

# Community Well-Being Index

## Global Governance Framework Tool

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### Introduction

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The Community Well-Being Index provides a comprehensive framework for measuring, tracking, and enhancing community flourishing across multiple dimensions. It moves beyond narrow economic metrics to capture the diverse factors that contribute to genuine well-being, including social connections, ecological relationships, cultural vitality, and governance participation.

This tool supports implementation across the Global Governance Framework by establishing consistent, culturally adaptable metrics that enable communities to define, measure, and improve well-being on their own terms. The index combines universal core dimensions with framework-specific modules, allowing for both standardized comparison and context-specific application while centering community self-determination in defining success.

### Core Well-Being Dimensions

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#### Material Well-Being

Sustainability, Interoperability

##### Key Indicators:

- Basic needs fulfillment percentage
- Income adequacy and stability
- Housing security and quality
- Food security and nutrition
- Essential service access (water, energy, sanitation)
- Asset ownership and distribution
- Economic resilience to shocks

##### Measurement Approaches:

- Household surveys on needs fulfillment
- Local economic data collection
- Service access mapping
- Community-defined adequacy standards
- Asset and resource distribution analysis
- Vulnerability and resilience assessment
- Gender-disaggregated economic security metrics

## Physical and Mental Health

### Interoperability, Collaboration

#### Key Indicators:

- Self-reported health status
- Healthcare access and quality
- Chronic disease prevalence
- Mental health and stress levels
- Addiction rates and support access
- Physical activity patterns
- Environmental health conditions

#### Measurement Approaches:

- Community health surveys
- Healthcare system utilization data
- Traditional healing practice integration
- Mental health self-assessment tools
- Environmental health risk mapping
- Health equity measurement
- Age and gender-disaggregated analysis

## Social Connections

### Justice, Equity, Inclusivity

#### Key Indicators:

- Community belonging and connection
- Social support network strength
- Intergenerational relationship quality
- Trust and reciprocity levels
- Civic engagement and volunteerism
- Conflict resolution effectiveness
- Inclusion of marginalized groups

#### Measurement Approaches:

- Social network mapping
- Community cohesion surveys
- Participatory social capital assessment
- Trust and reciprocity games
- Inclusive participation metrics
- Social isolation identification
- Conflict and resolution tracking

## Cultural Vitality

### Inclusivity, Epistemic Pluralism

#### Key Indicators:

- Cultural practice continuation
- Language vitality and use
- Intergenerational knowledge transmission

- Cultural adaptation and innovation
- Cultural site access and protection
- Arts and creative expression
- Cultural identity strength

**Measurement Approaches:**

- Cultural practice participation surveys
- Language use assessment
- Traditional knowledge transmission tracking
- Cultural site condition monitoring
- Arts and cultural event participation
- Identity and belonging self-assessment
- Elder evaluation of cultural continuity

**Governance Voice****Sovereignty, Respect****Key Indicators:**

- Decision-making participation and influence
- Information access and transparency
- Self-determination and autonomy
- Representation quality in governance
- Accountability and responsiveness perception
- Justice system access and fairness
- Collective efficacy and agency

**Measurement Approaches:**

- Governance participation tracking
- Decision influence self-assessment
- Information access mapping
- Representation quality evaluation
- Accountability perception surveys
- Justice experience documentation
- Community efficacy measurement tools

**Measurement Methodology**

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**Participatory Design****Justice, Equity, Inclusivity****Process Elements:**

1. Community workshops to identify locally relevant indicators
2. Collaborative weighting of dimensions based on community values
3. Co-creation of measurement tools and approaches
4. Inclusion of traditional well-being concepts and metrics
5. Local validation of proposed measures
6. Pilot testing with community feedback
7. Adaptation based on implementation experience

**Design Principles:**

- Community ownership of well-being definition
- Balance between local relevance and comparability
- Cultural appropriateness in method selection
- Practical feasibility for long-term monitoring
- Mixed methods combining quantitative and qualitative
- Accessibility for diverse participation
- Transparency in index construction

**Mixed Methods Integration****Knowledge Integration, Risk-Aware Design****Quantitative Approaches:**

- Household and individual surveys
- Administrative data analysis
- Observational measurement
- Digital and technological monitoring
- Structured assessment tools
- Statistical analysis and modeling
- Geospatial data integration

**Qualitative Approaches:**

- Storytelling and narrative collection
- Photovoice and participatory media
- Community dialogue documentation
- Elder knowledge circles
- Cultural practice observation
- Youth perspective forums
- Gender-based focus groups

**Integration Methods:**

- Triangulation across methods
- Sequential mixed designs
- Nested data collection
- Transformative integration
- Equal weighting of approaches
- Context-specific integration
- Community interpretation of findings

**Index Construction****Calculation Framework****Interoperability, Scalability****Construction Steps:**

1. Normalize indicators to comparable scales (0-10 or percentages)
2. Apply community-determined dimension weights
3. Calculate dimension sub-indices

4. Combine dimensions into composite index
5. Calculate disaggregated indices for demographic groups
6. Compare to baseline and targets
7. Visualize results for community interpretation

#### **Technical Considerations:**

- Transparent aggregation methodology
- Sensitivity testing of weighting schemes
- Data quality assessment protocols
- Missing data handling procedures
- Outlier identification and management
- Confidence interval calculation
- Temporal comparison adjustments

### **Benchmarking and Thresholds**

#### **Adaptability, Reflexivity**

#### **Scoring Framework:**

- 0-20: Critical well-being concerns requiring urgent intervention
- 21-40: Significant challenges requiring dedicated action
- 41-60: Mixed conditions with targeted improvement needs
- 61-80: Generally positive well-being with specific enhancement areas
- 81-100: Thriving conditions supporting holistic community flourishing

#### **Threshold Applications:**

- Intervention triggering at specific thresholds
- Resource allocation based on index scores
- Well-being bonus qualification at 80+ scores
- Progress tracking against community-set targets
- Adaptive management thresholds for governance
- Early warning indicators for declining well-being
- Celebration triggers for achievement recognition

### **Framework-Specific Modules**

#### **Environmental Stewardship Module**

##### **Sovereignty, Ethical Alignment**

#### **Ecological Relationship Dimension:**

- Access to healthy ecosystems
- Traditional ecological practice continuation
- Environmental justice conditions
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Ecosystem services benefit distribution
- Connection to place and ecological identity
- Ecological grief and solastalgia levels

#### **AUBI Integration:**

- Well-being threshold (80+) for bonus eligibility (\$100/month)

- Monitoring for equitable bonus distribution
- Impact assessment of AUBI on well-being dimensions
- Feedback loops between well-being and stewardship
- Community-led allocation of bonus resources
- Intergenerational benefit sharing mechanisms
- Gender equity in bonus access and benefits

**Dynamic Rights Integration:**

- Non-human entity well-being correlation analysis
- Mutual flourishing measurement between communities and ecosystems
- Rights recognition impact on community well-being
- Guardian well-being in representation roles
- Rights-based governance effect on community agency
- Ecosystem personhood relationship to cultural vitality
- Interspecies relationship quality assessment

**Food Systems Module****Food Sovereignty Dimension:**

- Control over food production methods
- Seed sovereignty and genetic resource access
- Food system decision-making participation
- Cultural food practice maintenance
- Food knowledge transmission
- Land access for food production
- Food producer well-being and dignity

**Nutrition and Food Security:**

- Dietary diversity and quality
- Cultural food access and affordability
- Food system resilience to shocks
- Food safety and contamination levels
- Nutrition-related health outcomes
- Traditional food access and availability
- Food assistance independence

**Nested Sovereignty Module****Multi-Level Governance Dimension:**

- Subsidiarity implementation effectiveness
- Cross-level coordination experience
- Local determination satisfaction
- Authority alignment with capacity
- Resource sovereignty perception
- Identity and governance alignment
- Self-governance capacity and support

**Economic Sovereignty:**

- Local economic control percentage

- Currency sovereignty and options
- External dependency reduction
- Trade relationship equity
- Value chain position and power
- Investment decision authority
- Economic self-determination perception

## Religious & Spiritual Dialogue Module

### Spiritual Well-Being Dimension:

- Spiritual practice freedom and access
- Sacred site protection and access
- Spiritual community vitality
- Meaning and purpose perception
- Spiritual knowledge transmission
- Inter-tradition relationship quality
- Spiritual expression in governance

### Faith Community Flourishing:

- Faith tradition continuity perception
- Religious tolerance and respect
- Spiritual leadership health
- Sacred calendar observation ability
- Interfaith cooperation opportunity
- Young generation spiritual engagement
- Spiritual contribution to community resilience

## Implementation Process

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### Community Engagement

#### Launch Process:

1. Initial community dialogue on well-being vision
2. Participatory dimension and indicator selection
3. Local implementation team formation
4. Capacity building for measurement methods
5. Baseline data collection
6. Collaborative index construction
7. Results sharing and action planning

#### Ongoing Engagement:

- Regular community reflection on results
- Participatory interpretation workshops
- Collaborative action planning
- Indicator and method refinement
- Celebration of improvements
- Storytelling around well-being changes
- Youth engagement in monitoring

## Practical Implementation Steps

### Pre-Assessment Phase:

- Identify community boundaries and participants
- Build relationship with community leadership
- Review existing well-being data and initiatives
- Adapt core tools to local language and context
- Train local team members
- Establish data governance protocols
- Secure resources for implementation

### Assessment Cycle:

- Baseline comprehensive assessment
- Regular monitoring of key indicators
- Annual or biennial full index calculation
- Targeted assessment of intervention impacts
- Community reflection and learning sessions
- Reporting to governance bodies
- Public sharing of results and learning

### Post-Assessment Actions:

- Collaborative interpretation of findings
- Identification of priority action areas
- Targeted resource allocation
- Policy and program adaptation
- Progress celebration and recognition
- Learning documentation and sharing
- Methodology refinement for next cycle

## Case Examples

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### Indigenous Community Resilience - Australia

**Context (Real):** Aboriginal community in remote Australia implementing well-being index to guide self-governance and measure native title outcomes.

#### Index Application:

- Customized cultural vitality indicators based on connection to country
- Added ecological relationship indicators focused on traditional management
- Weighted governance voice dimension more heavily based on community priorities
- Implemented storytelling and country visits as key qualitative methods
- Connected index to community development planning process

**Outcomes:** Identified surprising strength in cultural vitality despite material challenges, leading to resource allocation for combined cultural-economic initiatives that improved multiple dimensions simultaneously. Documented well-being improvement from 65 to 78 over three years.

### Post-Industrial Transition - Northern Europe

**Context (Fictive):** Former industrial town implementing AUBI and community currencies during economic transition while restoring damaged ecosystems.



**Index Application:**

- Emphasized material well-being and mental health during economic transition
- Added ecological relationship indicators tracking remediation benefits
- Integrated AUBI impact assessment across all dimensions
- Measured community currency effects on social connection
- Tracked governance voice throughout transition planning

**Outcomes:** Identified mental health as critical intervention area despite improving material conditions, leading to innovative green therapy programs combining ecosystem restoration with mental health support. Achieved well-being scores above 80, qualifying for AUBI bonuses that were directed toward community-led green space development.

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The Community Well-Being Index provides a flexible, participatory framework for measuring what matters most for genuine community flourishing. By combining universal dimensions with framework-specific modules, it enables both standardized comparison and context-appropriate application while centering community self-determination.

When implemented through collaborative processes, the index becomes more than a measurement tool—it serves as a catalyst for community reflection, priority-setting, and collective action. Through regular assessment cycles, communities can track progress, adapt interventions, and celebrate improvements as they work toward truly holistic well-being.

For additional resources, implementation support, and case studies, visit [globalgovernanceframework.org/tools/governance/community-well-being-index](https://globalgovernanceframework.org/tools/governance/community-well-being-index).