

Guidelines for Community Vulnerability Analysis: An Approach for Pacific Island Communities

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Organisation

The South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme (SPDRP), under the South Pacific Programme Office of the UN-DHA and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

The South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme (SPDRP) aimed to build disaster management capacity through human resource development, thereby enabling countries to better cope with disasters and reduce their vulnerability, resulting in sustainable development. The Programme was officially closed in 2001.

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Abstract

This publication provides step-by-step guidelines for community vulnerability analysis and for action planning to reduce natural disaster impacts for communities in the Pacific Islands. It provides a context with which to understand community risk, which includes a broad view of disaster vulnerability reduction and ways in which to work with a community-based approach to address these.

Intended end users

End users include: **disaster risk management field practitioners, community development workers and community based organisations** in addressing disaster risks.

Geographical focus

This publication has been written and geared towards communities in the **Pacific** Island countries. Although they are aimed specifically for this region, they could also be broadly applied to other regions and communities if contextualized properly.

Type of Material

Step- by- step manual for community vulnerability analysis (CVA) and action planning, including:

- ♦ Framework and tools in which to conduct vulnerability analysis and action planning with communities
- ♦ Thorough breakdown of 3 phases of CVA: Situation analysis, Priorities and Action Plan
- ♦ Outline of process and methods in which to work with communities
- ♦ Useful examples of how to utilize each of the tools and suggested exercises

Overview of how to understand the needs and priorities of communities at risk and guidelines on how to ensure that the community is at the centre of all steps and exercises in the CVA. The publication also contains an extensive list of appendices containing guidelines for the procedures required when undertaking the CVA.

Language

The manual is written in English.

Scale of assessment

The scale of assessment is at the **community** and **household** level.

Type of assessment

Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is presented in the manual, with examples on how to use Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods contained in the 3 phases of the CVA.

Analytical methods

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

The preparatory and planning phase consists of selection of the facilitation team, as well as agreement of community involvement and a collection of baseline data.

Methods include:

- ♦ Household vulnerability and capacity profile
- ♦ **Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)** and action planning consisting of situation analysis, prioritization, action planning
- ♦ **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).**

Tools

Tools mainly include participatory tools for assessing vulnerability and capacity within a community. The core of the publication is an intensive programme undertaken with the community, including many meetings and participatory exercises.

A wide range of *participatory tools* are used in the analyses, including:

- ◆ **Timeline**
- ◆ Changing trends matrix
- ◆ **Seasonal calendar**
- ◆ Schedule of daily activities
- ◆ Food path analysis
- ◆ Classification of building/structures (scoring matrix)
- ◆ **Transect walk**
- ◆ **Risk mapping**
- ◆ Scoring table of economic activities, community assets, disaster management
- ◆ Vulnerability/capacity scoring tables
- ◆ **Venn diagrams**
- ◆ Scoring tables of community priorities
- ◆ Various tables including: Resource table

Notes on methods

- ◆ The manual presents detailed participatory, action-oriented methods.
- ◆ Provides step-by-step methods on how to conduct every aspect of the CVA.
- ◆ This document is targeted at disaster management field practitioners, community development workers and communities based organisations in addressing disaster risks. Although it is aimed at communities, it would be difficult for communities to undertake the exercises and process of CVA without outside support and expertise to drive to process. A facilitation team to provide input, expertise and to steer the process is a must, as is specified in the manual.
- ◆ The manual gives excellent examples and provides all of the necessary analytical tools in matrix form at the back of the document for ease of use and clarity.
- ◆ Provides detailed explanation and examples of tools for undertaking CVA (largely taken from PRA).
- ◆ Discusses the importance of the assessment process and the manner in which it is conducted.
- ◆ Good notes and explanations about using tools and how to conduct the actual programme with the community.
- ◆ Good use of examples and case studies to illustrate general themes.
- ◆ Good set of guidelines for undertaking a CVA.

Case studies / practical examples

The step by step manual contains many examples of how the methods and tools discussed have been practically applied in community based risk assessments in Pacific Island Countries.

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Author of guidance note

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