

“Future Together Now” – Mechanism (Version 08.09.2016)



The „Future Together Now!“ - Mechanism consists of three elements:

1. Role of CA's

The Community Activist (CA) plays a pro-active role and is crucial for the whole process. The tasks are:

- Trust building in the community and creating visibility for the mechanism
- Assessing local needs and conflicts and create a community profile
- Identifying relevant stakeholders interested in working on the needs/conflicts
- Prioritizing needs and conflicts and discussing them with different individuals, NGOs, networks, and groups in the community – relevant to the respective need/conflict
- Drafting action plans, strategies for conflict intervention and / or community projects together with the local communities
- Supervising the implementation of the action plans and / or community projects. This can also mean to transfer needs to other NGOs, networks, individuals (e.g. business people) or institutions (ministries, municipality, etc.)
- Enable and build capacities of local communities to take their responsibility for meeting local needs and actively contribute to change (“creating local ownership”)
- Documenting, presenting and archiving needs, conflicts, activities and interventions for communities to take over (with partners and with stakeholders and communities)
- Restarting the process, i.e. starting of a “new cycle” (with needs and conflict assessment, action plan, etc.) – once or twice a year.

Through this process, the community will be able to solve local conflicts or meet local needs itself without a CA. However, for the first years (min 2-3 years), the active and initiating role of the CA is crucial, especially in order to build the confidence of the people on the local level that they can contribute to and foster change if they take responsibility.

2. Human and other resources to work with

- The fact that the CAs intervene in conflicts or meet needs does not necessarily mean that they will have to do everything themselves.

- One of their key tasks is to identify who else is active on the ground and what local resources they can tap into to carry out and finance the work in a participatory process.
- However, the transfer of tasks to other actors as well as progress monitoring remains in the responsibility of the CAs until final hand-over to the communities.
- In addition, the CAs should ensure that all relevant groups of local communities are involved into the planning, decision taking and implementing processes to foster exchange and cooperation among relevant groups.

Human resources could include:

- Individuals who
 - are active or conciliatory
 - have a special competence which is required for certain activities
 - have access to relevant actors who need to be contacted
 - are businessmen, shop owners, etc.
- Organizations/NGOs
- Institutions (e.g. municipality or ministries)
- Networks
- (Local) Businesses
- Donor agencies

The human and other resources involved should be chosen according to the conflicts and needs identified and can vary from issue to issue. Involving a variety of different actors to address different issues will ensure that the mechanism and its processes will be dynamic, flexible and adapted to current conflicts and needs.

3. Decision making process and implementation of conflict interventions and / or action plans / community projects

Depending on the nature of the conflicts and needs on the ground the CAs should initiate and utilize different settings to discuss and decide on issues. Examples:

- addressing experts,
- transfer needs/conflicts to other resources,
- build network and partnerships

At the start of each new “cycle” the settings shall be adapted according to the respective needs and conflicts as well as the local context. It is important to note that there are more possible settings – there is not one single setting that fits all conflicts or needs.

It is crucial for the CAs to show their communities that if they take responsibility and ownership for assessing and addressing their own needs and conflicts, they are able to foster change on the ground (role model).

Only then positive change will continue even after a project is finished or a CA has left and the community will truly have been enabled to improve the life of its members.