

## Frequently asked questions on community risk assessment and community based disaster risk management

### What is Community Risk Assessment (CRA)?

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Community Risk Assessment (CRA) uses participatory action research methods to place communities in lead role for the assessment, active planning, design, implementation and evaluation of activities aimed at reducing the community's risk to disaster. This is important because communities potentially have the right, the capability, the local knowledge, and the resources to assess and reduce hazard risk.

### What is Community Based Risk Reduction Management (CBDRM)?

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Community based disaster risk management means that once a community has assessed the risks it is facing, an action plan is developed and disaster risk reduction measures are taken. The community is empowered to manage the disaster risks that they might face. Risk reduction measures might include building dams or dykes, developing community based early warning systems, forming emergency response committees, or advocating at the local or national government level for policy change in favour of preventive action.

### What is Participatory Action Research?

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CRA is largely based on participatory action research- a respected, though not infallible method to involve community members in the process. Participatory Action Research (PAR) depends on authentic participation of the community. It proceeds through repeated cycles of action and reflection in which researchers and the community start with the identification of major concerns and problems, initiate research, learn about and determine actions, and proceed to a new research and action cycle. Research in PAR is ideally conducted by the local people and for the local people. Research is designed to address specific issues identified by local people, and the results are directly applied to the problems at hand.

### What sort disasters might the community be dealing with?

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Hazards risks types might include **natural hazards** such as droughts, storms, floods and earthquakes as well as man made **risks** such as conflict, environmental health risks or landmines.

***For more information on CRA methodologies and applications,  
please visit the Provention CRA Toolkit at  
[www.proventionconsortium.org/CRA\\_toolkit](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/CRA_toolkit)***