WEALTH RANKING

Purpose

To identify the different socioeconomic classes within a community. The objective of the wealth-ranking exercise is to understand the way the community classifies its poor vs. non-poor households and to determine criteria for classifying the households.

This tool should be completed before the nutrition assessment/screening. This is because the community-specific wealth ranking questions must be asked to caregivers when the children's weights are recorded during the screening. If the weighing is done first, you must go household to household to ask the wealth ranking questions again. Thus, do not make this mistake and make sure you conduct the wealth ranking exercise with members of the community before conducting a nutrition assessment.

Preparation

Materials: 2 different kinds of one object (e.g. 2 stones of different colours), pen, paper

Approximate duration: 1 hour

Facilitators: At least 1 trained facilitator and 1 notetaker/supporting facilitator

Community members: Diverse and inclusive group of 5 or 7 community members (e.g. adults of different age groups, gender, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities)

> **Note:** *It is important that there are an odd number of participants to break ties if there are debates about the wealth ranking criteria.*

Conducting the Activity

1. Introduce the facilitators and the purpose of the activity. As the activity deals with wealth ranking, ensure that the community members understand that the wealth ranking does not determine eligibility in the programme. Gather the selected group of community members together.

    Lay the two stones (or other objects chosen) out on the ground with some distance between them. Explain that stone 1 represents the poor families and stone 2 represents the non-poor families.

    Have everyone look at stone 1 (poor families) and think about which families in their community fit with this stone 1. Ask participants how they know these families are poor.

    > *Prompt them to think about housing, farm tools, livestock, clothing, transport, jobs, amount of land owned, and so on.*

    List all the points. Together, decide on 5 or 7 conditions common to the poor families (make sure you come up with an odd number of criteria to define a poor household). Ask, "Does everyone agree that families in the non-poor category don't have these points?"

2. Focus their attention on stone 2. Remind the group that these are the non-poor families. What do the poor families not have that the non-poor families do have?

    *   What type of income do non-poor families have?
    *   What are their houses like or made of?
    *   What jobs do they do?
    *   Do they own any land or livestock?
        *   What kind? How many?

    Note: *It may be necessary to add another stone (stone 3) if the community members share that there is another group which is poorer than the families represented in stone 1 (poor). If so, ask for specific points of those poorest of the poor families.*

3. To check the criteria, ask the group to think silently about several poor families they know. Ask, "Do these families meet at least 3 of 5 or 5 of 7 criteria for poor that were just agreed upon?" Revise the criteria, if necessary.

Note: *Many times, community members only think of the poorest families when defining the 'poor' households. However, the difficult role is to mediate the wealth ranking activity so a line can be drawn between the poor vs. non-poor households without a gap between the two classifications.*

For example, if the community members say you are 'non-poor' if you have ten goats, but 'poor' if you have up to one goat, where does that leave a household if they have two to nine goats? Thus, it's good to define a poor household first and define anything otherwise as 'non-poor'. For example, if the community members say a 'poor' household can have up to one goat, then criterion for non-poor would be two or more goats.

4. The community members must agree with the final criteria that define families as poor or non-poor. Only then will they later understand that there can be poor households with healthy children. If a consensus cannot be reached, participants should vote on which criteria to use.

5. Use Table 1 to record the agreed-upon criteria for wealth ranking of each family in the community:

    Note: *If people share food, resources and income in nuclear units, then wealth ranking is done by household. If the food, resources and other income are shared across multiple, related households, then wealth ranking must consider the extended family instead*

Sample Exercise

1. A theoretical community group determined the following criteria through conducting the wealth ranking exercise.

To be classified as poor, a family must meet at least three of the following:

- Lives in one-room house
- House made of bamboo
- House has dirt or cement floor
- No regular salary
- No more than one person in the family working

Ask participants to classify each example child as being from a poor or non-poor family based on a theoretical community's criteria.

Child's name and family name	Child's age in months	Wealth ranking information for family	Wealth ranking
Risa (F) Heni/Sali	31	Both parents work as vendors, rent a one-room house, bamboo, dirt floor	
Dani (M) Rohimah/Nadi	12	Single mother, works periodically, rents one room, bamboo, dirt floor	

Nisrina (M) Onih/Etorasta	30	Father works on salary, rent two rooms, two families in house, cement floor	
Agus (M) Sriali/Wiarso	18	Father works part time, mother works part time, rent block house	
Lia (F) Ponira/Hendrik	6	Father is temporary taxi driver, owns bamboo house, dirt floor	
Kiki (M) Nengkiyah	31	Mother works as servant on regular salary, rent two-room house, cement floor, father has small shop	

Sample Exercise Key

Child's name and family name	Child's age in months	Wealth ranking information for family	Wealth ranking
Risa (F) Heni/Sali	31	Both parents work as vendors, rent a one-room house, bamboo, dirt floor	Poor
Dani (M) Rohimah/Nadi	12	Single mother, works periodically, rents one room, bamboo, dirt floor	Poor
Nisrina (M) Onih/Etorasta	30	Father works on salary, rent two rooms, two families in house, cement floor	Non-Poor
Agus (M) Sriali/Wiarso	18	Father works part time, mother works part time, rent block house	Non-Poor
Lia (F) Ponira/Hendrik	6	Father is temporary taxi driver, owns bamboo house, dirt floor	Poor
Kiki (M) Nengkiyah	31	Mother works as servant on regular salary, rent two-room house, cement floor, father has small shop	Non-Poor

2. Be sure to discuss the importance of creating distinct criteria that cannot overlap and do not allow ambiguity in definition. Use the example from the previous exercise to carry out a check of understanding:

> *For example, if the community members say you are 'non-poor' if you have ten goats, but 'poor' if you have up to one goat, where does that leave a house hold if they have two to nine goats? Thus, it's good to define a poor household first and define anything otherwise as 'non-poor'. For example, if the community members say a 'poor' household can have up to one goat, then criterion for non-poor would be two or more goats.*

Annex

Table 1. Classification Table

DATE _____ DISTRICT _____ COMMUNITY NAME _____

WEALTH STATUS	WEALTH CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA
POOR	
NON-POOR	