Habits/Groupings: The Isaan are a community-oriented people. They dislike to be alone, but rather spending lots of time chatting together. Most of the men find whiskey very useful for these times.

Unlike Americans, Isaan people live close together in villages. They do not live separately out on their farm lands. Those who live in homes out in the fields are usually outcasts.

Cultural Change: There are many rapid cultural changes especially due to the migration of the working class to Bangkok and elsewhere. This impacts both those who go and those who stay back in the villages. However, Isaan language and eating habits continue relatively unchanged.

Acculturation to National Society: Distant in the villages. For migrants moving to Bangkok there is a desire to assimilate in order to get good jobs - but home is always considered Isaan.

Self Image: Threatened and depressed. Direct central Thai government repression of indigenous movements from Isaan. These are considered threats to national stability and are dealt with violently and quickly.

Celebrations/Recreation: Thai New Year, known as *Songkran*, is celebrated during the height of the hot season. Isaan people and those in Laos also celebrate this festival. Originally a time to visit elders and bless them with a little sprinkling of water, the tradition has degenerated into a three-day

national public water fight.. Buckets of water are thrown back and forth from passing trucks or roadside groups on anyone who dares to go outside. This is followed with a powdering of fragrant talcum smeared on the face. *Songkran* is very popular among young people.

Etc

Children/Youth

Education / Type of Schooling: The education system is based upon the English system. Village children are required to attend through the 6th grade. In the provincial capitals 9th grade is required.

Labor / Tasks: Many village children watch cattle and water buffalo. Some parents allow this to take the place of going to school. Girls help with the younger children. Boys help with collecting firewood and grass for cattle. Both will help with planting and harvesting rice when they are old enough.

Problems (morality / family / insurrection / etc.): Economic pressure, through television and word of mouth, reinforces a feeling of desperation among the village rice farmer. Young people today are encouraged to go elsewhere to find work as long as they send money home. Problems result when young people go into debt or addictions of all types, or return home with no money. In the worst cases entire families agree to send their girls (and some now send boys) into prostitution to Bangkok and elsewhere. AIDS and the care of those with this disease is now a serious national issue. As of 1997 Thailand was listed as having the highest number of reported cases of HIV in Asia with an estimate of 6% of the Thai population between the ages of 15 and 45 or 2% of the total population.

Greatest Needs:

- Renewed commitment by parents to solid values that reinforce the family rather than separate families from each other. The future of the family is being sacrificed for what is considered the ultimate goal: economic improvement.
- Improved education and scholarship distribution among villages.
- Sex-education, AIDS awareness, drug and substance abuse prevention all need to be included in the primary school curriculum.
- Up-country village school teachers' salaries need to be increased.
- Improved nutrition, increased protein, for children.

Summary:

The community profile above provides a very interesting and detailed picture of life in Isaan, we hope you found it interesting to read.

Sample Community Profile Questionnaire

The information for the community profile given above has been drawn up by a professional demographer and implemented under the direction of a trained supervisor. The questionnaire that was used to gather this information was very long and complex.

If you would like to prepare a community profile, your own questionnaire would have to be designed to fit your own purpose.

The following sample questionnaire, is related to
Green Valley Community

Green Valley Community Community Profile

Interview number:

Date:

Time started:

Time completed:

Name of Interviewer:

(Write answer in space provided or tick appropriate box)

1. Age and Sex:

What is your age? _____

What is your sex? M F

2. Household type:

How many persons are in your household?

Are you the

- Head of the household?
- Spouse of the head of the household?
- Unmarried child of the head of the household?
- Married child of the head of the household?

- A relative of the head of household or spouse?
- Unrelated to the head of household or spouse?

3. Ethnic group and religion:

What is your ethnic group?

- Myanmar
- Kachin
- Kayah
- Chin
- Shan
- Kayin
- Rakkhine
- Mon
- Other (specify): _____

What is your religion?

- Buddhist
- Animist
- Muslim
- Christian
- Other (specify): _____
- None

4. Place of birth:

Where were you born?

- In a town?
- In a village?

Name of Township and State/Division:

5. Economic activities:

- Professional and administrative
- Day Labour
- Agriculture
- Gardening
- Hunting & Gathering
- Trading
- Production
- Student
- Housework
- No activity
- Other (specify): _____

6. Education:

Can you read and write in any of the following languages?

- Myanmar
- Mon
- Kayin
- English
- Other (specify): _____

What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

- Primary
- Middle
- High

7. Employment:

Are you

- Self-employed?
- Employed by someone else?
- Unemployed?

8. Type of employment:

How are you employed?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Irregular day labour
- Seasonal labour

9. Income:

What is your income level?

- Under 5,000 Kyat each month?
- Between 5,000 Kyat and 10,000 Kyat each month?
- Between 10,000 Kyat and 15,000 Kyat each month?
- Over 15,000 Kyat each month?

The sample questionnaire shown above is directly related to the Green Valley Community Profile

Your own questionnaire would reflect your purpose and the community which you want to make the profile of.

In many cases you may want to include questions about employment and unemployment e.g.

Employment:

Are you:

- Employed
- Unemployed

Type of employment:

How are you employed?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Irregular day labour
- Seasonal labour

In many cases you may also want to know the income levels of the members of the community: e.g.

Income:

How much do you earn?

- Under 5, 000 Kyat each month
- Between 5, 000 Kyat and 10,000 Kyat each month
- Between 10, 000 Kyat and 15,000 Kyat each month
- Over 15,000 Kyat each month

You may want to ask questions about the health of the community members, or you may want to ask people about how they use their leisure/recreation time.

Collecting information

Now that you know what a community profile looks like, you can see how much information must be collected. There are a number of ways you can get this information.

Consultation

One of the most effective ways to collect information is by talking with people - consultation. Consultation is not just chatting in the street, it is meeting with someone who has information you need. You meet with that person for a specific purpose, ask them a series of pre-planned questions and get the information you need.

When developing a community profile you may want to consult with the following people:

- Community leaders and managers – about community history, resources, operations
- Community council or management committee - community operations
- Older people - history and culture
- Community members – about culture.

Generally, you will consult people who, because of their training, employment with organisations or time spent in the community, know a lot about the community.

Written records

Written records are a good source of information, in particular statistics. Quite often community offices will hold records relating to:

- Resources
- Population
- Funding
- Events.

However, in many places access to these sorts of records are unavailable to the public.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a set of questions which are put together for the purpose of collecting specific information from a group of people. By using a questionnaire as the basis for an interview you can

collect information which is essential for the community profile. However, if you are going to develop a questionnaire, remember the following points:

- Keep the questionnaire as short as possible
- Keep the questions as simple as possible
- Make sure that you only ask relevant questions
- Don't ask personal or intimate questions - use categories instead of asking for specific details
E.g. Do not ask "How much money do you earn?" Ask "What is your income level?"
- Avoid double questions - these are sentences which ask two questions at once
E.g. Are you employed / unemployed and if you are employed, what is your occupation? don't use confusing questions
E.g. "What is your residence on a permanent basis?" Ask instead: Where do you live most of the time?
- Don't ask questions which most individuals could not answer
E.g. What is the community's annual income? A community member couldn't answer this.
- Test the questions on someone else before you use them for your questionnaire to make sure the meaning of the questions is clear
- Work out how you are going to use the information you collect from your questionnaire before starting (so that you do not ask unnecessary questions).



Self testing activity 1.5

A. Explain why it is important to keep questionnaire questions simple.

B. List four ways in which you can collect information for a community profile.

Using the information

Once you have collected your information you have to make sense

of it. You will have collected two types of information:

- Background information
- Statistics.

Background information

The background information will relate to things like history, local cultural events and so on. The statistics will relate to the population – the number of people who completed high school, the number of people living in the community, the number of people who are unemployed or employed and so on.

Once you have your background information you must put it in order. When you are doing this remember the following points:

- If you are dealing with historical facts put them in order according to the date they occurred, starting with the oldest facts;
- If you are dealing with background information relating to cultural events, put them in order according to what is most important to community members;
- If you are dealing with background information about families - put them in order of importance (if they are all as important as one another the order doesn't matter.)

Once you have your background information in a logical order you can start writing the various sections of the community profile, such as history, culture, resources etc.



Self testing activity 1.6

In your own words, explain the difference between background information and statistics.

Statistics

Statistics are the numbers you have collected. Once you have collected them you have to analyse them - in other words work out what they mean. There are a few steps you can follow to help you to do this.

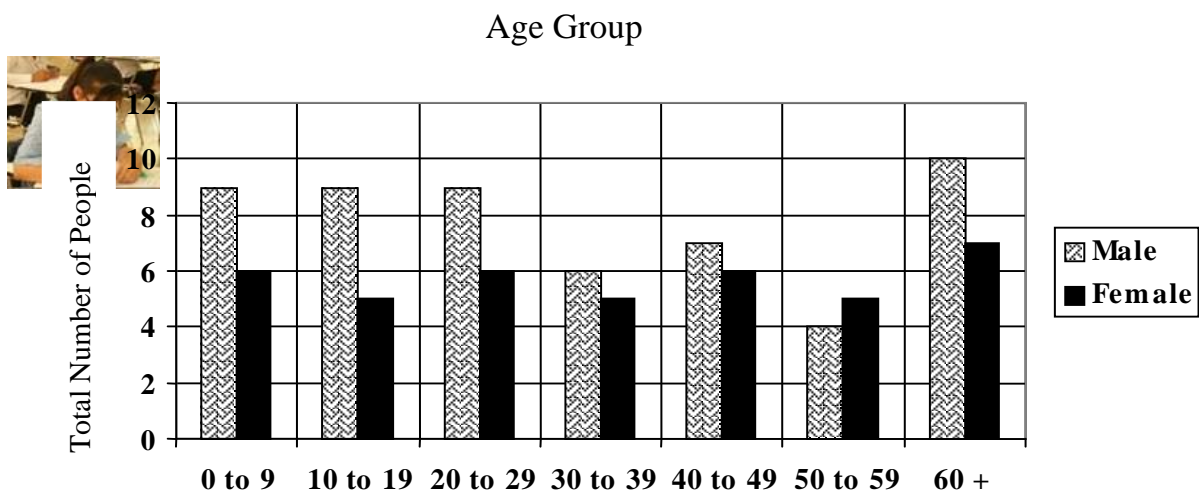
1. Try to put your numbers in a logical order, e.g.
 - Population statistics
 - Age statistics
 - Occupational statistics.
2. Build your statistics into tables (look at the examples in the Mon Refugee Community Profile).
 E.g. If you are looking at age statistics you could draw up a table and fill in the numbers as you go through the questionnaires.

Here is an example.

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-9	9	6	15
10-19	9	5	14
20-29	9	6	15
30-39	6	5	11
40-49	7	6	13
50-59	4	5	9
60+	10	7	17
Totals	54	40	94

1. This information then can often be displayed using a chart graph.
 Here is an example, showing the information from the above table in the form of the column graph:

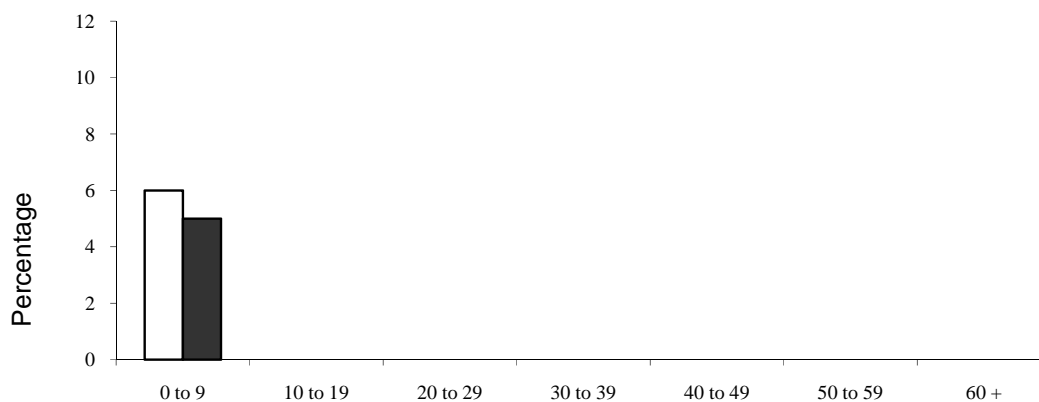
Age Distribution



Self testing activity 1.7

Using the information provided here, complete the column graph below.

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 - 9	6	5	11
10 - 19	7	5	12
20 - 29	11	10	21
30 - 39	8	7	15
40 - 49	6	6	12
50 - 59	4	5	9
60 +	2	2	4
Totals	44	40	84



Age

2. Most statistics can convert to a percentage which makes it easy to compare information about different groups.
3. Once you have worked out your percentages and filled them into your table you can also show your percentages in charts.

Look at this example. The following question was asked in a questionnaire:

Type of employment:

How are you employed?

- Full-time
- Regular part-time
- Irregular day labour

- Seasonal

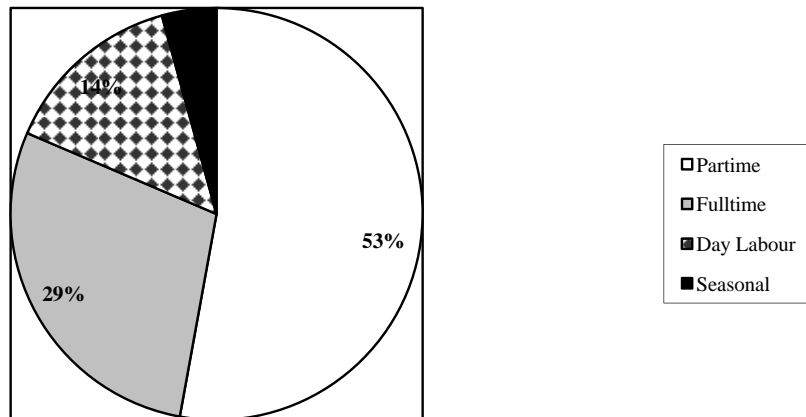
From a total of 70 people interviewed these were the results:

- Full time 20 = 29%
- Regular part-time 37 = 53%
- Irregular day labour 10 = 14%
- Seasonal 3 = 4%

The figure above shows that you have 20 people in the community in full-time employment. There are 70 adults in the community. So, to work out the percentage (%) you divide 20 by 70 and multiply it by 100 $\frac{20}{70} \times \frac{100}{1} = 28\%$.

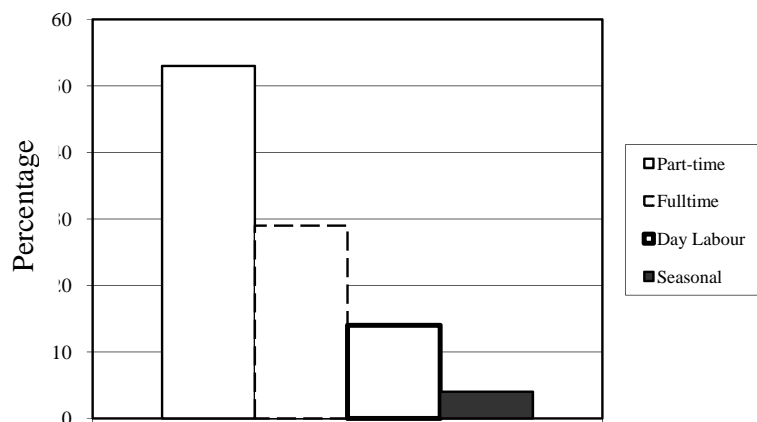
(Now you can present this information in a chart. If you are using a computer, it is easy to make a pie chart like this.)

Type of Employment in Community



If you are making the chart by hand, it would be simple to make a simple bar or chart column like this one:

Type of Employment in Community



Self testing activity 1.8

Using the information provided in the table below, present the results in a chart (using the paper provided) showing what percentage of the people questioned had completed the various levels of education in the table.

Finished	Numbers	%
Kindergarten or less	9	e.g. $9 \div 70 \times 100 = 13$
Grade 4	14	
Grade 6	12	
Grade 9	7	
Grade 10	3	
Teacher training	12	
Technical Institute or other training	6	
Health worker training	4	
University course	3	
Total	70	100

6. Draw conclusions from your tables and charts.

E.g. if the community has 34% employed full time and 66% unemployed, with nobody in day-labour or seasonal work, what condition can you draw? Since nearly 7 out of 10 people in the community have no employment the community desperately needs to increase employment opportunities for its members.

The conclusion might be quite difficult in a different situation. E.g. if the community has 90% employed only seasonally but only 10% completely unemployed, the community may urgently need to find employment for people in the 'off' season.

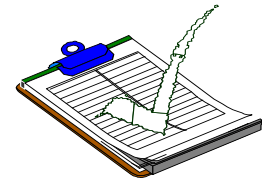


Self testing activity 1.9

Outline the conclusions you could draw from the chart (in self testing activities 1.8).

A well designed community profile gives a good picture of the community. As you can see, the community profile can be used by the community to develop or improve services and programmes. It can also be used to prepare submissions requesting funding for programmes and services in the community.

Community profile development checklist



This list of tasks should be used as a guide when making a community profile.

Planning:



Inform the community members/students that you want to develop a community profile. Explain the reasons why? Then receive their permission



Decide how you will collect your information



Demographics information and questionnaire:

Community Profile and Needs Assessment Module



Develop a community profile questionnaire to collect demographic information



Make sure that your questions are short and simple



Make sure you only ask one question at a time



Make sure your questions only relate to demographic information



Test your questions on someone to make sure they make sense



Interview people using the questionnaire



Organise the numbers you collected from your questionnaire into table or charts



Analyse all of your statistics



Historical background:



Develop a set of questions related to the history of the community or group



Consult a community member to collect information about the history of the community or group



Cultural matters:



Develop a set of questions related to cultural matters





Consult community/group members about cultural groups, ceremonial obligations etc



Organisations and services:



Have a look at community/organisation records to collect information about resources



Make a list of the organisations which provide a service in your community or for your group



Programmes:



Make a list of the programmes which operate in your community or are used by your group

Report:



Write your community profile



Include an introduction



Include an outline of how the community profile was developed



Acknowledge and thank everyone who helped you



Include a conclusion



Check your report for mistakes and correct all mistakes.



Summary

In this topic we have concentrated solely on developing a community profile. You will have to think about how you would develop a community profile for your community and remember the example included in your reading material is not the only example you can use. A community profile is a good community development tool for providing a realistic picture of the community, to help people better understand one another and to support funding submissions.