

## MODULE #4: Community Assessment

### Objectives

- Participants will be able to define the boundaries of their community.
- Participants will be able to decide the cultural, social, and economic aspects of that community as well as their place in the community.
- Participants will be able to identify the interaction between the youth and their community, what youth get from/give to the community.

### Context



*Conducting a community assessment allow us to get a better picture of a certain neighborhood. Through this activity people are able to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of their community, and identify potential areas that need immediate action. Youth can not only develop recommendations for community development, but also contribute in making a difference in their communities through volunteer work and other mediums.*

### Handouts & Resources Needed:

Handout 4.1: My Community Needs Assessment

Sheet of paper- one for each participant

Pens/pencils

Journals

Activity #1: The Community in Which You Live: Completing a Community Assessment  
(55 min)

### Procedure:

- Icebreaker
- Explain to participants that conducting a community assessment is a good way to find out about the resources available in their community as well as meet their neighbors, etc.
- Have the group outline their community by using a street map or by drawing a pictorial representation or written description.
  - Community boundaries may be formal or informal, implicit or explicit
  - Boundaries can be geographical, racial, linguistic or of some other form
  - They might even be walls, fences, road rivers, etc
- Arrange for the youth to walk or drive around the community being careful to record pertinent aspects of community life using the criteria developed in discussion
  - The facilitator may want to divide the youth into smaller groups if the group is too big or if the youth live in different areas of the city
- Have the group develop a list of questions that they will answer and a list of conditions that they will be looking for.

- Once the reports are completed, a series of discussion questions should be used to guide the youth in developing a profile of community needs and resources (Handout 4.1).
- Debriefing

## Handout 4.1

### **My Community Needs Assessment**

- What are the geographic boundaries of your community (streets, freeways, structures, bodies of water, buildings)?
- Who lives in your community? What is the racial, ethnic, social composition of the people?
- What facilities are more prominent (stores, schools, shopping centers, prisons, churches)? What facilities do the residents use outside their community?
- What type of housing exists (homes, apartments, rooming house)?
- What schools are there in the community?
- Does your community have police protection, fire protection? Health facilities?
- What are the businesses in the area? Who owns them?
- Who works in them? Who are the customers?
- What are the social and cultural facilities? Who operates them? What do they do? Who do they serve?
- Where do youth associate/come together in the community? Who sponsors these activities? What is the role of youth in the community?
- What facilities exist that make you know that this is a community?
- How would you compare/contrast your community with other communities? Are there needs that are not met?
- Are there needs that are poorly met?
- In what ways are you personally satisfied and/or protected by your community?
- What changes would you make?
- What resources do you have for changing your community?