**BUILDING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

**Date:** 3/11  
*(1 HOUR)*

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Participants will understand how to leave ownership of a project with insiders, and not to take control as outsiders.
2. Participants will understand the benefits projects owned by insiders, and the hazards of projects funded and controlled by outsiders.
3. Participants will know what outsiders can do to help a community take control of its own development and create their own solutions.

**OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS:** This lesson was created as part of a series for training short term teams.

**METHOD**

Tell the Mountain Story (attached).

Break into small groups, and remain in small groups for the remainder of this session. Have participants discuss the following questions one at a time in their small groups. Break after each question to report back and scribe their answers before moving on to the next question.

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<thead>
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<th>I.</th>
<th>What are the potential hazards of solutions designed and funded entirely by outsiders? (Small groups)</th>
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<td>II.</td>
<td>What are the benefits of a solution that is created by the people using local resources? (Small groups)</td>
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<td>III.</td>
<td>What mistakes did the outsiders make that eventually required them to back out of the project? (Small groups)</td>
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**TIME**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**Potential Hazards of solutions designed and funded by Outsiders**

A. Addressing symptoms but not the cause.
B. Creating dependencies.
C. Introduction solutions that are unsustainable or impractical.
D. Denying community opportunity to think together and create their own solutions.

**Benefits of a solution that is created by the people using local resources**

A. Solutions more likely to be sustainable.
B. Community has control over their own future.
C. Community learns to work together.
D. Community sees what they have and not just what they lack.
E. Community inspired by hope.

**Mistakes outsiders make that eventually require them to back out of the project**

A. Made assumptions that were unrealistic.
B. Did the thinking for the people.
C. Saw money as the solution.
D. Ignored local resources.
E. Lacked confidence in the people to solve
III. What can outsiders do to help the community to take control of their own development and create their own solutions? (Small groups)

A. Start by asking “What do you have?” instead of “What do you need?”
B. Help people see what they can do for themselves instead of doing things for them.
C. Be a facilitator, not a controller.
D. Build relationships.
E. Spend time with the people building trust, friendships, and a mutual commitment.
F. Encourage people to make changes themselves rather than doing things for them.
G. Give input as needed and requested.
H. Resist giving things away. People value what they pay or work for.
I. Map assets and identify local resources.
J. Raise awareness of causes and hazards. Help people understand why they have a problem and make it a priority to find a solution.
K. Facilitate discussion and planning. Start with small, viable projects.
L. Walk in the Spirit and pray.
M. “Get dirty” and work together with the people on their initiatives.
N. Facilitate community meetings.
O. Involve people analyzing their problems and creating solutions.
P. Help the community to see the real root problem, not just the apparent problem.
Q. Wait for them to take initiative. Be patient.
R. Build confidence in people by considering their ideas as worthwhile.
S. Help them develop plans to accomplish their objectives.

IV. Give the definition of community ownership.

Community ownership is people working together voluntarily to achieve their own initiatives using available resources to shape their own destiny with the help of Almighty God.
BUILDING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

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**ATTITUDE:** Facilitator has a teachable heart, willing to be an encourager and motivator, but not a doer in community development.

**SKILL:** Participants will be able to get the community involved and owning the project.

**EVALUATION:** Facilitators will know that participants have learned the content of this lesson when they see that the community is in control of the project and taking ownership of it. The project will be sustainable after the outside training team leaves the area and they will not continue to look to outsiders to initiate everything or provide all the inputs for them.

**MATERIALS:**
- Newsprint
- Marking Pens
- Masking Tape
- *Mountain Story Showing Ownership*

This lesson is used in: Program Trainings – TOT II, Urban TOT
MOUNTAIN STORY SHOWING OWNERSHIP

There once was a village located on top of a steep mountain. On a regular basis, as people were coming down the mountain, they would slip off the trail and fall to the valley below. A number of people were injured and some even killed.

A short term team came to their village, saw this problem and wanted to do something about it. They thought about what they could do and then decided that the best thing would be to station an ambulance at the base of the mountain. Therefore when a person fell, a driver could rush with the ambulance to pick him up and bring him to the closest hospital 10 kilometers away. The people in the village were excited about this idea. The short term team went home and raised the funds for the ambulance. The people at home were excited that they could get involved and help.

One day the ambulance broke down, but the people ignored the problem until another person fell off the trail and needed the ambulance to be taken to the hospital, but there was no transport available. They then became very concerned and went looking for the short term team that had put the ambulance there. They complained that the team’s ambulance was broken down and wanted to know why they didn't keep the vehicle in good repair. The team raised more money and fixed it for them. However, the same problem happened several more times, again with the people coming to the the team wanting them to sort out the problem.

The short term team finally decided that there were too many repairs required on the vehicle and they couldn’t keep raising more money to fix it. They told the people it was their problem. The team had tried but could no longer help. The people felt sad about this, but did nothing. They were now back to the place where they had begun.

Representatives from the church diocese came, saw the problem and said they wanted to help. The diocese decided that what was really needed was a clinic at the foot of the mountain, so if someone fell they could get immediate medical care. The diocese then built a clinic, provided equipment, staff and drugs. The people were very happy that those who fell could now get immediate attention and not have to make the 10-kilometer drive to the other clinic.

This worked well for awhile, but eventually those working at the clinic wanted some time off so the clinic was left unattended. The people went to the diocese and complained about the poor service that the clinic was providing and said the diocese had to give them better care. The diocese put in extra staff to cover during the holidays.

Several times the clinic ran out of drugs and the people complained about the poor care the diocese was providing for them. The diocese ran low on money and had to stop some of their operations to conserve their money. They decided to stop staffing this clinic and providing drugs for it. They shut it down. The people were very angry with the diocese.

The people didn't know what to do. The two ideas which outsiders had done for them, the ambulance and clinic, were no longer available and working. A respected man in the community said, "Let's meet to talk about the real problem." They looked back at their original need, which was to somehow take care of those who fell off the path as they were traveling up and down the mountain from the village. The two solutions helped somewhat, but there were problems with each solution.

As they talked, the respected man said, "I had an idea when we first talked about the problem, but no one would listen to me. The outsider was going to do everything for us for free. My idea would have taken some work and money on our part so no one was interested in what I had to offer."

He then told them his idea, which was to build a fence along the trail to keep people from falling over the edge. It would take work on the part of the people to cut the wood for the fence and to put it up. It would take a little money to put the fence posts in cement so they would last longer.
The people responded with, "That's a great idea. Let's do it." So they raised the little money they needed and began to work. After several weeks the work was done. Now, when someone slipped, the fence stopped them from falling over the edge to the valley below. After a few years the wood began to rot, but instead of going to an outsider, they went and fixed the fence themselves. Now, instead of looking to the outside for help, they began to look to their own community for solving the problem. This one project gave them confidence that they could do things for themselves. Now when someone from the outside came to give them something, they said "Thank you, but if we think it is important we will do it ourselves.

**DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

Community ownership is people working together voluntarily to achieve their own initiatives using available resources to shape their own destiny with the help of Almighty God.