

# Community mapping

Community mapping is one appreciative inquiry tool that helps communities identify their resources and strengths. Community mapping also helps communities develop dreams and possibilities that change their future. The process helps people to see beyond problems and issues that can seem unsolvable.

Community maps can be drawn on paper or drawn outdoors using found objects and the environment. Participants may use map conventions, such as aerial views and symbols, along with drawings.

## PRESENT DAY MAP



Photo: Bangladesh, Xavier Sku / World Vision

This village in Bangladesh has made a community map in someone's back yard. They've used coloured powder, found objects and foliage to show existing resources in their village. The map helps them identify and talk about the resources they have.

## FUTURE DREAMS MAP

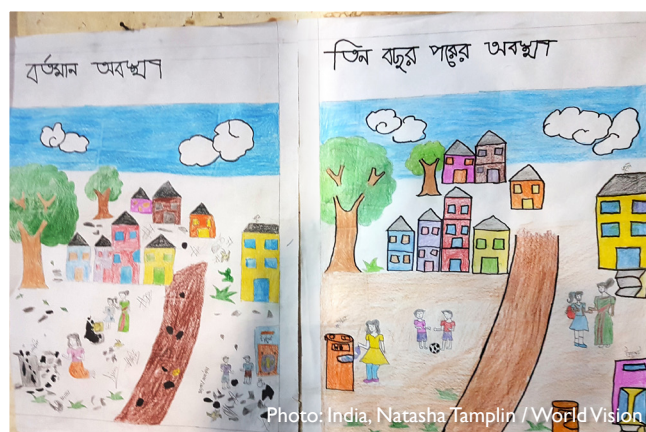


Photo: India, Natasha Tamplin / World Vision

Community maps can also help participants to express their dreams and hopes for the future. Participants draw before and after maps or pictures to show the difference between what happens now and what they'd like to see change in the future.



Bia, aged 15, points to a car she drew on her community's future dreams map. She describes how she wants her village in Laos to have better roads to make it easier to travel around the area.

Photo: Laos, Albert Yu / World Vision



As a result of drawing their map, community participants including Bia have agreed on five changes they want to work on together. Bia helps to hold their list which includes: better education, access to health care, improved family incomes and nutrition, opportunities for women to earn an income, and an improved environment, especially for women and children. Photo: Laos, Albert Yu / World Vision