Vulnerability and Capacity diagnosis
By and for the communities Presentation

The PVCA enables people to enhance their knowledge and understanding about disaster risks, and facilitate action planning for alleviating the threats. It pays attention to the most vulnerable, those who have less capacities to face and recover from disasters.

The PVCA is a flexible model that must be tailored to suit the needs of particular context. However, the process is always the same and should be respected and be aligned with ACF’s strategic orientations.

The PVCA is designed as a multi-sector assessment so it is holistic and inclusive by nature. It complements other ACF’s assessment tools intending to analyse and reduce disaster risk and nutrition issues all together. It is intended to be used for undertaking in-depth assessments in emergency, recovery and chronic crisis contexts. Users are encouraged to explore these complementary frameworks to facilitate an integrated analysis.

PVCA involves the communities to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters. To diagnose capacities and vulnerabilities.

It analyses in detail:

- The probability and severity of a shock or a current stress
- The external change factors
- The adaptation strategies
PVCA is an investigative methodology that uses a variety of qualitative participatory tools to engage local stakeholders in their own disaster risk and vulnerability diagnosis.

The PVCA is not an isolated event that is sufficient in itself. It should result in action and disaster risk reduction is the objective. It provides a solid foundation for designing, implementing and evaluating practical coping and adaptive strategies for disaster risk reduction. It contributes to link DRM programmes or initiatives with local concerns, needs and priorities.

The PVCA is a set of interactive tools implying dialogue and participation of the most vulnerable populations using the experience, knowledge and local resources. It requires a significant compromise with local actors, not only the communities but also the authorities, ministry representatives, civil society organizations, private sector, humanitarian and development workers…

The PVCA leads to a deeper understanding of local vulnerability and to appropriate vulnerability targeting. It empowers and motivate communities to find solutions to the problems they face and take appropriate DRM actions.

The PVCA can be used at any stage of the disaster cycle in different situations:
- Emergency or conflict context;
- Recovery and/or rehabilitation context;
- Development or stable context;

Objects of the PVCA
To build communities resilience to disaster through a participative process

1. Strengthen the capacities and knowledge of the communities toward disaster risks.
2. Identify the means and opportunities that could be used to reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of the communities in front of disasters.
3. Identify priorities that would allow mitigating or avoiding the effects of disasters amongst communities with the support of governmental authorities.

According to the context, the information needed from the PVCA will change to meet the most appropriate response.

Ideally the PVCA methodology is conducted during the preliminary planning stages of the project in order to specify its objectives and the type of activities. It has to be implemented at an early stage and should follow a multi-sector approach.

Main PVCA stages:

Preparation phase:

The implementation of the field assessment or learning phase inaugurates the beginning of the participatory process. It aims at complementing, verifying and validating secondary data.

Different investigative techniques and tools are suggested to enable the community to do their own appraisal of the existing risks.

Analysis phase:

It allows the community working on the risk factors and measures. It helps to organise, analyse and prioritise information from the learning phase to develop appropriate and anticipatory risk reduction plans and actions to prepare the community for hazards, to prevent them to become disasters and to mitigate their effects. It promotes changes (beliefs, behaviours, practices, attitudes, knowledge, etc.) at the community level.

PVCA includes: Community profile, risk analysis, transect, disaster chronogram, institutional mapping, seasonal calendar, community risk mapping, problem trees, and solution trees among other tools.

“Village Mapping helped community to understand the overall village settlements situation, and to explore threats to their agriculture and pasture fields, as well as overall vulnerability from avalanches, flash floods, soil erosion, and capacities in emergencies.”

“Seasonal Calendar exercise in community helped them identify their seasonal vulnerability regarding various livelihoods especially crops, available pastures, and water. This also helps community to prepare before the disaster times.”
**Planification phase:**

This phase – strongly linked to the analysis phase – aims at reaching a consensus on what disaster risks or threats that should be given priority among those which were highlighted during by the field assessment.

The group must consider to what extent these key issues undermine the community’s development, why, and what can be easily and rapidly changed.

**TARGETED POPULATION:**

- Most vulnerable population living in disasters prone areas

PVCA experiences have been implemented in different missions of ACF International network (Pakistan, Ethiopia, Philippines, South Caucasus, Burkina Faso, Indonesia…).

A methodological guide has been developed by the network describing the PVCA process including the different implementation tools. It will be available in January 2013.