

FACILITATOR NOTES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL THEME: LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

Setting the Context (4 minutes):

Employment and livelihoods are shaped by a multitude of factors that are constantly shifting for those who live in the underdeveloped nations of the world. The “3rd World Farmer” computer simulation offers just a tiny glimpse into the real challenges faced by small-scale farmers across the developing world. Small-scale farmers are usually families who farm less than two hectares of land, earning less than \$1.25 per day. There are well over a billion of such people and they are amongst the most vulnerable to climate change, political upheaval, military conflicts, as well as economic globalisation (international market forces).

Points for pre-activity discussion:

To produce food for their own needs and to generate an income to sustain their family, small-scale farmers have a number of requirements including:

- access to land that has nutrient rich soil
- access to water
- a productive climate
- tools and equipment
- storage
- stable market prices

Farmers must also have the physical capacity to do their job and so good health is vital which means they also need access to food that provides adequate nutrition and access to medical services.

Activity (15 minutes):

3rd World Farmer Computer Simulation Game.

Materials needed:

work space for 6-8 laptop computers with WiFi access to this link <http://3rdworldfarmer.com/>

Description:

3rd World Farmer is a simulation game about serious issues that impact the lives of those living in poverty. It's not precise in all details, but covers a wide range of topics that lets the player experience some of the hardships of small-scale farming in a developing country. Will there be prosperity despite corruption and lack of basic necessities or will conflict, disease, drought and unreliable markets perpetuate a cycle of economic disadvantage with disastrous results? The simulation is meant to be both educational and slightly provocative, with the sole intent of making people think about these topics and, hopefully, realise that each of us can make a difference in helping to end poverty.

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Post Activity Discussion Points (3 minutes):

The work of agencies like UnitingWorld and Anglican Board of Mission aim to empower local communities with the materials and skills they need in order to generate a sustainable income, increasing their access to basic services and empowering them to move themselves out of poverty. Our agencies take the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) as a way to improve our understanding of those people who live in poverty. SLA puts people at the centre and we are strongly guided by several principles when we plan new development activities or assess the contribution that existing activities have made to sustaining livelihoods.

- Be people-centred analyse and understand people's livelihoods and how they change over time and actively involve the people themselves throughout the project cycles.
- Be holistic acknowledge that people adopt many strategies to secure their livelihoods, and that many stakeholders are involved; for example private companies, government, community-based organisations and international organisations
- Be dynamic - understand the dynamic nature of livelihoods and what influences them.
- Build on strengths – such as supporting existing livelihood strategies, and building on strengths and opportunities rather than focusing on problems and needs.
- Promote micro-macro links – look at the influence of policies and institutions on livelihood options and highlights the need for policies to be informed by insights from the local level and by the priorities of those who live in poverty.
- Encourage broad partnerships – in both the public and private sector.
- Aim for sustainability - sustainability is important if poverty reduction is to be lasting.

Source:

International Fund for Agricultural Development <http://www.ifad.org/sla/>

Evaluation Questions (3 minutes):

- In the context of this game, list at least 4 challenges that are beyond the ability of the small-scale farmer to control.
- Explain the impact of ill-health for a small-scale farmer and describe at least two consequences.