

The CHOICE Humanitarian MODEL – How we measure the progress.

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Tools, Results, Recognition

CHOICE tracks the progress of partner communities using specialized methods developed over time in many countries. Analyzing how village standards of living improve over time helps determine which communities are gaining the most ground, and why. Being able to evaluate progress means that both CHOICE staff and community members can learn from their experiences, confirming that the model is working. Need for such analysis led the CHOICE team to design and implement two field measurement tools: The Twenty Points of Progress and The Phases of Village Development. These tools provide developmental snapshots of community advancement and growth.

The Twenty Points of Progress

This evaluation tool is designed for a village to evaluate itself on the twenty most relevant indicators and be capable of tracking their own progress over time. This instrument was first developed by Dr. James Mayfield in the early 1990's, with the support of UNICEF. It has been field-tested across different cultures in countries as diverse as Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines. In 1996 CHOICE endorsed the tool's validity and established The Twenty Points of Progress Program.

A series of twenty questions evaluates living conditions in the following five areas:

1. Education and literacy
2. Medical services and public health
3. Income improvement and alleviation of poverty
4. Environmental concerns
5. Community leadership, cooperation, and participation

CHOICE staff members train village leaders to use the tool to quantify their current status. This method simplifies evaluation, making the process swift and enabling frequent use. As a village develops, improving scores make progress noticeable and assists in prioritizing needs. The tool's simplicity also facilitates both regional and international comparisons. Having employed the tool in villages worldwide gives CHOICE the ability to analyze data sets across different countries and cultures.

Learning to use this measurement tool enables the rural communities who partner with CHOICE to witness their own transformation. Being able to measure community accomplishments inspires further progress.