

## 4.2 Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (HVCA)

### What is a HVCA?

HVCA stands for Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis. It is CAFOD's community based participatory method of assessment. However it is important to note that other organisations call this process by different names such as the PVCA (Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) CBA (Community Based Action) or PDRA (Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment).

**Top Tip:** Remember to engage with and include external hazard scientist and experts. Invite them to community workshops to encourage dialogue exchange and build two-way understanding!

Remember there are two different types of DRR. Firstly participatory, community based DRR begins with the HVCA which is used to develop community actions plans to encourage communities to take ownership for effective DRR. Secondly there is the DRR that focuses upon policies, legislations and engagement with the government. Here disaster management legislations, laws and contingency plans can be lobbied for. See chapter 6 Advocacy for more information on this.

### The HVCA process can be divided into five sections:

1. Preparation
2. Workshop tools
3. Planning
4. Taking Action
5. Monitoring and Evaluation



### Step 1: Preparation: Forming Community Action Groups

- The first step of the HVCA is to form participatory community action groups. The core element of CM-DRR is the community. Remember involving community members emphasises the local dimension of development and disaster reduction.
- A [community organised committee](#) should be encouraged to carry out the CM-DRR process which includes participatory risk assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Ideally the local level links up with the intermediate, national and international levels of the organisations, government and external networks such as the Global Network for Disaster Resilience (GNDR) to address the complexity of disaster risks.

**There are three key guiding principles** in forming community groups that should be adhered to.

#### TOP TIP!

Remember the difference between Community Action Plans and Contingency plans. Community action plans are developed during or after the HVCA and are specific plans that the community action group plan to take. Contingency plans are often part of a local government plan; for example a contingency plan to develop an Early Warning System.