WORKSHOP 5: GAP ANALYSIS

Gap Analysis Objective: *To assess and identify overlooked needs within the community, evaluate current efforts, and develop a strategic plan to fill gaps in support. This template will guide your church in directing resources and forming partnerships for impactful ministry.*

SECTION 1: IDENTIFY COMMUNITY NEEDS AND GAPS

A. What needs are evident in our community but are not being addressed or are insufficiently addressed by any agency, program, or project?
- Consider areas like healthcare, education, housing, food security, mental health services, youth engagement, and support for marginalized groups.

B. What are the root causes of these unmet needs?
- Example: If the need is for youth mentorship, the root cause might be a lack of after-school programs or insufficient adult role models.

SECTION 2: CURRENT OFFERINGS AND CAPABILITIES

C. What services or programs does our church currently offer that could help meet this need or partially fill the gap?
- List all relevant ministries, outreach programs, and volunteer efforts.

- How effective are these efforts in addressing the need?
    - Consider the reach, impact, and resources required.

SECTION 3: RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

D. What additional resources are needed to fully address this gap?
- People: Do you need more volunteers, staff, or experts in specific areas?
- Facilities: Are there physical spaces required, such as meeting rooms, shelters, or clinics?
- Financial: What funding is necessary to launch or expand initiatives?
- Knowledge: Are there skills or training that would be beneficial?

SECTION 4: POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

E. Which local resources, agencies, companies, or institutions could be beneficial in meeting the need and filling the gap?
- Example: Schools, healthcare providers, non-profits, local government, or businesses.

- Have we reached out to these organizations before? If not, who could take the lead in building these partnerships?

SECTION 5: ACTION STEPS AND NEXT STEPS

F. What specific actions can our church take to start addressing this gap?
a. Develop a list of actionable steps, such as hosting community meetings, launching new programs, or creating awareness campaigns.
b. How will we measure success and impact over time?
    - Define metrics for success, such as the number of people served, changes in community outcomes, or feedback from those impacted.

Section 1: Identify Community Needs and Gaps

A. What needs are evident in our community but are not being addressed or are insufficiently addressed by any agency, program, or project?
- Youth engagement is lacking, with limited programs and safe spaces for teens. Rising crime in certain neighborhoods is a related concern that remains insufficiently addressed.

B. What are the root causes of these unmet needs?
- The lack of youth mentorship and structured activities is partly due to funding cuts in schools and the absence of community centers dedicated to youth.

Section 2: Current Offerings and Capabilities

C. What services or programs does our church currently offer that could help meet this need or partially fill the gap?
- The church currently hosts occasional youth events and neighborhood watch meetings but does not have a structured, ongoing youth mentorship program.

Effectiveness Evaluation:
- Are these efforts making a significant impact?
  - The existing youth events are well-received but too infrequent to provide consistent support. The neighborhood watch has improved safety awareness but needs more engagement to be effective.

Section 3: Resource Assessment

D. What additional resources are needed to fully address this gap?
1. People:
   - More trained volunteers to serve as mentors for youth and organizers for regular events.
2. Facilities:
   - A safe, accessible space for after-school programs and weekend activities.
3. Financial:
   - Funding for supplies, event costs, and potential partnerships with community organizations.
4. Knowledge:
   - Training in youth mentorship and community safety practices.

Section 4: Potential Partnerships and Collaborations

E. Which local resources, agencies, companies, or institutions could be beneficial in meeting the need and filling the gap?
   a. Schools: Partner with local schools to promote the mentorship program and provide after-school space.
   b. Law Enforcement: Collaborate with the police department to offer safety workshops and support youth engagement.
   c. Local Businesses: Seek sponsorships or resources from businesses for youth activities and job training programs.

Have we reached out to these organizations before?
- Limited outreach to schools and law enforcement. A dedicated church member should take the lead in building these relationships.

Section 5: Action Steps and Next Steps

F. What specific actions can our church take to start addressing this gap?
1. Launch a Youth Empowerment and Mentorship Program:
   - Establish a consistent, year-round program focused on mentorship, life skills, sports, and the arts.
2. Organize Community Safety Initiatives:
   - Collaborate with law enforcement to educate youth on safety and create neighborhood patrols.
3. Host Community Events:
   - Use the church's facilities to host youth events and community forums to gather feedback and adjust programs as needed.