Restoration Networks

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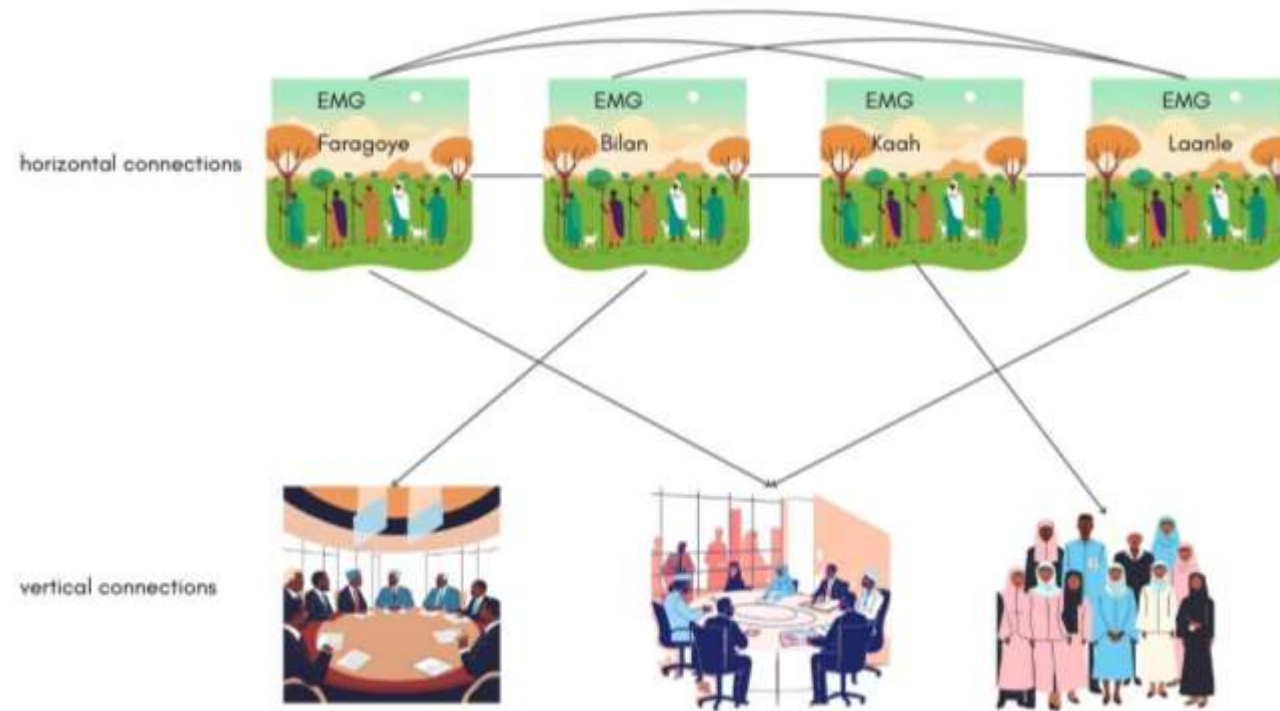
Somali Greenpeace Association

Introduction: What is Networking and Collaboration?

Delivering a session on **Networking and Collaboration** for Environmental Management Groups (EMGs) in rural Somalia, especially with low-education participants, requires using practical, easy-to-understand methods that resonate with their day-to-day experiences. The goal is to help them form effective networks, share resources, and collaborate on environmental restoration efforts.

Types of Networks

- Horizontal networks among farmers and EMGs

- **Why**? To promote knowledge sharing, amplifying local level impact, learning from each others' experiences, group support

- Vertical networks between EMGs and policy makers

- **Why**? To enable advocacy, potential nation-wide initiatives, raise awareness on the needs and secure support through policies and policy makers

horizontal connections

EMG Faragoye

EMG Bilan

EMG Kaah

EMG Laanle

vertical connections

•**Objective:** Ensure EMGs understand what networking and collaboration mean in the context of Humanitarian Disasters or environmental restoration.

•**Activity:** Use simple, relatable analogies to explain these concepts.

•Example: "Networking is like how farmers share seeds or knowledge about planting seasons. Collaboration is when they come together to work on a shared goal, like improving the water supply or planting trees."

•**Visual Aids:** Use images or drawings of people working together, sharing resources like tools or information.

Importance of Networking for Environmental Restoration

- **Objective:** Show why networking and collaboration are key to successful environmental restoration.
- **Explanation:** Emphasize the benefits of working together:
- Larger impact through collective effort.
- Ability to share tools, knowledge, and resources.
- Creating a stronger voice to advocate for local environmental policies.
- **Activity:** Group discussion on how they currently collaborate in their villages.
- Ask them to share examples of when they worked together (e.g., for water conservation, addressing flooding).
- Write down the key examples on a board or flip chart for all to see.

Forming Networks: Practical Steps

- **Objective:** Teach them how to initiate and form networks within and between different villages.

- **Steps:**
  - **Identify Common Interests:** Start by finding common environmental issues they care about (e.g., drought, deforestation, soil degradation).
  - **Create Communication Channels:** Set up regular meetings (can be informal) or mobile communication through SMS or phone calls for constant updates.
  - **Share Resources:** Encourage them to share tools, knowledge, seeds, or even labor.
  - **Delegate Roles:** Each group or village should designate key roles, such as a leader, communicator, or resource manager.

- **Activity:** Break them into small groups, and ask them to discuss environmental problems in their communities. Then, have them plan how they would form a network to address one problem.

- **Role-Playing:** Have one group act out the process of forming a network (e.g., one village invites another for a meeting to discuss tree planting).

Collaboration in Environmental Restoration

- **Objective:** Show how collaboration leads to more efficient and impactful restoration efforts.
- **Practical Examples:**
- Explain how one community could focus on planting trees while another focuses on managing water sources, and both collaborate to restore an area together.
- Introduce the idea of sharing tools (e.g., one village lends farming tools to another to help with planting).
- **Activity:** Organize a mock collaboration.
- Divide the participants into two groups.
- Give each group a different environmental challenge (e.g., one deals with planting trees, another with protecting water sources).
- Ask them to collaborate and create a plan where their efforts support each other.
- Have them present their plan to the rest of the group.

Communication in Networking: Staying Connected

- **Objective:** Show how staying connected is key to successful collaboration.

- **Methods of Communication:**

  - In-person meetings during market days, festivals, or other community gatherings.

  - Mobile phone networks (even basic SMS or voice calls) to keep in touch.

  - Appointing a 'communication leader' in each village to serve as a point of contact for others.

- **Activity:** Set up a network.

  - Have each group choose a representative.

  - Organize a mock communication chain where each group needs to inform the others about an environmental issue (e.g., a sudden flood risk).

  - The goal is to see how quickly and efficiently the information spreads.

Building Trust and Resolving Conflicts

▶ **Objective:** Address potential challenges in networking and collaboration, such as trust issues or conflicts.

▶ **Explanation:** Talk about how trust is essential for networks to work.

    ▶ Use examples like how trust is built by keeping promises, being transparent about what resources are shared, and resolving disagreements quickly.

▶ **Activity:** Role-play conflict resolution.

    ▶ Ask two participants to act out a scenario where there's a disagreement over resource-sharing, and then have the group suggest ways to resolve it.

Taking the First Steps: How to Start a Local Network

- **Objective:** Help them take the first steps toward forming a network once they return home.

- **Steps to Action:**

    - **Identify a Common Goal:** Each EMG should identify their most pressing environmental issue (e.g., drought, deforestation).

    - **Hold a First Meeting:** Encourage them to organize a meeting with nearby villages or communities to discuss forming a network.

    - **Develop a Plan:** Create a simple action plan that details how they will work together, share resources, and communicate regularly.

    - **Evaluate Progress:** Every few months, meet to discuss progress and adapt the plan as necessary.

- **Activity:** Action Planning.

    - Have each participant write down the first three steps they will take to start a network when they go back to their community. Ask them to share it with the group for feedback and ideas.

Monitoring and Sustaining Networks

▶ **Objective:** Ensure the networks are sustainable and impactful over time.

▶ **Steps:**

   ▶ Periodically check in on progress through communication leaders.

   ▶ Encourage continuous collaboration by addressing new issues as they arise (e.g., organizing a meeting when new environmental challenges come up).

   ▶ Provide opportunities for groups to share success stories, either in person or through mobile networks.

▶ **Activity:** Reflection and Commitment.

   ▶ Ask participants to reflect on how they will keep their networks alive. What challenges might they face, and how can they overcome them?

Feedback and Evaluation

▶ **Objective:** Gather feedback to continuously improve the networking efforts.

▶ **Steps:**

  ▶ After the session, collect feedback from the participants on what they found useful and what they might still need help with.

  ▶ Use this feedback to refine future training.

By delivering the session through interactive activities, real-life examples, and peer discussions, you can ensure that participants not only understand the importance of networking and collaboration but also have the practical skills to implement it effectively in their communities. This approach focuses on empowering them to take action, share resources, and make a collective impact on environmental restoration efforts.

- Thank you.

Questions?

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