

1.6 Planning Process

The planning and its process actually began where the evaluation processes ended i.e. the point of reference for the planning process was the findings and recommendations (FR) and how to incorporate them so that the planning could move forward with adequate reflection and course correction. Once the evaluation got over as a task, SBSS went for an internal review. Almost all staff perused the document generally as well as with specificity. Discussion over the FR once again took place with RT partners. In this process the FR were crystallized into broad categories which demands further focus and retrospection from the team; like the question on how far the programme planning is participative and process-oriented; specific to the context; and how far it is internally driven. The assumption in fact was that there is much to be desired on SBSS' participative and process-oriented approach, contextualization of issues and concerns and making it as more and more as an internally driven process rather than externally driven one.

The SBSS staff divided into small teams and facilitated the process of planning at each DBSS. The SBSS and DBSS staff teamed up collectively and facilitated the process further at the community level to understand, assess, analyse the programmatic needs/ concerns and problems of the community. Focus on constituency setting, strategy development, outcome and exit plan. The major stakeholders in the planning process were the different people's organizations / pressure groups, PRI representatives and the community based organizations. In several meetings at the community level there was good participation of the DBSS board members and the local pastor. SBSS ensured mandatory participation of vulnerable communities especially women, destitute and differently able people.