

HOW TO DO A TALKING MAP IN COVID-19 TIMES?

Doing field research in a pandemic context requires the ability to innovate and adapt methodologies in order to continue the work and reduce the risk of spreading the virus. This challenge implies avoiding group meetings such as assemblies or workshops and optimizing the time that is requested for the participants. It also requires new strategies for approaching people.

This guide is an effort by the Tomorrow's Cities project to adapt a traditional talking map to the current context. Then, the process to apply this exercise at the household level is presented step by step. Some design inputs that can be replicated are also shared.

What is a talking map?

A talking map is an exercise of graphic representation of the territory that is done in a participatory way with the community through dialogue and the use of manual elements to express the characteristics, dynamics and problems of an area.

What is it for?

The talking map allows to recognize the place from the perspective of its inhabitants, by identifying natural elements, infrastructure and the social relationships that exist into the place. The talking map makes visible those who live in a territory and the ways in which they do it. It also serves to identify the occupation trends of the territory and its evolution, as well as the problems and benefits of a particular area.

How to make a talking map in the context of a pandemic?

Preparation:

- 1** To begin with, it is necessary to have a prior approach to the community to achieve their participation. This may require a trust-building process.
- 2** Have a base map or sketch of the neighbourhood or area of interest. This should preferably contain the lots, streets, and houses. If it is not possible to have the lots, it is okay to use the blocks. The images of the area can be obtained from Google Maps or other sources (*see annex 1*).
- 3** Identify the reference points of the area on the map by using icons or symbols. For example, parks, schools and colleges, churches, sport fields, neighbourhood centres or community halls, shops, or others can be located at the map. Also include the names of the roads, the staircases if exists, and locate the cardinal points (*see annex 2*).
- 4** Create an instruction guide according to the interests of the project. We have designed a set of stickers of different elements of the neighbourhood so people can stick them on the map. You can design your step-by-step guide so that participants can reflect on their territory when they position the stickers on the map (*see annex 3*).
- 5** Prior to visit the household for doing the talking map, it is necessary to schedule in advance the day and time that is most appropriate for the people. To do this, it is necessary first too invite people to the activity, either by visiting the neighbourhood in advance or by delivering an invitation from house to house, leaving advertisements in local stores or using communication channels of the neighbourhood such as WhatsApp groups.
- 6** Prepare the kit for each household. You can consider the following materials:

- a. Map printed preferably in A2 and minimum in A3 containing the sketch with lots/blocks, street names, and reference points.
- b. Instructions guide and questions to answer.
- c. Stickers: icons printed preferably on die-cut adhesive paper to stick on the map, or to cut with scissors (see annex 4).
- d. Coloured markers.
- e. Rubber.
- f. Scotch tape.
- g. Cards to answer questions (see annex 5).

Application at participants' house:

- 1 Greetings and thanks for participating in the exercise. Do not forget to ask all participants to wear a mask.
- 2 Find a space, preferably open, to make the talking map. The map can be fixed on the exterior walls of the house or placed on a table. Placing some chairs in the open space will be very useful.
- 3 Explain what the purpose of the talking map is and how the information will be used.
 - a. Have preferably two facilitators. One will lead the exercise, and the other will take notes of the discussion and provide the material to the participants.
- 4 Start with the questions in the guide and place the stickers near the participants so they can stick them. The facilitator should promote the dialogue by asking additional questions according to what is being discussed.
- 5 Do not forget to ask these questions for evaluating the activity:
 - a. What did you like the most about the exercise?
 - b. How did you feel with the activity?
 - c. Is there some action you would like to take for your neighbourhood after the exercise?
- 6 At the end of the questions, open the floor for any additional comments.
- 7 Thank for the time, take a photo of the final map to process the results later, and return it to the people.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- This talking map exercise is designed to be one hour long, with approximately four participants. Compliance with this depends on the ability of the facilitators to manage time. If there are more participants, you can probably take some extra time.
- In case there is any leftover material, leave it to the participants together with the final map. The objective is that the people have it since they are the ones who have worked on it. The photo will serve to put together a general map with all the maps.
- It is recommended to ensure the anonymity of the data obtained on the map. That means not to attribute specifically the map to any family or person.

ANNEX 3: Instruction guide

TALKING MAP

Instruction guide

- 1** To begin with the talking map, we are going to locate the square that is in the upper right part of the neighbourhood sketch. **Tell us who are the members of your family?** To do this, paste the sticker that represents each person. Then tell us a little about your family by answering these questions. Please write your answers on card No. 1:
a. What do you like to do in your free time?
b. What do you like about the neighbourhood?
- 2** From the group of stickers delivered in the kit of materials, stick the **orange** stickers to identify your house and use the other stickers to locate the houses of your closest neighbours, family or friends.
- 3** Use the **purple** stickers to locate in the sketch the reference places of the neighbourhood.
- 4** Use the **green** stickers to identify the forests, agricultural areas, and animal husbandry areas. If you are missing stickers, you can draw them.
- 5** **Are there businesses in your neighbourhood?** Use the **turquoise** stickers and stick them in the place where these businesses are located.
- 6** The **blue** stickers will allow you to identify the natural elements and natural phenomena that occur in the neighbourhood. **Do you remember any natural event in the neighbourhood?** Paste them where they apply. Please complete card 2:
a. Do you remember any natural event that affected your neighbourhood?
b. Tell us what happened and how did you feel?



ANNEX 3: Instruction guide

TALKING MAP

- 7** Use the arrows in **blue** to indicate where the water flows when it rains.
- 8** The stickers in **red** are used to identify the places the worry you the most in the neighbourhood. Use them to locate these areas and answer card 3:
a. What worry you the most about your neighbourhood?
- 9** Place the sticker of the icon "**I like!**" to indicate the areas of the neighbourhood that you like most. Tell us more, in a few lines on card No.4:
a. Why do you like these areas?
- 10** With the help of the coloured markers, circle the places in the neighbourhood that family members visit most frequently. Draw the circle of the corresponding colour:
a. Blue: Boys / Girls
b. Purple: Teens and Youth
c. Orange: Adults
d. Green: Elder people
- 11** Draw or write on the sketch with the coloured markers *how you dream your neighbourhood?* in the next 20 years!



ANNEX 2: Didactic map

MAPA PARLANTE

¿Cuéntanos quiénes son los miembros de tu hogar?
Para hacerlo, pega el sticker que represente a cada uno.

Dibuja o escribe en el mapa con los marcadores de colores:
¿Cómo sueñas tu barrio en los próximos 20 años?

LEYENDA

- Quebrante
- Calle
- Acceso de tierra
- Escuelas
- Canal de Pila Temble
- Viviendas

Lugares de Referencia

- Antigua Pertenencia
- Antigua Planta
- Casa Barrial La Esperanza
- Casa Barrial SH
- Cuadrada
- Iglesia
- U.S. Lohman
- Zona de Desarrollo Urbano
- Landerías
- Casita
- Módulo

ANNEX 4: Stickers

Garbage collection points :



Stairs:



Neighborhood meeting house:



Park:



Health center:



Bus stop:



Education infrastructure:



Sports fields:



Open air balcony:



Fuel station:

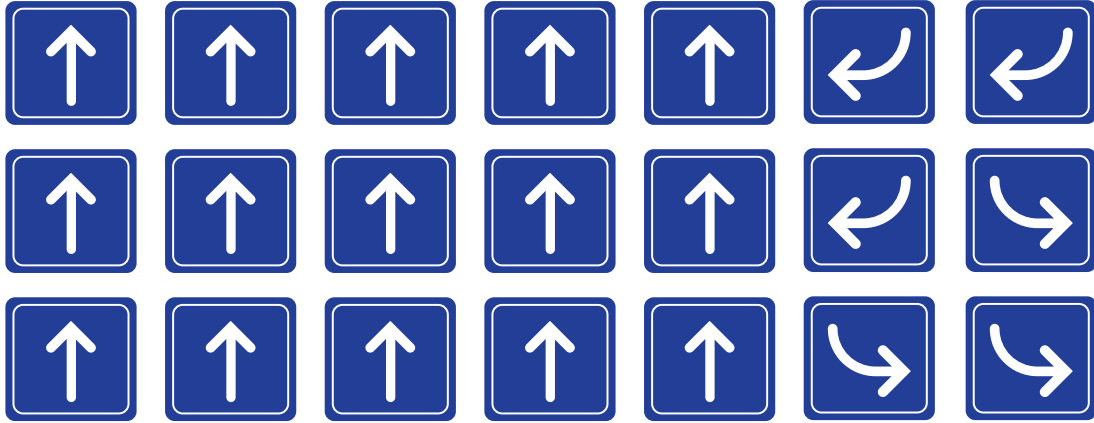


Church:



ANNEX 4: Stickers

Water flows when raining:



Landslides:



Flood zones:



Rainwater accumulation area:



Areas with strong winds:



Ravine:



Water source (watershed):



ANNEX 4: Stickers

Cyber or internet access points:



Stores:



Restaurants or cafes:



Stationery:



Carpentry:



Medical consultants:



Bakery:



Mechanical workshop:



Pharmacy:



ANNEX 4: Stickers

Unsafe areas:



Hard-to-reach areas:



Garbage contamination zone:



Poorly lit areas:



Write your ideas:



I like:



Rest area:



Inca Trail:



Laundries:

