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## Establishing a poverty profile in a rural community

### WATER AID

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#### Objective :

**To better identify and target the world's poorest areas when it comes to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. This can only be achieved with reliable and standardized research techniques that are sufficiently flexible to adapt to the real needs of each locality.**

#### Methodology :

Choose a case study village. Households will be the observation subject unit for this study, with the head of the household as the focus group.

A contact group comprising three people from outside the village are also interviewed, chosen from people who have a good knowledge of the village.

Domestic household census: establish an outline of the areas within the village, make a simple map of the village, identify and number the concession land and households in each area.

At the village's general meeting, ask attendees to define poverty and its characteristics, as seen by the villagers and in their own words.

Once the criteria for poverty have been established, make a summary of the information obtained and ask participants to define the different classes of poor people within the community - Rich, Average, Poor.

Finally, define the categories highlighted by the contact group and classify the households within a table.

To get a percentage, divide each number obtained by the number of households interviewed.

Upon completion of the study the following points must be highlighted:

The social-economic categories in local vocabulary

Criteria for poverty and wealth in local vocabulary

The percentage of households in each poverty category

Any difficulties or abnormalities observed, lessons learned and perspectives.

#### Synthesis

Learn how a community perceives poverty; identify the poorest households using criteria defined by the community itself in a bid to target them better when projects are carried out.

You can look at the synthetic note of this programme :

Water Aid  
Access to safe water,  
sanitation and hygiene  
education

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▪ Overview table of the possible classifications

<b>Qualitative method with equiprobability of the answers provided by contact group</b>					
	<b>CP1</b>	<b>CP1</b>	<b>CP3</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Category</b>
Household	P	P	P	<b>P</b>	Poor
Household	P	P	A	<b>P</b>	Poor
Household	P	P	R	<b>P</b>	Poor
Household	A	A	A	<b>A</b>	Average
Household	A	A	P	<b>A</b>	Average
Household	A	A	R	<b>A</b>	Average
Household	R	R	R	<b>R</b>	Rich
Household	R	R	P	<b>R</b>	Rich
Household	R	R	A	<b>R</b>	Rich
Household	P	A	R	<b>?</b>	Uncertain

P= Poor; A = Average; R = Rich; CP = Contact Person