

MILESTONE SUMMARY REPORT

Activities: Round Table session

Date: 10th September

Communities: Stewartville, Belle West, Uitvlugt

Prepared by: Colin Marks – Project Officer

Purpose of activities: (1) Presentation of mapping & data gathering exercise back to the target communities and capture the feedback and recommendations from the community stakeholders.

Venue: Belle West Community Centre

Address: Belle West Main Road. Phase1, Canal No. 2. West Bank Demerara

Milestones Activity Log

Community	Activity	Person reached	Status	Direct Observation/ comments
1. Stewartville	Round Table Session	5 community stakeholders	Activity completed: Feedback from the community stakeholders compiled for report, and to be referenced for community use in the micro grant proposal draft.	Community participants were able to review and assess the cross-sectional views of their communities in a collective process which also reflected a positive level of participation
2. Uitvlugt	Round Table Session	7 Community stakeholders	Activity Completed: The summary report and data analysis delivered to the communities in the round table package helped to streamline the community focus on reaffirming to the process of collective action	Emerging out of the Round Table Session was a commitment of participants to work together at resolving and mitigating community challenges and issues
3. Belle West	Community Mapping	9 persons, a combination of community stakeholders.	Activity Completed: Session provided an opportunity for reflection and discourse for the participants, while providing the impetus for involvement in project activities	Some participants from the communities were not intensely literate but they provided valuable discourse and information on critical human-interest issues

Note; Scanned Evaluation & Feedback forms to be submitted.

Mapping FGDs exercise Agenda & Evaluation

FGDs and House to House interviews Activities Agenda for Stewartville, Belle West, Good Hope, Sophia, Uitvlugt

Dates: 6th 10th 12th 14th 18th 20th 23rd 25th 26th 27th

FGD- Address:

No.1	Communities	Place / Address
1	Stewartville	Stewartville Secondary School Stewartville Scheme. WCD
2	Belle West	Belle West Community Centre Belle West Village, Canal no. 2. WBD
3	Good Hope	Jenny's Shop / Learning Centre Grassfield Lusignan
4	Sophia	Gavin's Shop / Pattensen Community Centre North Sophia / Pattensen- South Sophia
5	Uitvlugt	CDC Office Uitvlugt Village front

Focus Group Discussions

Target: Women, Youth & Men (5-8) persons respectively)

Engaged in the FGDs

No.	Community	Women	Youth
1	Stewartville	5	5
2	Belle West	8	6
3	Good Hope	8	16
4	Sophia	8	4
5	Uitvlugt	5	7

House to House interviews

Target number of persons:

No.	Community	No. of persons interviewed
1	Stewartville	38
2	Belle West	38
3	Good Hope	38
4	Sophia	44
5	Uitvlugt	25

Key Stakeholder interviews

No.	Community	No. of persons interviewed	Position / status
1	Stewartville	2	Business Manager / NDC official
2	Belle West	2	PTA President / Medex
3	Good Hope	2	Business women (2)
4	Sophia	2	Head Teacher / Building Contractor
5	Uitvlugt	2	Lawyer / NGO executive

Guidelines for entry into community

1. No wearing of Red, Yellow, Green colours as these associated with political parties
2. Community mobilizers and other community persons must be involved
3. Voice recordings of comments if participants are comfortable with being taped
4. Participants reassured of the confidentiality of the process
5. Facilitators for focus groups identified and note takers
6. Snack, drink to be provided to team and participants of the FGDs
7. Project team will return to share the data analysis report

Questions for focus group discussion

1. What are things you are proud of about this community?
2. What are the strengths of the community?
3. What are the challenges facing this community?
4. Is there community togetherness?

5. Are there organizations/groups presently working within the community? Are you involved with any of these organizations/groups?
6. What kind of activities would bring the community together?
7. Would you be willing to be involved in the project activities in the community? Can you give your contacts?

Feedback from the general community:

- Most of the persons engaged stated that this was the first project in the community which focused on women and youth’s participation is the process of community cohesion and development.
- Though in some cases persons reflected on exclusion from various aspects of community life they for the most part posited that it wasn’t a “big problem”.
- In a few conversations some persons were forthright in stating that politics has divided the people but people inevitably had to live together at the community level.
- Some persons were adamant that the community had nothing to be proud of and didn’t have any strength. Some of those same persons after some in-depth conversations would agree that there were still positive things happening in the community.

Consultative Process

The consultative process of the mapping exercise was done via community ‘walk about” which fed into the physical mapping as the public spaces and services were identified by persons spoken to and informally interviewed in conversations. After each walk around or community tour then the mapping exercise was done by the participants of the focus group discussions and the project teams. (Pictures already provided in the monthly report).

Places and Persons engaged in the community tour.

No.	Community	Places/ Spaces / Services	Persons met
1	Stewartville	NDC office, Lumber Company, Primary, Secondary, Nursery schools ,Churches, Temple, Tailor shop, Groceries shops, Barber shops, Mechanic shops, Monument, Playground	Nurses, Police, Neighborhood police, Firemen, Teachers, Athletes ,Cane-cutters, Pastors students, Priest, Domestic workers, Electricians, masons
2	Belle West	Masjid, Community Centre, Internet café, health Centre, Schools, Playground, Pharmacy, Shops, Churches, Temple,	Medex, nurses, policemen, cane cutters, RDC officers, shopkeepers, masons, teachers , PTA members, Students
3	Good Hope	Training Centre, Churches, temple, Masjid, Shops , Body-work shops , Mechanic shops, Water well, Play field, Upholstery shop,	Cane cutter, priest, students, nurses, business women/men,

		welding shop ,transportation service, Car rental service,	mechanics, teachers,
4	Sophia	Health Centre, Tannery, Hydroponics centre, bakery, shops ,Community centre, Bonds, Churches, Training Centre ,Schools, Hotel, police station, playfield,	Mechanics, teachers, head teacher, mason , contractor , electrical contractor , students, Shop keepers
5	Uitvlugt	Sugar estate, Pharmacy, schools health centre, temple, Masjid, churches, playground, monument, taxi service, and store.	Teachers, nurse , Athletes ,Cane-cutters, Pastors students, lawyer , Priest, Domestic workers, Electricians, masons,

FGDs Summary

M&E REPORT OF YOUTH FGD IN 5 PROJECT COMMUNITIES

GOOD HOPE FGD - YOUTH

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

Youth identified being proud of the many children in the community, good, safe and reliable people, a lot of shops, internet access, good roads, half of the people are friendly, community has good farmers, a pharmacy, livestock and good churches a Learning Centre that benefits children, schools, electricity and water, work being done to clean the drains and improve roads.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Youth identified community members as the strength of the community and roads, housing which provides shelter for the poor, friendships, and poor people helping each other, cooperation among neighbours

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Youth identified loud music, air pollution, cursing, name talking, violence, gambling, physical abuse as community challenges. They also identified a lot of drug and alcohol abuse, robberies, speeding cars, roads with a lot of potholes, a lot of youth unemployment, people throwing garbage on the roadside and not burning it.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

Majority of youth felt that that community members were cooperative while others felt that most people has some kind of issue with one another, Examples given of togetherness was friends and family helping to clean the community and community meetings

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

Youths identified Church groups working with youth and Sunday school as the groups /organizations active in the community. Community Policing Group, Learning Centre, Prison service is helping to clean the community. Eight (8) youths said they were involved in the Learning Centre.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Youth identified cricket, football, fun days with sports, group sessions/ talks to improve self-esteem and learning, National Religious Festivals such as Diwali, Easter, Phagwah, Movie Night at the community centre or Health Care Centre, youth party as activities which would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together

Youth said yes to taking part in project activities to bring the community together

BELLE WEST FGD-YOUTH

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

Youth from Belle West said having a clean environment, friendly people, training programmes with lot of things to learn and the quietness of the community were things about their community that they were proud of.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Strengths identified by the community were a community that was nice and quiet, opportunities to access computer training, “when there are rally’s we come together and we protest.”

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Youth said they want better roads, more street lights, more available transportation especially at peak times, busy overgrown areas on the roadsides, a lot of illicit drug abuse (cocaine) and alcohol abuse among young people. A lot of theft and robberies and violence as a result of alcohol use as these were challenges affecting them. The transportation issue was highlighted as one of the main challenges facing youth in this community.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

Some youth felt there was community togetherness while others felt there wasn’t any togetherness really or if so not to a great extent. According to the youth they play football and cricket together.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

Youths said they did not know of any groups or organizations working in the community except for Churches and religious organizations programmes.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Youth felt that skills training programmes (cake decorating, sewing); Fun Days; and sports for girls and boys (cricket and football) were activities which would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together?

All of the youth said yes to participate in project activities and gave contact numbers.

UITVLUGT FGD - YOUTH

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

Youth said they were proud of cooperation, the largeness of the community, infrastructure such as a burial ground, a community arch, monument at the four corners, a community centre, a sugar estate and not having a big mosquito problem.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Youth identified community members, a policing group, health centre, four schools (day care, nursery, primary and secondary; one Mosque, one Temple and 6 Churches as the strengths of the community.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Challenges identified by youth included potholes in the road; fighting, rotten electricity posts that can fall at any time; interpersonal conflicts; drug and alcohol abuse; sexual exploitation (big men trouble little girls); parents beating and cursing their children; drains not cleaned often; trees needing trimming, and the burial ground overgrown with trees.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

Four of the youth felt that there was community togetherness sometimes while 3 felt that there was community togetherness because when celebrations or event take place in community everyone participates regardless of race or ethnicity.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

Youth identified sports clubs (cricket, table tennis, basketball, karate and football with male and female participation) and a gym as community based organizations. Three of the youth participants' two females and 1 male were involved in the football club.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Youth felt that sports; athletics; Bingo and dominoes competitions; skills training programmes (craft work, knitting, tie dye and hosting of exhibitions would be the type of activities which would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together?

All the youth who participated in the FGD said yes to taking part in project activities and gave contact numbers.

SOPHIA FGD – YOUTH

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

The youth felt that the population of Sophia impacts the nation; identified the community centre and ball field as things they were proud of and said they were also proud of themselves.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Sports and the playfield were highlighted as community strengths even though the playfield ground needs developing.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Challenges identified by the youth included poor facilities; fighting, theft and robberies (purse snatching); a lot of cursing; stray animals; illiteracy; dumping of garbage; bushes and trenches which need cleaning and a lack of good leadership.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

Youth felt that the only time there was community togetherness was when sports were being played.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations presently working within the community? Are you a member, which one?

Youth said there were many groups presently working in the community and singled out the Patterson Youth in Action Club and the Policing Youth Club.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Youth felt that groups set up to focus on relationship skills; Sport activities (cricket, football and any other outdoor games activity; and establishment of women. Men and youth groups were the type of activities which would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together?

SOPHIA FGD - WOMEN

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

A mixture of community institutions, infrastructure and community volunteer groups were identified by the women as things to be proud about i.e. the community centre which hosts many activities including Kingsway Church and a women's group working to improve youth and community, police station, health centre, nursery and primary schools, Childcare & Protection Agency's Home for Abused Children, University of Guyana, businesses and shopping centre such as Beepats and Giftland Mall (Sophia residents can walk across to Giftland Mall from the community), roads, electricity, Churches and community volunteers who assist with self - help activities for community residents.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Strengths of the community included:

- ✓ FBOs a new Church now being born, gathering members and empowering youth
- ✓ Community centre, its activities brings people together and is open most days to members of the public for different activities such as youth empowerment sessions, Bible Classes using storytelling, counselling and awareness sessions, goal setting for youths and Global Shapers have donated books for a library
- ✓ Dairy Farm and Hydroponic centre in North Sophia which helps youth in chicken rearing, has a training programme to teach hydroponic farming and composting. Milk is also available at a cheap price from the Dairy Farm.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Social issues, poor infrastructure and utility services were highlighted as main challenges affecting the Sophia community. These included single parent households, children from large families sometimes hungry due to poverty and need a breakfast programme, stigma associated with Sophia, early school leavers, bad roads, poor street lights, water problems, youth abusing drugs and alcohol, a lot of teenage pregnancy due to uneducated youth, children not attending school and limers. Also identified were lack of empowerment programmes for young women, a lot of abusive comments are made to and about young women in the community and some older women tolerate this abuse as they benefit from their daughters engaging in transactional sex. The women also felt that mothers needed to talk not only to their girl children but also their boy children and fathers' need to also get involved in the lives of their children and give direction and counsel. The women were also troubled by the verbal abuse and cursing of adults and elders when they attempt to correct behaviour of youth.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

Generally the women felt that there was community togetherness but more so in some sections of the community. Community members come together for certain things such as if you are getting robbed was mentioned as a key example. It was also felt that long ago there was more community togetherness

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

Women identified Church groups, community centre and the community policing group in North Sophia, which functions in the back section.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

The women felt that sports, craft & skills training, Fun Days, hot dog sales at the community centre, cook outs, health fair/medical outreach and the giving out of hampers from businesses were activities which would bring the community together

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together? If yes please give contact numbers/information

All the women indicated their interest in participating in project activities and gave their contact numbers.

BELL WEST FGD - WOMEN

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

Women identified utilities and infrastructure, skills training programmes, the community mobilizer and community based institution and groups as things they were proud i.e. water, electricity, more houses being built, a lot of land space, Multi-Purpose Community Centre which hosted certificate training programmes in leathercraft, tie dye, computer skills, and runs a youth camp and youth sessions; a good community representative in Auntie Nellie (H&S/Counterpart, community mobilizer) who looks out for the community, ensures everyone is safe including parents & children in Phase 1 & 2; primary and nursery schools, roads, a community policing group that patrols at nights, businesses establishments such as supermarkets, chicken, fish sold to your door; a community health centre which has a doctor and midwife, (doctor works every day at HC),. Not so much rum drinking, cursing or accidents.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Strengths identified was community togetherness especially at events such as weddings, funerals where everybody takes part and assists and good teachers.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Challenges mentioned included social problems such as drug/alcohol abuse, poor infrastructure, high transportation costs to get in and out of community, the closure of Wales Estate and implications for the community, social problems such as DV and other forms

of interpersonal violence. Specifically identified included youth smoking cigarettes and marijuana, drinking rum at the back of Phase 1 & 2. There are hot spots in and around community and Gaza and Gully gangs who hang out at street corners – 3rd St by Supermarket. Phase 2 road is in a terrible state and needs street lights and better drainage. Phase 1 also has similar problems like empty lots full of bushes this is due to NDC has not been formally handed over to new NDC to do the necessary community work so everything is on hold. Some school drop outs but majority of children attending school. Headmistress of schools would first call in parents if children are absent from school then contact welfare services if no improvement in attendance. Transportation cost for parents to send their children to Secondary School is very expensive as there is no Secondary School in community. Transportation cost in and out of the community are very high - \$500 to travel to WCD then further \$300 to come into Bell West and sometimes you are forced to pay extra if you can't wait for vehicle to full up. Most of the men in community worked at Wales Estate so now that it is closed it is very difficult, increased unemployment. When present crop finishes on December 31, 2016 all work will stop and already many persons have been laid off about 700-800 already laid off and some are still waiting on their pay-off. Community needs a market, police outpost nearest police station is Wales. DV verbal abuse takes place on a daily basis. Children abusing their parents, cursing and fighting and vice versa, unavailability of drugs/medicine at community health centre.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

The women felt there is cooperation among residents.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

The NDC , Community Policing Group Phase 1 & 2, (youth group is part of police group and registered under Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture & Sports); Bell West Community Development Association; FBOs (Churches, Mandir & Mosque have activities for children & families, Bible studies etc.); H&S brought out women, motivated them and raised a lot of awareness about rights and GBV- some of the FGD women had attended these sessions; Regional Gender Affairs Committee were identified as groups or organizations working in the committee. Nolle, the project's community mobilizer is a part of every group listed.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Weddings, Sport Activities (cricket); Bar-B-Que; Fun Day and Community Festivals were activities that the women felt would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together? If yes please give contact numbers/information

A total of 5 women gave names and contact numbers.

GOOD HOPE FGD – WOMEN

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

The women identified good roads, lights, housing organizations, community support and safety the Learning Centre and business services and goods as key aspects of the community that they were proud of - i.e. "people lean on one another", "you can walk any hour of the night in this community"; children benefit from the Learning Centre such as drop outs, those in need of extra lessons, computer classes also offered. Grassfield area has developed fast it has a lot of shops and businesses, barber shops, photocopying, sale of greens and vegetable. Can leave anything outside and no one will take it. Community has good people, nice neighbours, has a nursery and primary school. There is a good community group which works to develop the community.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

See above, Women felt this question was already answered in things they were proud about.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Women identified lack of cooperation among community residents in helping persons in need; drainage, if rain falls for 5 minutes you get flooding; residents not paying rates and taxes thereby contributing to flooding and drainage problems according to NDC as this money is needed to improve drainage; garbage collection is another problem as some streets have garbage collection while others don't. Roads are also in a bad condition. Many children are not attending school. There is a lot of cursing, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse by youths; drugs were being sold in the community and this was uncovered when a drug dealer beat his wife, she reported this abuse to the police and when the police investigated they found illicit drugs in the house. Some DV taking place; women also abusing alcohol, one women this year died from excessive consumption of alcohol, and a lot of child abuse also occurs.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

The women were of the opinion there was and there was not community togetherness-No and Yes. According to them there is no cooperation when it comes to drainage and doing community clean up. Community members feel Government is responsible and not them to look after community problems such as cleaning of drains etc. Apart from this people live well together, there is good neighbourliness and If a family is in distress community will help.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

The women identified the Community Development Group, 3 women present were part of that group. H&S is another organization working in the community and would have meetings on child abuse and DV which some women present would have attended. FBOs and in particular the AOG Church has an active youth group, women's group and men's group and the Hindu Mandir also has a youth group. There is also a community policing group.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Women identified skills training programmes for youth and women as the key activity to bring the community together and suggested that the playground next to the Learning Centre could be used to build a shed for the teaching of skills training programmes.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together? If yes please give contact numbers/information

Women said yes to participating in project activities and gave contact numbers.

UITVLUGT FGD – WOMEN

Question1: What things are you proud about in this community?

Women said they were proud of the public road being fixed, trenches and burial ground being cleaned, a new arch being erected, the four corner area recognized for its activities including meetings, having street lights, before “we were living in darkness”, community streets being repaired, youths, both girls and boys participating in football, improvement in the educational achievements by students at the recent common entrance examinations (higher pass rates), a community centre with playfield where children are allowed to play, a day care centre, nursery, primary and secondary schools, a mosque, temple, 6 churches, Uitvlugt Sugar Estate and a Friday market.

Question2: What are the strengths of the community?

Women said that the strengths of the community is the CDC group who through fund raising are able to buy school items for children to attend school, assist with funeral expenses for community members, putting up of street lights and hosting end of the year parties for community children. The CDC is assisted by an overseas chapter. Another strength identified was youth being meaningfully employed at Uitvlugt Sugar Estate.

Question 3: What are the challenges of the community?

Challenges highlighted by the women included the need for parents to support schools in the community; children not attending school regularly, DV in some homes, selling of drugs (cocaine, marijuana) within the community, even though this is not as prevalent as before; some robberies but less rampant than before.

Question 4: Is there togetherness in the community?

The women felt there their community lived in harmony with each other; all ethnic groups support sport activities and likewise emancipation activities are supported by all the different ethnic groups.

Question 5: Are there groups or organizations in the community? Are you a member, which one?

Women said that the CDC group and Help & Shelter are groups/organizations working in the community.

Question 6: What kind of activities would bring the community together?

Women identified Fun Day for children and adults; sales; Bingo and a Health Fair as activities which would bring the community together.

Question 7: Would you be interested in taking part in activities to bring your community together?

All 5 of the women who participated in the FGD said yes to taking part in project activities and gave their contact numbers.