CDEMA
The Caribbean Disaster
Emergency Management Agency

Community Vulnerability & Risk Assessment

This document is intended to guide the conduct of Vulnerability/Risk Analysis in selected communities under the ACP-EU Project. It is based on the use of a participatory/highly interactive methodology for implementation where community people are integral to the process at all stages. There are three main sections:

Section One: Overview of Communities

Section Two: Hazard Identification and Analysis

Section Three: Risk Assessment

Section 1

1.0   Area Profile – Overview of Communities
- Name of Community
- Parish/District
- Overview/Physical description of community
- Boundaries

Demographic Profile

- Population of Community
- Population Density
- Gender make-up of community
- Average family size
- # of households (female headed households/ male headed households)

Information source: Secondary Data Sources

2.0   Hazard Identification

2.1   What are the hazards which pose a threat to your community?

_____

(The activity below may be used to engender community participation)

Timeline Activity

What are the disaster events that happened or are happening in the community? When did they happen? (record on flipchart)

Table 1:

Date	Event

2.3   What other hazards pose a threat to your community? (discussion – led by facilitator)

_____

3.0   Identifying Hazard Impacts

3.1   General Impacts

What are the potential impacts of these hazards (identified in 2.2 & 2.3) on your community? Use a scale of 1 – 3; 1 representing low impact, 2 medium & 3 severe.

Table 2:

Hazard	Impacts				
	Human Impact (Life & Property)	Economic Impacts (Livelihoods)	Impact on Critical Facilities	Impact on the Environment	Other Impacts

(Insert as many rows as necessary)

3.2   Specific Impacts

What are the specific impacts expected from the hazards identified above on this community?

Table 3:

Hazard	Sector/Area	Type of impact	Rating (1 – 3)
Hazard (name)	**Human Impact**	Loss of life/Fatality	
		Injury Damage to property etc	

Table 3 (cont'd)

Hazard	Sector/Area	Type of impact	Rating (1 – 3)
Hazard Name	**Economic Impact**		
Hazard (name)	**Impact on Critical Facilities**		
Hazard (name)	**Impact on the Environment**		
Hazard (name)	**Other Impacts**		

(b) Based on your experience, has the severity of impacts of hazards on your community increased or decreased over the last 5 – 10 yrs?

( ) Yes
( ) No

(C) If you indicated that the severity of impacts has increased, why do you think this is so?

_____

4.0 Identifying Specific Community Vulnerabilities

4.1 Physical Vulnerability

▪ What are the vulnerable physical elements in the community? Why are they considered vulnerable? What hazards are they vulnerable to?

▪ What are the unsafe areas/locations in the community? Why are they unsafe?

▪ Do you consider any of your infrastructure (bridges, buildings etc.) to be "unsafe?" If yes, which ones and where are they located? Why are they considered unsafe?

4.2 Social Vulnerability

▪ Who are the persons most vulnerable to the impacts of hazards in this community? Where are they located? What hazards are they vulnerable to? In what specific ways are they vulnerable?

- Is there occupation of "unsafe areas?" By whom (profile of occupiers)

- What is the poverty index of this community? What are the main occupations of the labour force?

- What is the educational level of the populace? (general)

- What is the health capacity within the community? (# of doctors, nurses, beds in clinic   etc.)

- How does the community perceive "risk"?

4.3   Economic Vulnerability

- What are the main economic sectors or livelihood sources in this community?

- What hazards are these sectors vulnerable to and why

4.4   Vulnerability of Critical Infrastructure

- Identify the critical infrastructure in this community

- Identify which ones are vulnerable and to which hazards

- Identify any unsafe "critical facilities" in the community. Why are they classified as unsafe?

4.5   Vulnerability of Environmental Asset

- Are there areas of biodiversity and ecological value in this community? (parks, nature reserves etc.) Where are they located? What hazards are they exposed to? What are the potential impacts of these hazards on those environmental assets?

- Are there sensitive (environmental) areas located in this community (coastline, fisheries etc.)? Where are they located? Are they vulnerable to the impacts of hazards? If yes, in what way?

- Is there evidence of environmental resource degradation or depletion? Where?

4.6   In your opinion, are there factors which contribute to the increased vulnerability of this community or particular groupings/sections of the community to hazards identified? What are these factors? (please identify)

Information Source: Community Meeting / Focus Group Discussion/Secondary Data Sources

5.0   Mapping of Vulnerabilities

Where possible, map identified community vulnerabilities (*use of community mapping activity*).

5.1   Community Mapping

On blank community map, residents will draw the location of houses, critical facilities and resources in the community as well as land use, social infrastructure and other relevant data.

Community members will also be asked to identify/mark the areas exposed to the impacts of hazards and frequently impacted areas.

After this, community members will identify who are the members of the community who are most at risk because they are in vulnerable locations and have little resources to prepare for or recover from a disaster.

5.2   Transect Walk

The transect walk activity will be used to validate information gathered during focus group discussion. Specifically, it will allow for a firsthand picture of the vulnerability of the community and the resources that are available or maybe available for disaster risk management.

Areas to Observe	Comments
Location of community	
Settlement Patterns	
Infrastructure	
Housing condition	
Emergency Shelter	
Road condition	
Community Services	
General Impression	
Employment Sources	
Land-use patterns	
Comments by residents	

6.0 Risk Analysis

    6.1 What places places/areas in the community are at risk? What specific risk do they face?

    6.2 What community infrastructures or critical facilities are in danger?

    6.3 Who are the people that are most exposed to risk and will likely need assistance? Where are they located? What risk are they exposed to?

    6.4 What other resources are at risk? Why are they at risk?

7.0 Identifying Capacities within communities

    7.1 What resources are available within the community for disaster risk reduction/disaster management purposes?

    7.2 Who has access and control over these resources?

    7.3 Does the community have a plan of action specifically dedicated to risk reduction? What arrangements are in place?

    7.4 Does the Community have an early warning system? If yes, has this system been successfully tested in the last year

    7.5 What are the coping mechanisms used by community residents to deal with the impacts of hazards?

"Development is the process by which vulnerabilities are reduced and capacities increased" Mary Anderson and Peter Woodrow, 1988