

Participatory Vulnerability Analysis: A step-by-step guideline for field staff

Ethlet Chiwaka and Roger Yates

ActionAid International

Organisation

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Website: www.actionaid.org

Bibliographical details

Published by: Actionaid International

Year: 2005

pp.1- 35

The document is available from the CRA toolkit at www.proventionconsortium.org.

File size: 383 KB

Abstract

The purpose of this document is to assist people to analyse their vulnerability, draw action plans, mobilise resources and enact appropriate policies, laws and strategies to reduce their vulnerability to disasters (both natural and man-made).

Intended end user

End users are intended for emergency **humanitarian fieldworkers**, **community development workers**, **NGOs**, and **community based organisations**.

Type of Material

Comprehensive manual for conducting a participatory vulnerability analysis (PVA), including:

- ◆ Establishing links between emergency and development, recognizing developments or events at national and international levels and how these impact on a communities' vulnerability, and using the output of local level analysis to inform national and international action and policies.
- ◆ Section on understanding vulnerability
- ◆ Section on conducting the PVA – 3 phases: preparation, analytical framework (4 steps), multi-levelled analysis
- ◆ Section with appendices.

This manual provides suggestions for analytical tools but does not provide the details of each tool. It is expected that fieldworkers are familiar with participatory tools presented in the manual.

Language

This manual is currently in English.

Scale of assessment

While the PVA itself focuses on communities, the scale of assessment is **multi-levelled** – looking at vulnerabilities at the **community, district, national** and **international** levels.

Type of Assessment

The manual presents Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as the primary assessment methods, as well as the REFLECT tools.

The manual conceptualizes vulnerability and links to people, poverty, and human security and gives useful examples and case studies illustrating the conceptual points.

Analytical methods

The methods and tools mentioned in this document are by no means exhaustive.

The preparatory and planning consists of country level awareness raising, developing TORs, and analysing secondary data/background information. The PVA analytical framework is suggested as an example of how to organize this information.

The *Disaster Risk Assessments methods* suggested for use include:

- ◆ **Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA)**

General Assessment methods include:

- ◆ **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**
- ◆ **Vulnerability analysis**
- ◆ **Stakeholder analysis**
- ◆ Situation analysis
- ◆ Multi-level approach
- ◆ 'PVA information needs analysis'
- ◆ Analysis of community action
- ◆ Drawing action from analysis

Tools

The tools are not described in detail, but just mentioned as what could be used for each of the phases in the PVA.

The following *participatory tools* are suggested to be used in the analyses:

- ♦ **Focus group interviews**
- ♦ **Historical profiling**
- ♦ **Timeline**
- ♦ **Vulnerability mapping**
- ♦ **Seasonal calendar**
- ♦ **Problem tree**
- ♦ **Concept mapping**
- ♦ **Venn diagrams**
- ♦ Vulnerability matrix
- ♦ Community action plan

Notes on methods

- ♦ This document is targeted at field workers and the communities they work with for addressing vulnerability within communities. It would be very difficult for communities to use this process without the involvement of field workers as the methodology for analytical tools is not provided.
- ♦ The manual uses a multi-level analysis, which is useful in applying the community-level analysis in making change at district as well as national levels.

Case studies / practical examples

This publication gives several good examples of case studies illustrating vulnerability and its manifestations in communities worldwide.

Resource person(s)

Ethlet Chiwaka, Ethlet.Chiwaka@actionaid.org
Roger Yates, Roger.Yates@actionaid.org

Author of guidance note

Kristy Evans was commissioned by the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP) at the University of Cape Town.

Contact: cra@ifrc.org