

Community Priorities (Bean Counting) – CHE Assessment Tool

Purpose:

- To identify community priorities in health education based on community interest
- To get a sample of demographic and current practices information in the community on identified topics.

Materials:

- 4-5 Different colored beans
- Envelopes or small pouches
- Prepared Poster (Segmented with Pictures/Problem Statements)

Process:

1. Arrange with your outreach staff to ride along on an outreach activity
2. Explain to the village chief or village health volunteer that you would like to do a short activity with the people coming for outreach that day. Use the attached Introduction letter to explain what you want and your activity. Arrange the site and date and coordinate it with your health center's outreach runs.
3. Travel to the appointed time and place.
4. Set up your prepared mat and pictures on the ground. Place one envelope next to each picture / answer.
5. Have a counterpart help you collect people in a circular arrangement and explain the instructions. Emphasize that the answers should reflect their own opinions.
6. Handout three beans of each color to each person participating. Have them place the beans in the envelopes based on their own personal responses. Have them respond to several of the following questions one at a time.
7. Based on the responses to the first general question, ask follow up questions for that category.

Analysis

- Consider how many men or women participated in your samples? Is there a way you could have gotten more men to participate?
- Try and have a model community known to have few problems that you can compare to.
- Arrange the results of the bean counting activities graphically so you can share it with supervisors, counterparts and other local leaders.

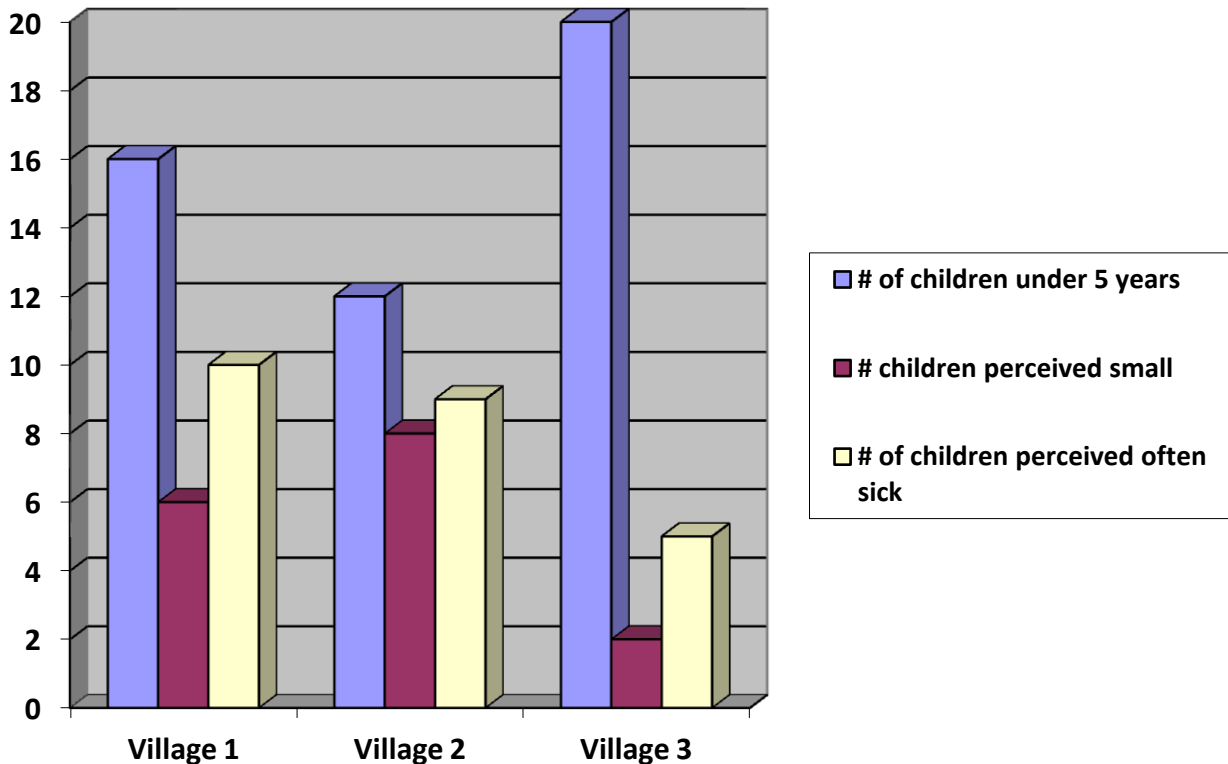
General Questions:

- Which of the following problems do you feel is most important in your community? Problem Statements:
 - Nutrition: Sick children or children that are too thin and small are a big problem in this community.
 - ANC and Delivery: Mothers having difficult deliveries small birth-weight children or health problems during pregnancy are a problem in our community.
 - WASH: Small children have diarrhea often and adults often have chronic stomach problems like infections, ulcers, etc. are problems in our community.
 - Reproductive Health: Youth in the community don't know how to maintain or protect their reproductive and sexual health, or know about the changes their body goes through in puberty.
 - Non-Communicable Diseases: Diabetes, Hypertension, heart problems and strokes are major problems in the community.

Nutrition Questions

- How many children under 5 live around you, yourself and your neighbors? (Add as many beans as there are children)
- Of those kids how many do you feel are too small or thin for their age? (Add as many as they want)
- Of those kids do you feel any of them are sick very often [more than twice a month]? (Add that many beans)
- At what age should a child start having foods other than breast milk?
 - 1 month
 - 3 months
 - 6 months
 - 9 months
- Which of these is the most common food to start feeding children in your community? (Give three beans and let them place as they feel is most common)
 - Plain rice porridge
 - Rice and family food
 - Packaged snacks
 - Enriched rice porridge

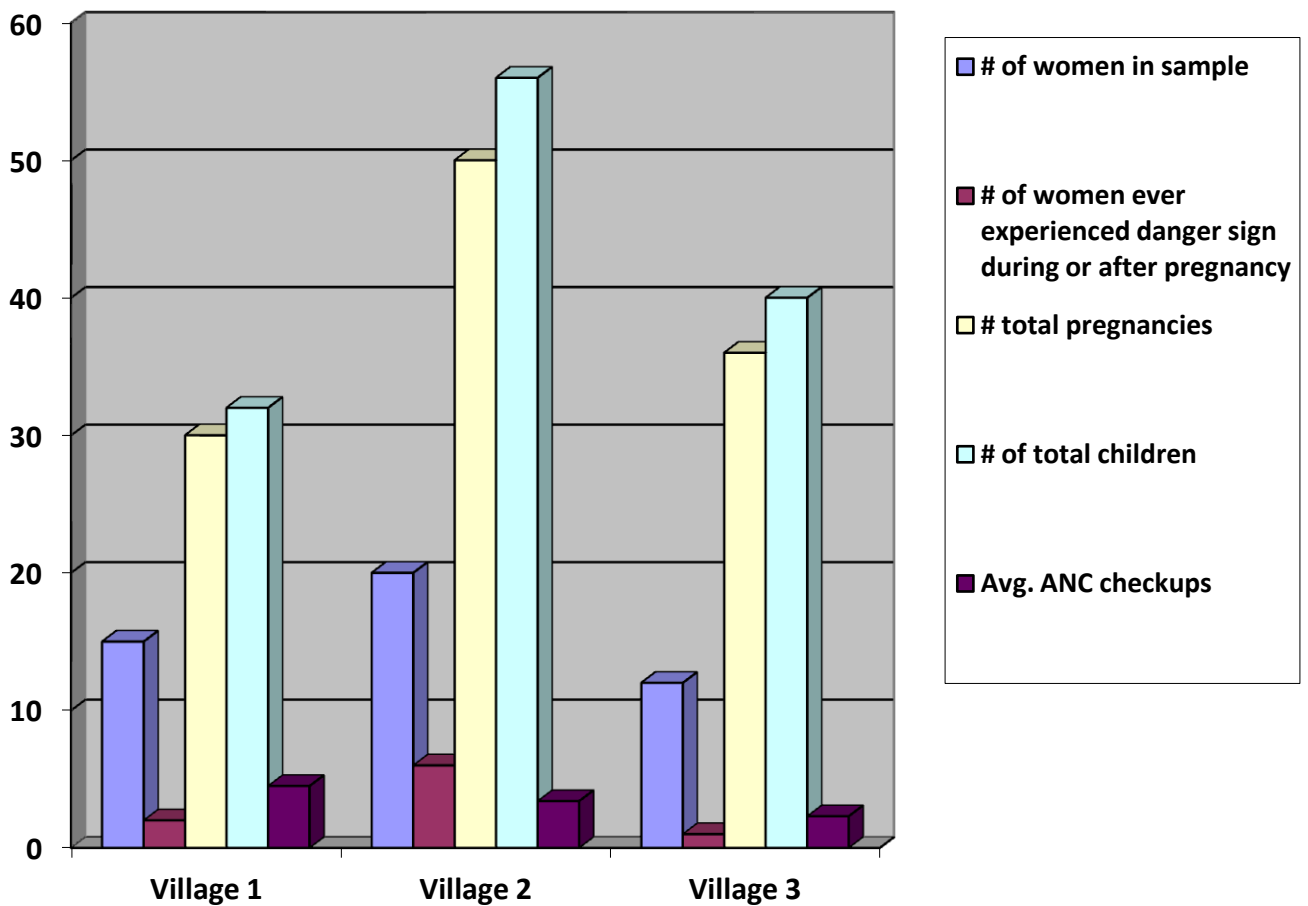
Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for Nutrition



ANC and Delivery

- How many children has your family had? (As many beans as they need)
- How many times do you get an ANC checkup when you are pregnant? (0-4 beans)
- Have you ever had any of the following problems during pregnancy? (Place one bean for each pregnancy they remember having that problem .)
 - Bleeding before the delivery
 - Swollen face, hands and feet
 - Fever
 - Throbbing headaches
 - Morning Sickness
- Have you ever had any of the following problems during or after your deliveries?
 - Continued bleeding
 - Child doesn't breastfeed a lot
 - Fever
 - Child has labored breathing

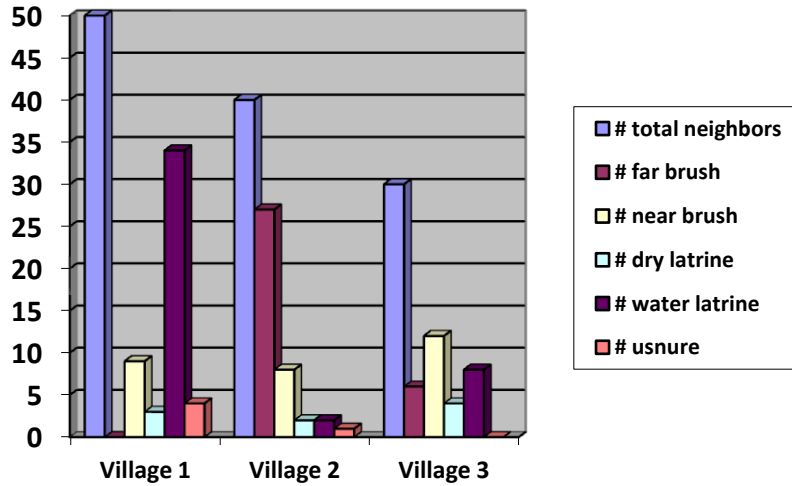
Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for ANC and Delivery



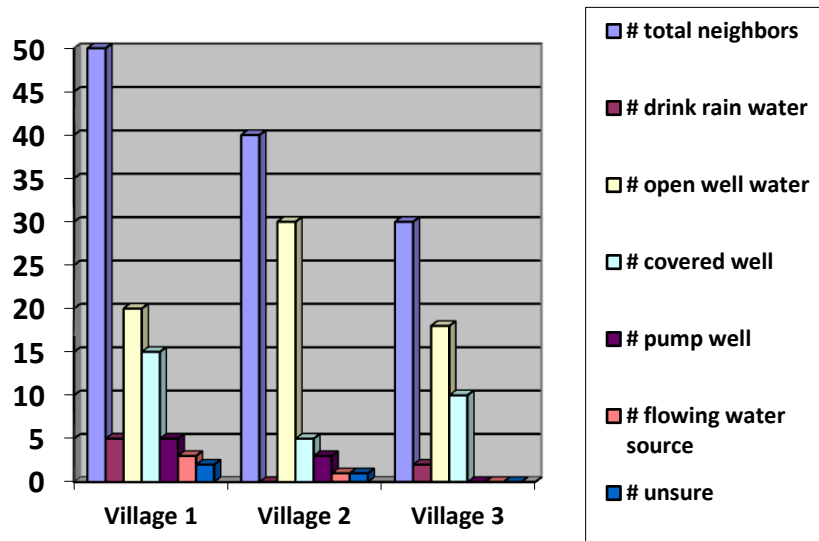
WASH

- How many neighbors do each of you have? (As many beans as they need)
- Where do your neighbors crap? (Answer one bean for each neighbor they answered before)
 - Have to walk to brush far from the house
 - Brush closer to the house
 - Dry latrine
 - Water latrine
 - Don't know
- Where do your neighbors get their drinking water? (Answer one bean for each neighbor they answered before)
 - Rain water catchment
 - Open well
 - Covered Well
 - Pump Well
 - Flowing Water
 - Don't know
- How many of your neighbors treat their water by which of these methods?
 - Boiling
 - Filtering
 - Chlorine Tablets
 - Don't know
- Which of the following are times you feel it is necessary wash their hands with soap? (Each person gets only 4 beans)
 - After crapping
 - Before cooking
 - Before eating
 - After cleaning a child's bottom
 - Before going to the pagoda
 - After eating
 - Before working in the fields
 - Before crapping

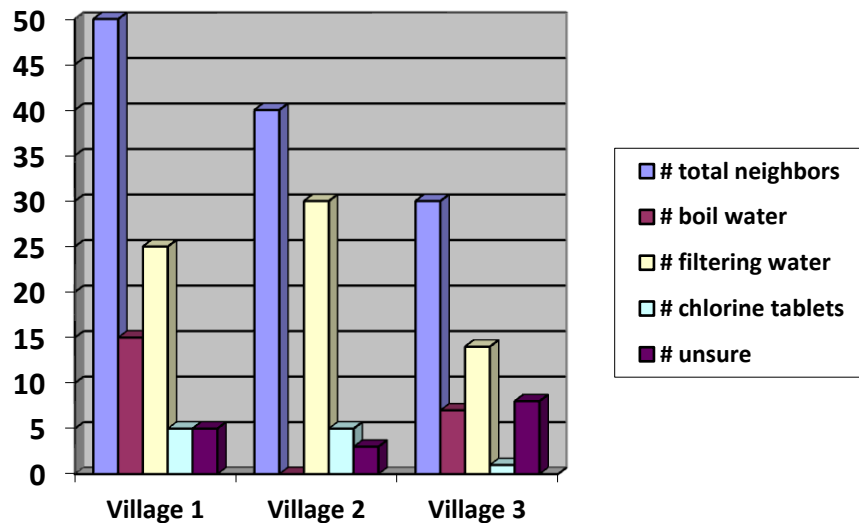
Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for WASH (Latrines)



Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for WASH (Water Sources)



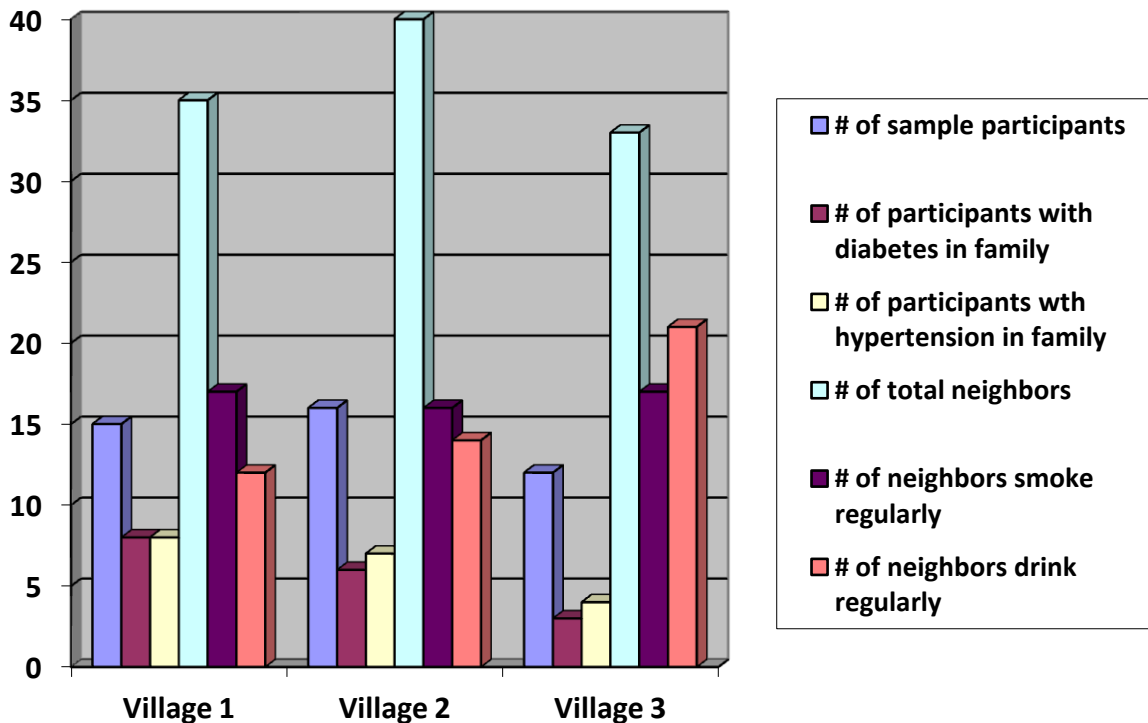
Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for WASH (Water Treatment)



Non-Communicable Diseases

- How many people do you know have high blood pressure?
- How many people do you know that have diabetes?
- Which of these describes how your family generally eats?
 - Meats cooked in pig fat
 - Meats and vegetables cooked in pig fat
 - Meats souped with salt and MSG
 - Meats and vegetables souped with salt and MSG
- How many neighbors do you have? (As many beans as they want)
- How many of your neighbors smoke regularly? (not more than they have neighbors)
- How many of your neighbors drink more than once a week? (not more than they have neighbors)

Example Graphic: Results of Bean Counting for Non-Communicable Diseases



Reproductive Health

- Would you feel comfortable learning about reproductive and sexual health yourself?
 - Yes
 - Depends on the subject
 - No, not at all
- Would you feel it is acceptable for youth in your community to learn more about reproductive and sexual health?
 - Yes
 - Depends on the specific subject
 - No, not at all