

Tool Name: Mobility Mapping	
What is it?	Mobility mapping is a visual representation of people's movements within and outside their community.
What can it be used for?	The tool can identify issues and problems related to socially differentiated mobility and access to resources (such as land, water, health, and education services; information; capital; and decision making).
What does it tell you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially differentiated mobility within and outside a community can indicate differing levels of freedom, wealth, empowerment, and rights. • Mapping can show the economic, social, and political causes and impacts of socially differentiated mobility.
Complementary tools	Community resource mapping, social mapping
Key elements	The participatory data generating process identifies local perceptions of people's mobility/movements.
Requirements	
Data/information	This tool generates data and information; the only prior information required is for sampling analysts.
Time	1.5 to 2 hours
Skills	Good participatory facilitation and social analytical skills; a natural resource disciplinary background is useful.
Supporting software	No software needed.
Financial cost	This tool will cost \$30,000 to \$100,00 if conducted as part of a participatory study, depending on the number of communities sampled and the geographical scope of the study
Limitations	Some mobility or movement issues (such as women's mobility) might be sensitive in some local contexts.
References and applications	<p>Berg C., et al. <i>Introduction of a Participatory and Integrated Development Process (PIDEP) in Kalomo District, Zambia; Volume II: Manual for Trainers and Users of PIDEP</i>. http://www.fao.org/Participation/tools/mobilitymap_545.html.</p> <p><i>MekongInfo</i> is an interactive system for sharing information and knowledge about participatory natural resource management (NRM) in the Lower Mekong Basin. www.mekonginfo.org.</p> <p>Rock, F., ed. 2001. <i>Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) in Rural Cambodia</i>. Annex 11. Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), Cambodia. http://www.mekonginfo.org/mrc_en/doclib.nsf/0/BA7AA16ECF97B14247256BC90030DFF1/\$FILE/Annex11.html.</p> <p>RUAF (Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security). 2004. <i>PRA Tools for Studying Urban Agriculture and Gender</i>. http://www.ruaf.org/ruafpublications.html#gender2.</p>

Mobility Mapping: Procedures and Examples

Time, Materials, and Skills Needed

Approximately one hour should be allowed to produce and analyze a mobility map and to ensure that a full discussion occurs with local analysts.

Markers and large sheets of paper are required. Notebooks/paper and pens are needed to make a copy of the diagram and for the note-taker to record the discussion during the diagram development.

The discussion group will include a facilitator, observer/note-taker, and selected local analysts. The facilitator and observer/note-taker should be experienced in the principles behind the use of participatory tools and methods in addition to their practical use.

Possible Approach

The following approach is a general example that can be adapted to suit the local context, views of local analysts, and the research objectives.

Step 1: Select Local Analysts. Identify the groups of people to talk to about mobility issues. These decisions will be based on the objectives and depth of information required for the research. At a basic level, it might be necessary to have separate groups by gender because women and men might perceive the importance and relevance of institutions in different ways. It might also be appropriate to break the population down into further categories (such as ethnicity, well-being, or caste). Groups of five to twelve local analysts should reflect any relevant and important social divisions. These decisions will be based on the objectives and depth of information required for the research.

Step 2: Provide Introductions and Explanations. When working with each group, the facilitator and observer/note-taker should begin by introducing themselves and explaining carefully and clearly the objectives of the discussion. Check that the local analysts understand and feel comfortable with what will be discussed.

Step 3: Produce a Mobility Map. Ask local analysts to draw a map of all the places within and outside the community that they visit. These places could be names of other towns or where services are available (such as a well, market, school, rural health center, and so on). Ensure that the group has common agreement on what is drawn on the map. The map does not need to be to scale, but distances could be added alongside the lines between place names if necessary. Another option is to indicate the perceived relative importance of each place by using different size labels for each place name.

Ask how many times they visit these places each month and for what reasons (health, shopping, marketing, education, and so on). Use different types of lines (such as dots, dashes, different colors) to indicate the purpose and frequency of visits. Frequency could be indicated by the thickness of the line. Ensure that the different types of lines are clearly explained on the map.

A useful alternative is to include places where people come from on the map. For example, significant migration into the area from outside could be indicated on the map. Arrows to indicate directions could be included on the lines that connect place names.

Step 4: Analyze Mobility Maps. After the map has been completed, it can be used while conducting semi-structured interviews on topics of interest and for enabling local analysts to conduct their own discussions and analysis. These discussions should be noted or recorded. It might be useful to have a list of key questions to guide a discussion about mobility. For example, are there seasonal variations in where people travel? What types of transport are used for certain journeys, especially for those that take them to the places farther away? What are the economic, social and political causes and impacts of their mobility patterns? How might a particular policy intervention impact these mobility patterns?

If local analysts have sufficient time, it might be useful to ask them to draw a series of maps to illustrate changes over time.

If there are several different groups, ask each group to present its map to the others for reactions and comments. Are there any serious disagreements? If so, note these and whether a consensus is reached.

Step 5: Conclude the Activity. Check again that the analysts know how the information will be used. Ask the analysts to reflect on the advantages, disadvantages, and the analytical potential of the tool. Thank the local analysts for their time and effort.

Points to Remember

Good facilitation skills are key. The approach outlined above is a general guide; be flexible and adapt the tool and approach to local contexts and needs.