



Living Community Mapping Tool

To access the best thinking about your community and to keep track of complex information, *living maps* will be co-created through engagement with the youth. Multiple reality maps, with different degrees of detail, will be created and updated throughout this engagement.

Community Reality Map: To create a visual map of the community (the key challenges, barriers, players, opportunities), start by asking youth leaders the following questions:

- What are the key needs of the community?
- What are the critical barriers to these priorities?
- Who are the key players responsible for these priorities?
- What has been tried in the community?
- What works...what doesn't work?

Community Wisdom/Asset/Resource Map: To create a visual map of the community's wisdom, assets and resources, start by asking youth leaders the following questions:

- Tell us about your community based mentors, champions, wisdom, expertise
- What outside assets/resources can be accessed to help you in the identification and pursuit of a youth entrepreneur project?

These *living maps*, and the underlying data, must be synthesized and analyzed to identify patterns and deficiencies. What additional intelligence and information is needed. Go to the Local Champions to discuss best approaches to gather required intelligence. This may require use of the **Sharing Wisdom Tool** process – an iterative process. The **Creating a Breathing Space between Black and White Tool** can also be used in the map making process.

These maps are living: Distill the acquired intelligence and evolve and update maps as you go. Track the evolution of the community maps to show how the project has evolved, and to evaluate outcomes.

Share updated maps with youth leaders, and invites their responses. The maps become a means of communicating the issues and opportunities with the group. Maps can be shared in PDF images or digital photos via the website or email.

Sample Living Community Map:

