

GESI IN ACTION



1

EVENT

EARLY WARNING

**A storm is approaching.
The municipality has two hours
to warn the settlement before
the river rises.**

(A) A loudspeaker van drives past the main road once.

(B) Loudspeaker announcements in the two main local languages, plus the Ward Committee relays the message household to household.

(C) Loudspeaker announcements, plus a pre-trained network of community volunteers who have a list of households to check on directly (prioritising those who are elderly, disabled, or living alone).

PROMPT (Ask before deciding):

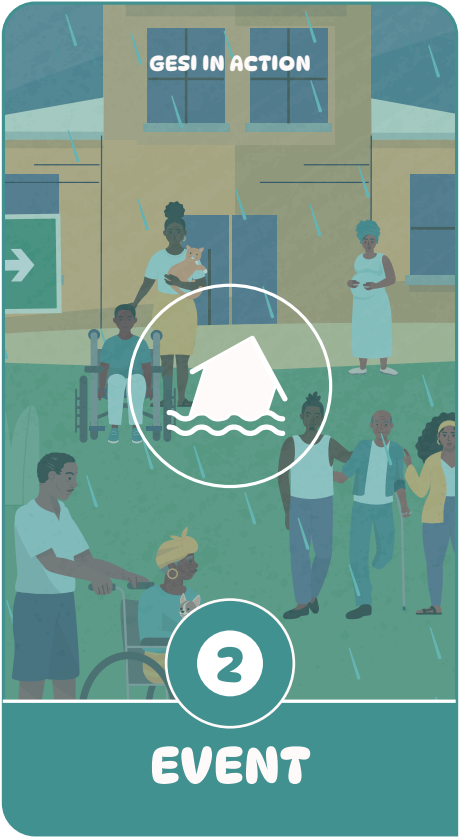
Who in this settlement might hear the loudspeaker but still not receive the warning in a way they can act on?



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2



EMERGENCY SHELTER LAYOUT

Flood waters are rising. An emergency shelter must be set up in the school hall overnight.

(A) The hall is opened as one large shared space, first come first served.

(B) A women-led, inclusive shelter management committee, including youth, older residents and people with disabilities, decides the layout, lighting, toilet access and safeguarding arrangements before the shelter opens.

(C) A curtain separates sleeping areas for women/girls and men/boys, and lighting is added near the toilets.

PROMPT (Ask before deciding):

Whose safety, dignity or access is most at risk overnight, and does the layout actually protect them or just look organised?



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Transformative +2

(C) Responsive +1

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EVENT

WATER POINT SAFETY

The water tank at the settlement's main collection point was damaged. A temporary tank is installed at the same spot, near a dark alley.

(A) The tank is moved to a more visible, well-lit area, and a marked queuing system is put in place.

(B) The tank is relocated to a better-lit, more visible area, and the women who collect water daily are asked to help design the queuing system itself.

(C) The tank is repaired quickly and reinstalled in its original spot, restoring the water supply with minimal delay.

PROMPT (Ask before deciding):

Beyond lighting, who actually gets consulted on how this space works day to day, and who just uses it?



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Responsive +1

(B) Transformative +2 (C) Blind -1

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EVENT

DISABILITY & EVACUATION

Floodwaters are rising fast. Amelia's son uses a wheelchair, and the evacuation route includes a flight of stairs.

- (A) Two volunteers carry the wheelchair down the stairs when asked.
- (B) Evacuation proceeds as planned; Amelia must find her own way.
- (C) The evacuation route was mapped in advance with residents with disabilities, and an alternate ramp route is already marked and known to all volunteers.

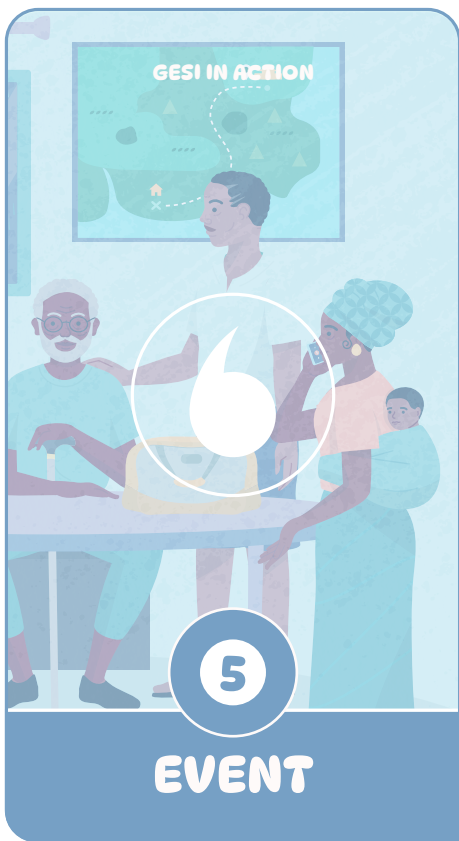
PROMPT (Ask before deciding):

When a route is 'planned for everyone,' who does that plan quietly assume can move at the same speed?



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Responsive +1 (B) Blind -1
(C) Transformative +2



CARE BURDEN DURING RECOVERY

Local disaster committee meetings are scheduled for 10am on weekdays, when most caregivers are doing unpaid care work.

(A) The meeting moves to early evening and a volunteer-run childcare space is provided nearby during the meeting.

(B) The schedule stays as is; attendance is open to anyone who can come.

(C) The meeting moves to early evening, after most paid work ends.

PROMPT (Ask before deciding):

When important meetings are planned, who's schedule is taken into account?



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Transformative +2 (B) Blind -1

(C) Responsive +1

GESI IN ACTION



EVENT

INFORMAL SECTOR LIVELIHOODS

Dudu and other informal traders work outdoors all day during the heatwave, with no shade over their stalls.

- (A) The municipality distributes some shade cloth on a first-come basis at the municipal office.
- (B) Traders themselves are consulted on where shade structures, water points, or rest breaks would help most, and these are installed at the trading sites.
- (C) No changes are made; traders are expected to manage as before.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Responsive +1

(B) Transformative +2 (C) Blind -1

GESI IN ACTION



EVENT

CLEARING THE DRAINS

After two days of heavy rain, drains along the main path through the settlement are blocked with waste and debris. Another storm is forecast for the weekend. The community decides to organise a clean-up before it hits.

(A) Community members announce a general clean-up day. Whoever shows up, does the work.

(B) The clean-up is organised ward by ward, with each street responsible for its own section, and tools are shared from a communal store.

(C) Before the clean-up, households most at risk of flooding are identified by community health workers and neighbours; their drains are prioritised first. Elderly residents, those with young children, and people with disabilities are offered alternative ways to contribute.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive $+1$

(C) Transformative $+2$

GESI IN ACTION



EVENT

AFTER THE FLOOD: WHO REBUILDS FIRST?

Several homes were damaged in the flood. The community has a small store of salvaged materials (timber, corrugated iron, sandbags) and a group of people who are willing to help with rebuilding. There is not enough material to fix every home at once.

(A) The committee consults with health workers, neighbours and the community to identify which households have the least capacity to self-rebuild and these are done first.

(B) Materials and labour go to whoever asks first and is available to work on their home themselves.

(C) The committee draws up a list of damaged homes and works through it in order of severity of damage.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Transformative +2 (B) Blind -1

(C) Sensitive ± 0

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

SHADE & COOL SPACE: THE COMMUNITY HALL DECISION

A three-day heatwave is forecast. The community hall is the only building in the settlement with shade and a concrete floor that stays cool. A decision must be made about how it is used during the hottest hours (11am–3pm).

(A) The hall is designated a cooling space during peak heat hours, with water available. People are told informally.

(B) The hall stays open as normal and whoever needs it can use it.

(C) The hall is designated a cooling space, and the community actively reaches out to vulnerable residents (the elderly, pregnant women etc.) to make sure they know about it.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Responsive +1 (B) Sensitive ±0
(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



EVENT

RETROFITTING ROOFS: THE SELF-BUILD DECISION

An NGO has offered a small grant and materials to help residents replace tin roofs with better-insulated roofing. There is enough for ten homes. The community must decide how to allocate this.

(A) The community, together with the NGO, agrees on criteria that considers heat exposure and household capacity: homes with infants, elderly residents, pregnant women, or people with chronic illness are prioritised.

(B) First ten residents to apply at the community centre receive the materials.

(C) The ten homes with the worst heat conditions (as assessed by a volunteer team using a basic checklist) receive the materials.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Transformative +2 (B) Blind -1

(C) Responsive +1

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EVENT

BLOCKED ROADS, BROKEN LINES

Floods have cut the main road connecting the settlement to the nearest clinic. Zanele is soon to give birth. Amelia's son needs monthly medication. The road is expected to be impassable for at least four days.

- (A) Community members wait and hope the road clears quickly.
- (B) A neighbour with a vehicle offers to try an alternate route if someone urgently needs the clinic.
- (C) The community organises a rapid needs assessment: who in the settlement needs clinic access in the next week? They compile a list (Zanele, Amélia's son, two others on chronic medication), contact the clinic directly via the ward committee to arrange a mobile visit or an escort, and set up a daily check-in for those on the list so that any worsening is caught early.

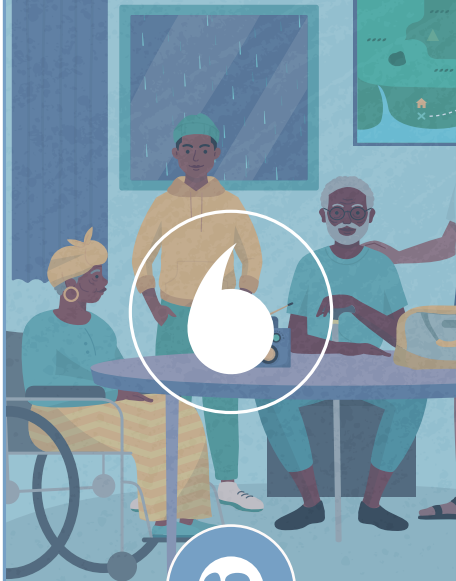


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(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

PREPARING FOR THE WARD COMMITTEE MEETING

The ward committee has scheduled a community meeting to discuss flood response plans. Community members have one week to prepare. The meeting is usually attended by the same group of vocal, mostly male residents who arrive early and speak first.

- (A) The community goes to the meeting as usual and raises concerns as they come up.
- (B) A small group meets beforehand to agree on the two or three most important points to raise, so the community speaks with one voice rather than many disconnected voices.
- (C) A preparatory meeting is held in the settlement at an accessible time and place to gather community concerns. The group agrees on shared priorities, selects representatives (including women, youth, and vulnerable groups), and prepares simple evidence to strengthen their case.

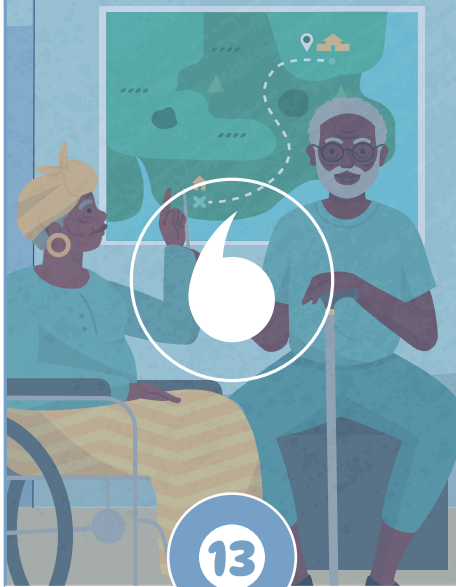


FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

COMMUNITY RISK MAPPING

A university research team offers to run a community risk mapping exercise, to build a shared map of flood and heat hotspots in the settlement. They ask the community to identify who should be involved.

(A) The team asks the ward committee to send representatives, who attend the mapping session.

(B) The team opens the mapping session to any resident who wants to come, and holds it on a Saturday morning.

(C) The community recruits mappers who reflect diverse lived experiences, including women, youth, older residents, and people with disabilities. The session is held at a time and in a language accessible to all, so different risks and barriers are captured.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

DOCUMENTING WHAT HAPPENED

After the flood, many households have lost property, crops, or income but lack the documentation needed to access government recovery support. A community member proposes documenting the damage themselves.

(A) A few people take photos and share them on social media.

(B) The ward committee draws up a list of affected households and submits it to the municipality.

(C) Community health workers, the savings group, and youth volunteers coordinate a systematic documentation effort using photographs, standardised household damage forms, and a jointly signed cover letter. The documentation is submitted to the ward committee, an NGO partner, and the municipality, with a copy kept by the community.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

SETTING UP THE COMMUNITY DISASTER COMMITTEE

After the flood, the community decides to form a permanent Community Disaster Preparedness Committee to plan and coordinate future responses. They must decide how it is set up.

(A) The existing ward committee nominates its members to sit on the disaster committee.

(B) An open call is made for volunteers; whoever steps forward becomes a member.

(C) The committee is structured with reserved seats: at least two women, one youth (under 25), one person with a disability or caregiver of a disabled person, and one elderly resident, each nominated by their own group rather than by the ward committee. The full committee agrees on a meeting time and location accessible to all members, and a rotation of the chairperson role so no single voice dominates over time.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Sensitive ±0

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

THE SAVINGS GROUP EMERGENCY FUND

The women's savings group (stokvel) has a small emergency fund, built up over two years. After the flood, several members need to draw on it, but there are more requests than there is money, and not all members were equally affected.

(A) The fund is divided equally among all members who request it.

(B) Members discuss and agree to prioritise the three most severely affected households first, with the remainder distributed equally.

(C) Members discuss each request, considering factors such as lost informal income, dependants, and multiple shocks. They also review whether the fund rules should be updated to better support those facing compound risks and document any changes for future members.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL DURING RECOVERY

Schools close for two weeks after the flood. Children are at home while parents, mostly women, juggle cleanup, collecting relief, and caring for family members. When schools reopen, some older girls do not return because they have become full-time caregivers.

(A) The community waits for school to reopen and hopes the situation resolves.

(B) A community volunteer runs an informal learning space in the hall for younger children three mornings a week, to give caregivers some time to learn.

(C) The community identifies girls at risk of not returning to school and organises a shared caregiving rota to help them return. These cases are also reported to the ward committee to ensure the recovery plan addresses disaster impacts on girls' education, not just the emergency response.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE STORM

A severe storm is forecast for tonight.

It is 4pm. The community has a few hours before dark. There is no external support coming until tomorrow at the earliest. Community members must decide what to do with the time they have.

(A) People begin to protect their own homes, moving valuables to higher ground, blocking doorways, and trust that neighbours will do the same.

(B) The ward committee sends volunteers to check on the settlement's highest-risk flood areas and alerts households there to move early

(C) The community activates a pre-agreed preparedness plan, checking on households most at risk, including older residents, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and children home alone. Volunteers work in pairs by area, a central safe meeting point is activated, and those with vehicles assist those without.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

THE BOREHOLE QUEUE

The dry season has cut the shared borehole's output in half. Queues now take most of the morning, and tension is rising between households needing water for drinking versus watering crops and tending to livestock.

(A) The ward committee sets strict water schedules by street, posted on a notice board.

(B) Whoever arrives first each morning is served, on a first-come basis.

(C) A drought committee, including the women and girls who queue daily, and livestock owners, agrees on rationing times that separate drinking-water queues from livestock-related water queues, and prioritises households with pregnant women, infants, or chronic illness.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Sensitive ± 0 (B) Blind -1

(C) Transformative $+2$

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

WHOSE CROP, WHOSE WATER?

A borehole repair fund can either extend irrigation for the community's shared vegetable plots or guarantee the household drinking-water supply, but there isn't money for both this month.

(A) The ward committee decides based on which use generates the most income for the settlement.

(B) The decision defaults to drinking water only, and irrigation stops until further notice, with no explanation given to farmers.

(C) A drought committee, including the women and girls who queue daily, and livestock owners, agrees on rationing times that separate drinking-water queues from livestock-related water queues, and prioritises households with pregnant women, infants, or those with chronic illness.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Sensitive ± 0

(C) Transformative +2

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EVENT

SECURING THE ROOFS BEFORE THE STORM

A tropical storm is forecast in 48 hours. Roofs across the settlement are informally fixed with stones and wire, and many will not withstand high winds.

(A) Households are advised to secure their own roofs as best they can.

(B) The ward committee distributes rope and tie-down kits at the municipal office, first come first served.

(C) Volunteers, organised through the savings group and community health worker network, go house to house helping those that cannot physically manage roof repairs themselves (elderly residents like John, Amelia's household, and others identified in advance), prioritising homes with children, older residents or disabilities.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



EVENT

FISHING BOATS & THE COMING STORM

The same storm threatens the small fishing fleet, including Joseph's boat, moored on the exposed beach.

Losing a boat means losing a livelihood for months.

(A) Boat owners are left to move their own boats to safety if they can.

(B) The ward committee announces a safe mooring point but does not organise help moving boats there.

(C) Fishers organise a joint effort, with support from other community members, to haul all boats to a safe mooring point together, and agree a shared overnight watch rota to protect the fleet.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Sensitive ± 0

(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

THE ERODING SHORELINE

Coastal erosion has taken several metres of beach in the past two years. The municipality proposes a set-back line that would require some households nearest the shore, including fishing households like Joseph's, to relocate inland.

(A) The municipality finalises the set-back line based on engineering data alone and notifies affected households by letter.

(B) The municipality holds one public meeting to present the plan and take questions.

(C) The municipality and community jointly map who is affected, including those without formal land title, and co-design the relocation plan with them, ensuring fishers keep practical access to the water, and that no household is excluded from support because their home was informally built.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Sensitive ± 0

(C) Transformative +2

GESI IN ACTION



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EVENT

HEAT RISK IN PREGNANCY

During a heatwave, Zanele, due to give birth within weeks, is struggling with the heat at home, and the clinic has issued a general heat advisory with no specific guidance for pregnant women.

(A) Zanele is told to rest and drink water, like everyone else.

(B) Fatima (the community health worker) visits pregnant women and new mothers specifically during heatwaves to check for warning signs of heatstroke and share the cool space location.

(C) The community identifies pregnant women, new mothers, and infants in advance of heat season and includes them by name in the cooling-space outreach list, with Fatima and the savings group helping arrange transport to the cool space for those who cannot walk far.



FACILITATOR ONLY | TRUST SCORE

(A) Blind -1 (B) Responsive +1

(C) Transformative +2