



Aus-AID

Visión Mundial

MAPS OF RISKS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES



How can we identify the threats, the vulnerabilities and the risks in our communities?

Luis (Father):

How are you doing folks?

Do you remember that in the last brochures we discussed about "Management of Risks and Local Committees"

Rosa (Mother):

Yes, I remember it.

Luis:

Our community was drawn at the end of the brochure

Pepe (Son):

That is correct. We identified in the drawing the part of our community where there are threats, vulnerabilities and risks

Rosa (Mother):

That's right son. That was the first thing that we had to do.

Luis:

That is why in this brochure we are going to highlight how to identify the threats, vulnerabilities and the risks in the place where we live.

Juan (The neighbor):

"Hold a minute folks, Let's first remember what the words threat vulnerability and risk mean. To do so, we are going to match with lines the definition corresponding to each one of these aspects, ok?"

A Threat is:

It is an internal factor (weakness and fragility) that affect people, things, communities and the environment in relation to the damage or effects caused by a threat (earthquake, eruption, epidemics, drought, landslides and floods).

A Vulnerability is:

A combination of a Threat and a Vulnerability. It is the probability that something occurs and how it might affect us.

A Risk is:

It is the presence of a natural disaster or one caused by human beings, which puts our lives, possessions, communities, crops, animals and the environment in danger.

Rosa and Pepe:

How can we identify the threats, the vulnerabilities and the risks in our communities?

Luis:

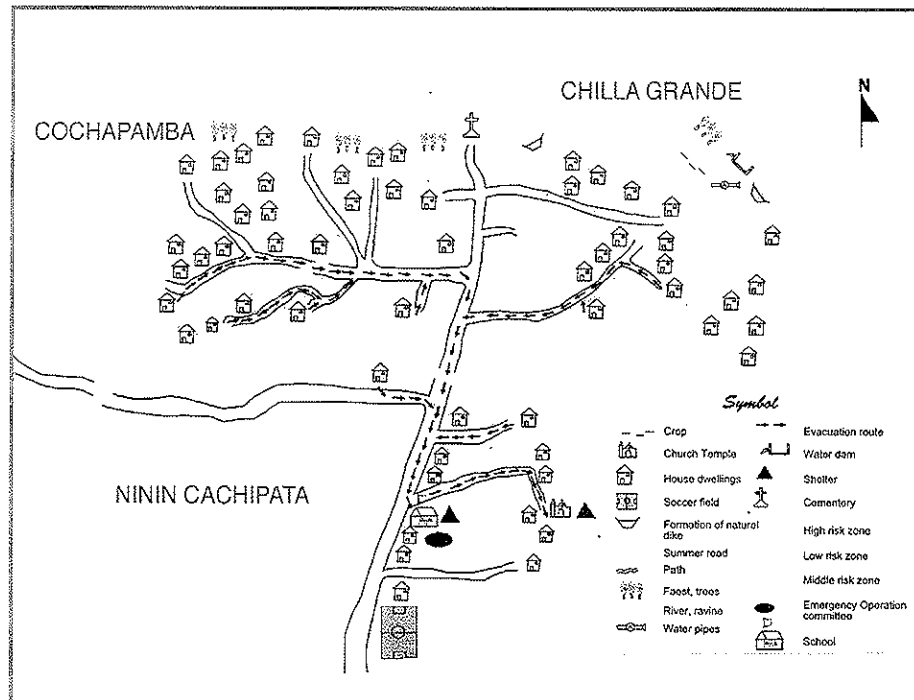
To do so, we must elaborate a Map of Risks and identify the main capacities or resources in our community.

The map of community risks

What is a map of risks?

It is a graphical representation, partial and total, of the earth surface where we identify and point out the places where there are:

- Possible threats
- Most vulnerable places
- Zones of Risk
- Safe Zones
- Routes of evacuation in case of an emergency.
- Main resources that we have available to face an emergency.



Pepe:

Mom, Dad, so it is very important that we count with a Map of Risks.

Luis:

Yes, it is very important to have one. This way, we will be prepared to face any emergency.

Rosa:

Yes, son. We are going to be very well prepared and organized in such case.

Juan:

So, let's start working to make our own Map of Risks by following these steps:



Steps to make a Map of Community Risks

Step 1: To inform and motivate people

- To hold community meetings and assemblies to inform what a risk, a threat and a vulnerability is.
- If it is possible, to display a video tape or analyze any natural disaster that occurred in our zone, province or country, discuss about the damaged caused and the actions that could have been taken to prevent or reduce the effects.
- To tell people that we get prepared to celebrate parties, to make visits, to go on trips, but we never get well prepared to face an emergency or an adverse event.
- To point out that it is extremely important to identify the zones of risk, the places where we can be safe, and the evacuation routes.

Pepe: "Daddy, Mom, let us remember what Art. 57 of the Children Code says:

"Children and teenagers have the right to receive special protection in case of a natural disaster and internal or external war and conflicts. Such protection includes the preferential provision of evacuation means from the affected zones, accommodation, nutrition, medical attention and medicines"

Step 2. To create work teams

- To create groups or work teams with several community members: adults, youngsters, children.
- A group makes an historical analysis of events that occurred in the community.
- Another group makes an inventory or a list of the main resources available in the community. They could be:

Physical: vehicles, buildings, equipment and rescue materials, transportation means, medical equipment.

Human: all the persons from the community. Besides, identification of nurses, carpenters, plumbers, masons, catechists, priests, pastors, promoters, etc.

Institutional: public and private, national or foreign that work in the community.

Natural: water sources, highlands, community plots, animals, crops, rivers, pastures, mountains and anything related to the environment.

- A third group makes an analysis on the threats, vulnerabilities and risks in the community.



Step 3: Tour around the community

- Each team travels around the community to collect all the information related to the subject that corresponds to its group.
- This helps to identify with accuracy the place where the probable threats, vulnerabilities and risks are located.
- During the tour around the community close contact is established with people in order to identify any other risk that might be unknown to the group.

Step 5: Elaboration of the Map of Community Risks

- Each team elaborates the map of risks and community resources based upon the last step.
- In this map we must include:
 - Zones of risk
 - Evacuation routes in case of emergency
 - Safe zones
 - Main resources available in the community to face any emergency
 - Besides, we must include the name of the parish and the community, point out the North and date of elaboration.

It is important that the group identifies with a symbol or colors each type of disaster, threat, vulnerability, risk or community resource in order to facilitate a fast comprehension of the map by the community.



Step 4: Exchange of information from the three groups

- With the data collected, each group shares information with other groups.
- Some criteria are standardized and conclusions are obtained for the elaboration of the map.

The resources that Noah used to face the Flood

Noah and his family identified the risks that the Flood might have brought, reason why they obeyed the directions that God had given them, and identified the resources they had at hand to face this event, available in the community. They could be:

• **The threats:** The Flood

• **The most vulnerable places:** the whole earth, the animals, the plants, the mountains, etc.

• **The zones of risk:** Any place outside the Ark

• **The evacuation routes:** any road or path leading to the Ark.

• **The safe zones:** the Ark

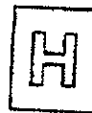
• **The main resources:** Noah, his wife, his children, his children in law, the timber trees, the animals, etc.

• The symbols here in suggested are the established by Civil Defense Ecuador to help us identify, for example:

SYMBOLS



SOCCER FIELD



HOSPITAL, HEALTH CENTER



PUBLIC ELECTRICITY



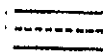
ALARM. SIREN



FORMATION OF A NATURAL DIKE



PARK



PAVED ROAD



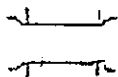
SUMMER ROAD



PATH



FOREST, TREES



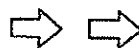
BRIDGE



RIVER, RAVINE



WATER PIPES



EVACUATION ROUTE



TRANSPORTATION



SPRING, LAKE, LAGOON



WATER DAM



WOODEN BRIDGE



GAS STATION



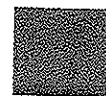
TANK, WATER RESERVOIR



SHELTER



HIGH RISK ZONE



RISK ZONE



SAFE ZONE



COMMUNITY CENTERS



CEMENTERY



HOUSE, DWELLINGS



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE



SCHOOL



CHURCH, TEMPLE



POLICE



HANGING BRIDGE



RED CROSS

Step 6 : Socialization of the Community's Map of Risks and Resources

- In another meeting or community assembly, the groups presented to the community the Map of Risks and Resources with the corresponding symbols.
- Suggestions and recommendations are received to correct the map or to make it more comprehensible to everybody.
- Final approval of the map.
- If it is possible, the map should be hung in a visible place and should be protected against dust, sun and rain.
- Another option could be making copies of the map and distributing them among the families so that they keep them at home.

Pepe:

That's good daddy, mom and Juanito. It was a great idea to make our own map of risks and community resources. Now we know where to go in case that a threat appears.

Luis:

Yes son. However, we cannot stop working after the maps are done. We must keep on receiving training to be able to train our people.

Rosa:

That's right. In the following brochure we are going to talk about how to make the Community Plan for the Management of Risks.



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This material has been produced by the program for the Mitigation of Disasters
and Reaction to Community Emergencies - CERDM from World Vision Ecuador,
thanks to funding received from the Government of Australia (AusAID/ANCP/World
Vision Australia - LACRO). The opinions of the author do not necessarily
reflect the point of view of AusAID.

JUNE, 2004

Design, layout, illustration: Logo Sapienz Cia. Ltda. - Jorge Coronel
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