

Directorate : Community Development Services
Sub Directorates : Sustainable Livelihood & Community Mobilisation

Community Development

Community Development focuses on building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect.

A developed community would show improved livelihoods of its members. Community members would be empowered to manage their own development with no or minimum support on the state and/ other supporting structures.

Community development should amongst others achieve the following results:

- Promote social justice and empowerment, i.e. it should empower communities are empowered to claim their rights and meet their needs, have greater control over the decision-making processes that affect their lives.
- Ensure access and choice for all individuals and groups in households and communities.
- Reverse inequality and imbalance of power relationships in households and communities, thereby promoting social cohesion.
- Promote long-term sustainable change, i.e. interventions must respond to community priorities and seek to generate substantive, timely and sustainable benefits.
- Community ownership whereby all programmes, decisions and initiatives are fully owned by the community.
- Self reliant communities who have access to resources.
- Influential communities who participate in policy development and other programmes.

Sustainable Livelihood

A livelihood is sustainable when individuals, households and communities are able to cope and recover from stress and shocks.

- *A stress is a long-term chronic event such as an impact of HIV and AIDS that negatively affects the livelihoods of individuals and communities.*
- *A shock is an acute unexpected event that negatively affects livelihoods of individuals, households and communities such as crime, drought, war or death.*

Sustainable Livelihood Approach is a development methodology that is used to plan interventions for enhancing livelihoods of individuals, households and communities.

The approach focuses on people and their capacities, assets as well as strengths rather than their needs, weaknesses or constraints – it identifies people’s strengths and uses them to enhance their capabilities as well as assets in order to sustain their livelihood strategies and activities. It can be used as a primary planning tool and/ complementary to community based planning methodologies.

Community Mobilisation

Community Mobilisation is a capacity building process through which community members, groups or organisations plan, carry-out and evaluate activities on a participatory and sustained basis to improve their livelihoods.

It can be applied as a strategy to any aspect of community development in order to facilitate social change and promote social cohesion. The key element of community mobilisation is “**participation**”.

Community mobilisation is implemented in order to amongst others achieve the following results:

- Help communities to develop their plans, implement and continuously evaluate programmes.
- Raise community awareness and foster commitment to change.
- Strengthen community capacity.

- Address issues related to social exclusion.

Communities can also be mobilised through legally registered entities such as community based organisations, trusts and foundations.

Enquiries related to community development services can be directed to the Senior Manager: Community Development Services at the following details:

For more enquiries

Please contact the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Free State

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