

GD in VCA  
field school  
Thailand  
May 2017

# *Introduction to community resilience and the VCA approach*

*Monday 22 May 2017*



# What is a resilient community?

## A resilient community...



The IFRC defines resilience as, “the ability of individuals, communities, organizations or countries exposed to disasters, crises and underlying vulnerabilities to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses without compromising their long-term prospects.”

# *A resilient community*

... is knowledgeable, healthy and can meet its basic needs



# *A resilient community*

... is socially cohesive



## *A resilient community*

... has well-maintained and accessible infrastructures and services



## *A resilient community*

... has economic  
opportunities



# *A resilience community*

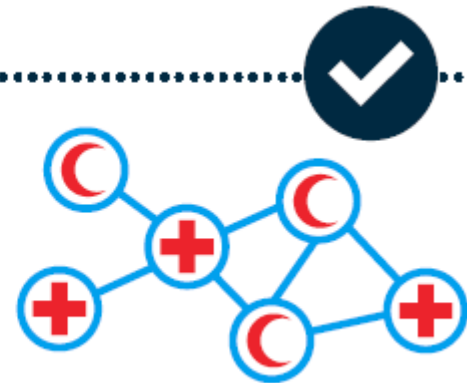
... can manage its natural assets





# *A resilient community*

... is connected



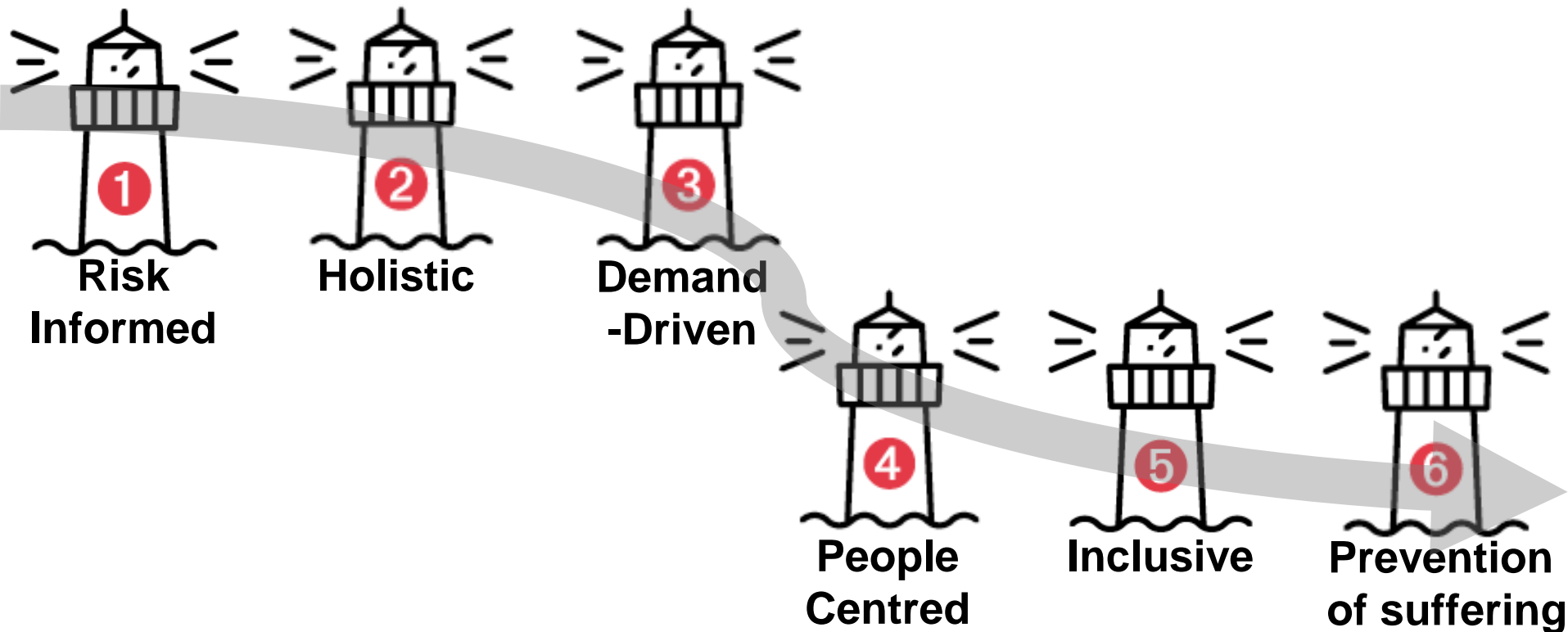
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## *Short brainstorming*

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- In groups of 3 or 4 colleagues for each characteristic
- Identify as many vulnerability (**red**) and capacity (**green**) as you can related to your characteristic
- 1 idea = 1 post-it
- 10mn

## ***6 Landmarks for community resilience***



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## *Rethinking RCRC services*



**accompany**



**enable**



**connect**

## ***VCA as an integrated approach for community resilience***

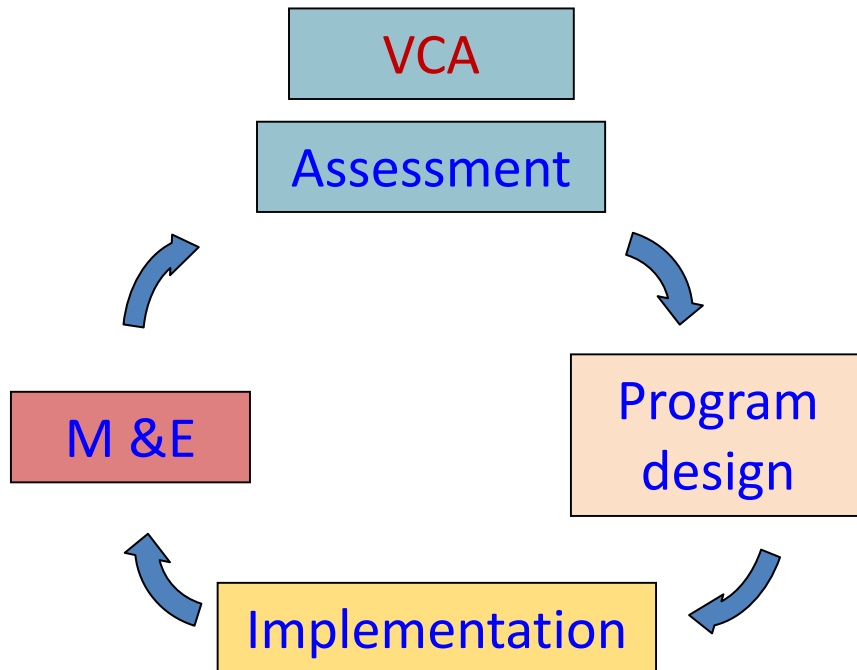
- VCA is a methodology for investigation
- It is a means of gathering information through a participative way
- Its purpose is to increase community's awareness of risks and help them to plan activities for reducing vulnerability and increasing capacities

***“Before, we used to do things for people. With the VCA, we do things with the people. They are fully engaged in the investigation, and are full participants in creating the solutions”*** National Society informant

## ***What VCA is / is NOT***

VCA is	VCA is not
A holistic / integrated / comprehensive approach looking at every risk	A tool only for DM / DRR programmes
A process managed from within the community	A process managed by the NS staff members / volunteers
A long-term approach for community resilience	A project-based activity
A part or step of a longer process led by the community	An assessment only

# ***The VCA in a community-based programming cycle***



- The VCA is an **essential step** of community-based initiatives by NSs.
- It is a **toolbox** to be adapted to the country context and the realities in the communities

## ***Different name of the VCA***

- ☐ VCA – Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (IFRC/RCRC)
- ☐ PVA – Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (Action Aid)
- ☐ PCVA – Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (Oxfam)
- ☐ CVCA – Climate Change Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CARE)
- ☐ PRA – Participatory Risk Assessment (some organizations in the Philippine)
- ☐ PDRA – Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (ADPC)
- ☐ PDRAA – Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment and Action (ADPC)
- ☐ CA – Community Assessment (CRC health department and CBHFA workers)
- ☐ HVCA – Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CRC, some NSs and NGOs)
- ☐ CRA – Community Risk Assessment (PhD. research project and some organizations)



## ***Key highlights of a successful VCA process based on lessons learnt***

- Adapt the tools as needed
- Invest on planning / review of secondary data
- Link data collection, data analysis, action planning and implementation
- Keep the community at the center of all steps, and everyone in the community
- Work hand-in-hand with community leaders, before / during / after the VCA process
- Use the VCA process to engage with local partners (CSOs, private sector, academic, etc.)

## ***Benefits of the VCA approach***

- Through VCA, **NSs work with communities** to identify their surrounding risks and take steps to reduce them by drawing on their own skills, knowledge and initiative.
- With the VCA, **local people and communities become the focus** – not only as recipients of funding / project, but as **active participants** of their own development

# ***Challenges with the community engagement...?***

***It is important not to idealize the concept of “community”. There can be divisions, violence or even conflicts within communities.***

## **Questions for the group work (20mn):**

1. What are the key challenges with community-based approaches ?
2. What are examples of divisions, violence or conflicts NSs can face while implementing a VCA approach?
3. How can we make sure that our actions do not increase the conflicts within communities

# Transparency and communications



**INFORM:** Provide timely and accurate information to affected people so they can make informed decisions

# Participation and involvement



**LISTEN:** Taking the time to ask people what change they want to see

# Feedback and complaints



**RESPOND:** Tracking changes - make information flow 2 ways



# Monitoring, evaluation and learning



**CHECK HOW WE ARE DOING:** Using feedback to improve project impact

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# ***Community based programming***





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# *VCA step by step*

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# ***The 12 steps of the VCA process***

## ***Level 1: National Society support***

- Understanding why VCA is being proposed.
- Sensitizing (of National Society leadership, branches, and partners).
- Setting up a management structure for the VCA.
- Setting the VCA objectives.

## ***Level 2: from assessment to planning***

- Planning the VCA.
- Preparation phase.
- Using the investigation tools with the community.
- Systematizing, analysing and interpreting the data.
- Returning information to the community and deciding priorities and actions for transformation.

## ***Level 3: from planning to action***

- Turn vulnerabilities into capacities through practical actions.
- Recommendations and report writing for local authorities, donors and partners.
- Programme implementation: risk reduction projects with the community.

## ***Level 1: National Society support***

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## ***Level 2: from assessment to planning***

5. Planning the VCA.
6. Preparation phase.
7. Using the investigation tools with the community.
8. Systematizing, analysing and interpreting the data.
9. Returning information to the community and deciding priorities and actions for transformation.

## ***Level 3: from planning to action***

10. Turn vulnerabilities into capacities through practical actions.
11. Recommendations and report writing for local authorities, donors and partners.
12. Programme implementation: risk reduction projects with the community.

## ***Group work / 4 questions***

- What your tool is about & its objective.
- How to ensure a GD approach when conducting the tool
- Considerations and tips for success
- Link with analysis planning – what can this tool tell us/ allow us to do – ensuring GD considerations

**Prepare on flipchart with key points and an illustration of how it looks like**

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## ***Tools for analysis***

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- **Brainstorming**
- **Ranking**
- **Wall method**
- **Problem tree**
- **And more...**

## ***Ranking information – a method that can be used with several tools***

- Quickly identify problem areas and preferences as individuals see them and compare them with the assessments of others.
- Guide people to rank problems in terms of:
  - What can be changed about the situation?
  - What can be influenced about the situation?
  - What must be accepted about the situation?

***Have the community themselves decide what is a priority to be addressed.***

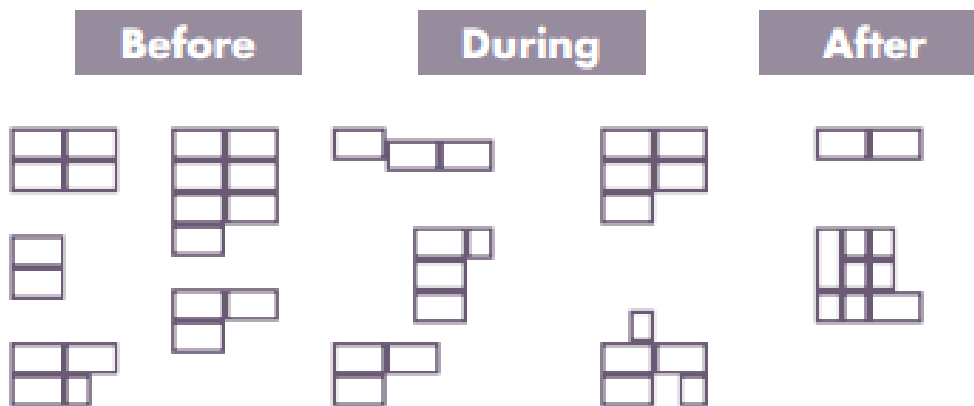


## *Example of ranking...*

Parts of the house	Wind	Fire	Earthquake	Volcanic eruption	Floods
Roof – zinc	3	2	3	1	1
Ceiling	2	5	1	1	1
Windows – wood	5	5	2	1	1
Doors	2	2	2	2	2
Drainage	5	1	1	1	5
Walls	3	3	1	1	3
Floor	1	4	1	1	3
House base	1	1	2	1	1
Trees around the house	5	5	1	1	1
Road	5	1	3	1	3

## Wall method

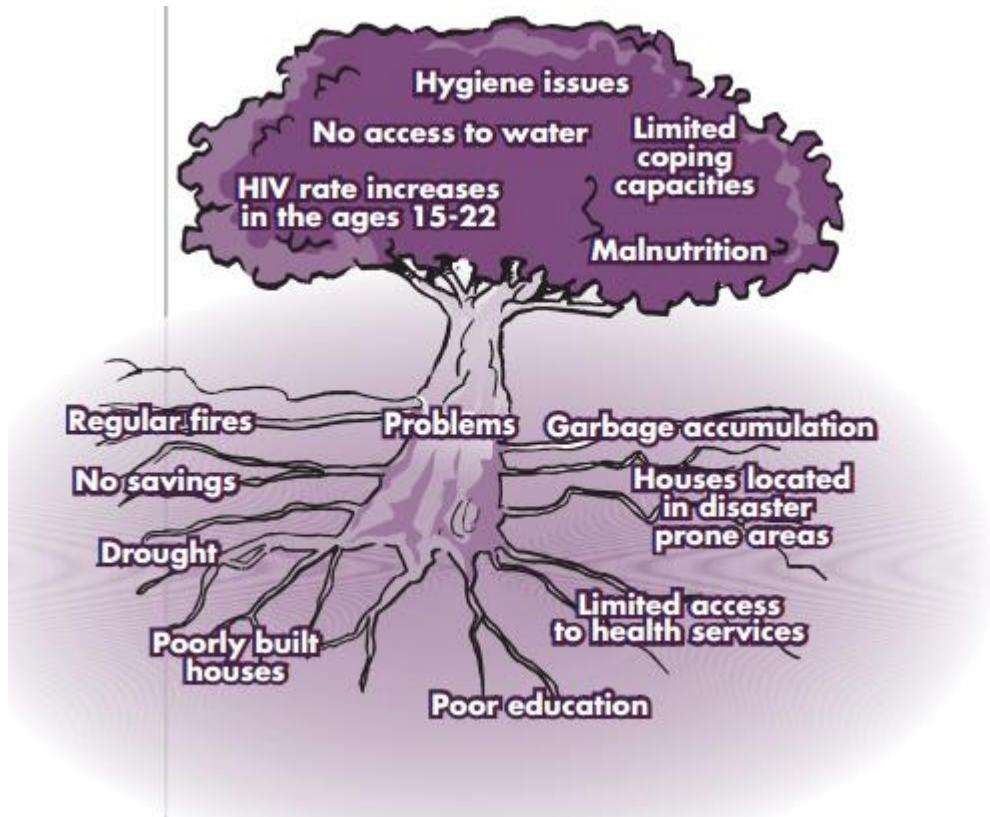
**Figure 2 Clustering ideas on the wall to analyse data**



The method requires the use of the walls of a good-sized room so that large amounts of data can be displayed at one time and then sorted into categories by the volunteers who collected it.

The wall-mounted data can then be organized into clusters, whereby a number of similar data bits are grouped together on the wall

## ***Problem tree analysis***



The **problem tree** is a flow diagram which shows the relations between different aspects of a particular issue or problem.

It can help to **build a picture of the major problems** facing a community