

# Reveal: introduction

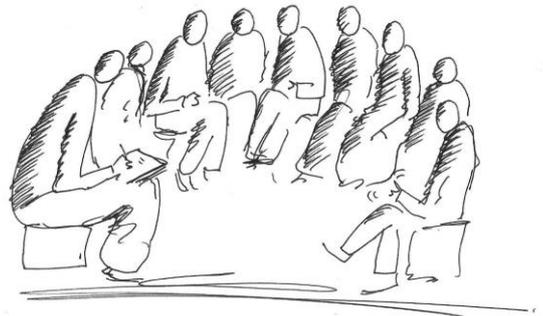


## Welcome to *Reveal*.

**Reveal** is not a normal book or manual! If you are thinking of using anything from this resource, please read this Introduction first. We also recommend that you read the tools in **Section A1 Hidden issues – information for facilitators**. Other than that, please choose the tools that you wish to use with communities.

**Reveal** is for people working directly with local communities or churches, for example:

- Umoja or PEP facilitators
- Other Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM) facilitators
- Community development workers
- NGO staff working in the field



**Reveal** is a collection of tools and activities for you to use to help your work with communities. It is not a 'process' to work through from start to finish. Instead, we encourage you to look at the Contents list of tools and activities, and find the ones that will help communities in their own development journey. You may want to use some of these tools to support a CCM process such as Umoja or Participatory Evaluation Process (PEP) (see **Introductory tool: Using Reveal alongside a CCM process**), or to support other community development work. Each tool is written so you can use it on its own whenever needed.

**Reveal** includes tools to guide discussion; games and activities to reveal issues which could be hidden; tools explaining how to plan for and carry out actions and projects; and Bible studies. It covers many different themes and topics. It contains a great deal of information but it does not contain everything you need to know about every issue! We suggest other resources and places you can go to look for further information. We also encourage facilitators to access information locally, for example, from government officials, NGOs and libraries. And, of course, communities have a lot of their own knowledge that we should always seek to build on.

## Why use Reveal?

Tearfund believes that development and resilience to disasters are only sustainable when the process is truly owned and led by communities themselves. However, experience has shown that sometimes, communities may need support to recognise and address issues that would otherwise be ignored or unseen. These are so-called 'hidden issues' that aren't talked about because people are ashamed or embarrassed, or because they are issues that are misunderstood. We also recognise that sometimes, technical guidance and input may be needed to complement community empowerment to ensure good practice and prevent unintended harm. Reveal can help a process of community empowerment become *even more effective*, by providing tools to help uncover, explore and address hidden issues, and by providing technical advice and support for community actions and projects.

### Community empowerment + technical input = great results

Community empowerment without technical support can lead to projects failing. One mobilised community dug 36 wells, but only 4 of them yielded water. The other 32 were a huge waste of community time, energy and resources. A different community-led water project supported with appropriate technical input ensured that the wells were located in the right places, and that ongoing operation and maintenance work was planned. The wells built in this project are still in use many years later.

Equally, strong technical input without community mobilisation can fail. Several years ago, in a small town in western Rwanda, the government wanted to increase banana yields to help communities overcome hunger. The right technical solution was to remove the community's banana trees and plant more productive, younger versions. But the community was not consulted. They opposed the move as the bananas were their emergency crop that would still yield during droughts. Some people even staged a protest wrapping their arms around their trees when the government workers came to cut them down. So this 'technically correct' intervention by the government failed.

A few years later, Tearfund's partner, Moucecore, successfully lobbied the local mayor to allow them to use a church and community transformation approach in the area. This enabled the community to reflect on both their challenges and opportunities and to become empowered to change their own situation. As a result they decided that they needed to reduce their hunger by making the most of their bananas. Alongside community empowerment Moucecore provided training on agricultural good practice. This included advice on replacing old unproductive banana trees.

The community decided to plant new younger banana trees at greater spacings and get rid of their old ones. This resulted in a dramatic increase in yields. Banana production grew from typically 15kg per bunch to 60kg per bunch! Now the community had enough for their own needs and also surplus produce to sell. Where technical input on its own had failed, the combination of community empowerment and technical input produced great results.

*Reveal* is divided into three main sections:

### Section A – Revealing hidden issues

This section includes tools to help you **raise and explore hidden issues** with communities and churches. These issues are often ‘hidden’ because they are difficult or ‘taboo’ issues such as abuse against children or women. Or they may be issues that a community does not yet understand. For example, a community may be experiencing changing weather patterns, but people may need help in understanding that climate change is the cause of this.



### Section B – Bible studies

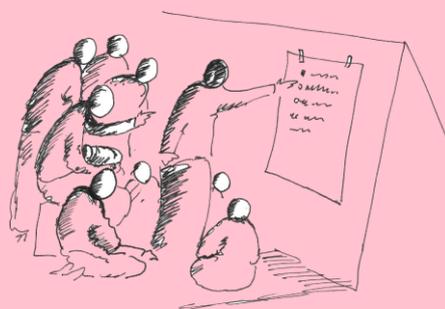
This section includes Bible studies on all of the issues addressed in *Reveal*. It may be important for a church or community to spend time finding out what the Bible says about these things. The Bible studies are written to help people explore the issues, and to think through the attitudes they have and whether these need to change.

### Section C – Revealing guidance and support for action

This section includes tools to use with communities once they have decided upon an issue or problem they would like to address.

It includes **guidance on different approaches to tackling problems** (Section C1), and good practice guides for **planning and carrying out projects** on different issues (Section C2).

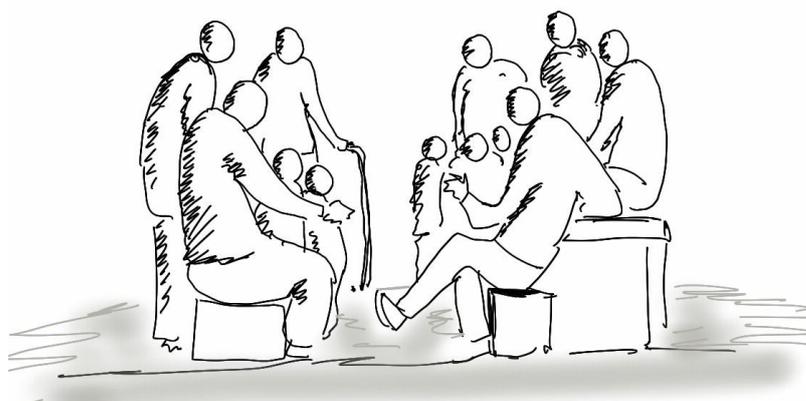
All of the tools focus on participation and inclusion of the whole community, particularly thinking about women, children and people with disabilities. They also include considerations of how we can protect the environment as we carry out projects. The tools in Section C2 include a section called ‘At a glance’, on the first page of the tool, which is a summary of what the tool contains.



Within each section, *Reveal* tools are arranged into categories. Each tool has a unique reference. This is found in the top right corner of each page, and refers to the section of *Reveal* that the tool is from, and the main category it relates to. Each tool is also given a number to distinguish it from other tools within the same section and category. For example, the tool 'Starting a business', has the following reference: 'C2: Food & livelihoods-6'. This means that it is in Section C2, within the category called 'Food & livelihoods' and is the 6<sup>th</sup> tool in this section and category. Many tools address more than one category, and these are shown in a column down the right hand side of each page. The box at the end of this Introduction explains what each category includes.

## Before starting

There are several things to think about before carrying out any activities with communities. It is important to think about *when* and *where* you will meet with the groups that you want to work with. It is important that the time chosen is one that is convenient for



women, men and children, so you should ask people beforehand what time would be best for them. You may need to hold activities at different times to suit different people. Think also about the location. Are all people – including people with disabilities – able to take part in the activities?

It is important that all groups – women, men, children, people with disabilities, older people, vulnerable adults – are able to participate in all activities and in all stages of planning and carrying out projects. Think about how you can best involve them. This may mean carrying out the activities separately with different groups.

If you are new to facilitation, we suggest that you read the **Introductory tool: facilitation skills** before using any of the other tools.

*Reveal* does not include individual community assessment tools, which can be used by communities to help them understand or record their own situation, assets or needs. However, we include a list of such tools, and point to where they can be found in our **Introductory tool: community assessment tools**.

We are happy for the material within *Reveal* to be translated or changed to make it more relevant and useful in your context. If you wish to do this, we ask that you read our **Introductory tool: translating and changing tools** first.

If you have any suggestions for how any aspects of *Reveal* can be improved, or have any games, activities or guides that you would like to be added, please email [reveal@tearfund.org](mailto:reveal@tearfund.org).

## Explaining the *Reveal* categories

Awareness-raising	Tools that help to raise awareness of an issue, often with the aim of changing harmful values, beliefs and behaviours.
Children & youth	Tools addressing the welfare, protection, development, parenting and education of children and young people, including child marriage. Female genital mutilation/cutting is included within 'Gender and sexual violence'.
Climate & environment	Tools that address climate change and environmental degradation, including explaining these issues, helping communities to protect and care for their environment and to adapt to a changing climate.
Conflict & peacebuilding	Tools that help people to understand and analyse conflict, and work effectively within a conflict setting, and tools that aim to help communities reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace.
Corruption & governance	Tools explaining and seeking to tackle corruption (when somebody who holds power abuses that power in order to gain something). This category also covers wider governance issues, such as prison reform and work with prisoners.
Disaster risk management	Tools that help communities to prepare for, respond to, or reduce the impact of potential hazards (eg heavy rain, earthquakes or drought) and disasters. DRM includes Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience-building.
Discrimination & inclusion	Tools to reveal and tackle stigma, prejudice and discrimination against any group of people, including discrimination on the basis of disability, race, caste, religion, age or background. And tools to ensure everyone benefits as communities develop. Tools addressing discrimination against women are included within 'Gender and sexual violence', and tools addressing stigma and discrimination on the basis of HIV status are included within 'Health and HIV'.
Food & livelihoods	Tools about food security and sustainable livelihoods, including small-scale agriculture, home gardening, poultry, livestock, and growing and harvesting crops, and initiatives that support livelihood development such as credit and savings groups, self-help groups, and community action groups. It also covers food preservation and preparation, nutrition and healthy eating.
Gender & sexual violence	Tools to reveal and address inequality between men and women, and to address gender-based violence, including sexual violence and female genital mutilation/cutting.
Health & HIV	Tools to raise awareness about HIV, promote behaviour change, and to address stigma and discrimination on the basis of HIV. This category also includes tools addressing wider health issues, including care, and also drug addiction.

Influencing decision-makers	Tools sharing good practice on influencing the decisions, policies and practices of powerful decision-makers in order to address underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development. This is sometimes called 'advocacy'.
Migration & trafficking	Tools helping people to think through the risks and opportunities of migration, and addressing its impacts on communities. Tools to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking and help communities to support survivors of trafficking.
Water, sanitation & hygiene	Tools to explain the importance of safe water, sanitation and hygiene to communities, and good practice guides supporting access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices.