# Community mapping

## Tools outcomes

- Understand different perspectives on a community.
- Ability to identify issues to address in the community and insights into needs and opportunities.

## What to do?

Create a shared visual map of your local community, including positives and areas of concern, with broader community engagement if possible.
In a group, brainstorm to do the following:

1. Make a giant map of your local community on a large sheet of paper.
2. The map will include key items: roads, shops, local council, schools, borders – whatever is right for the scale of the area you are working in.
3. Use different colours for different types of organisation (for example, green for factories and shops, red for housing, blue for government buildings and so on).
4. Identify some of the good things about the local community, the local assets and resources:
   – what services and facilities does the community have?
   – what skills does the community have?
5. Write on sticky notes some of your emotions or feelings for different parts of the area, as well as for the different buildings and facilities you have placed on the map. These can be positive or negative. You should place these sticky notes on the map.
6. Brainstorm with others to identify some of the things you want to improve in your community and mark them on the map.
7. Identify where there are gaps in knowledge and further research is needed or that this issue can't be addressed realistically.
8. Vote to choose one issue only.

**Icons that can be used in the community map**

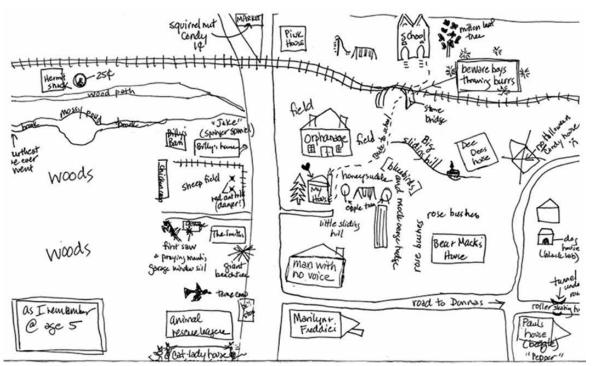| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive places | Issue or place of concern | Decision making | No access |
| Unknown | Place of learning/arts and culture | Negative places | |

- Questions for reflections

- What are some of the key themes that have emerged? Especially those connected with social issues, e.g. drainage, gender-based violence, health, freedom, space, drugs and jobs.

- Have any safety and security issues emerged?If so, what are they? Do these have a different impact on women, men, girls and boys in the community?

- How does this help you to identify possible interventions?

- How might you use community mapping to plan?

**Example of a map of a geographical community**