CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS TRAINING IN BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is an important area for the planning, implementation and sustainability of the USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program. The climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA) training held in Ouagadougou on December 3-7, 2012 is part of a broader training program for the USAID WA-WASH Program implementing partners in the three intervention countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger). The training aims to build the capacity of the participants on analysis of vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity to climate change at the village, regional, and national levels.

The CVCA methodology provides a framework for analyzing vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change at the community level. Recognizing that local actors must drive their own future, the CVCA prioritizes local knowledge on climate risks and adaptation strategies in the data gathering and analysis process. It is a participatory tool that entails conducting hazard mapping, establishing a seasonal calendar, historical timeline, vulnerability matrix and Venn diagram.

The CVCA matrix assesses the population's capacity to understand the process by which a community or an individual responds to a disaster. This is an important step for selecting strategies that reduce risks and build the capacity of the community. The assessment examines four aspects in the CVCA matrix:. (1) physical/materials such as finances, land and, structures; (2) social/organizational relating to social networks, institutional framework, and social protection mechanisms; (3) motivation/attitudes that relate to the sense of control, ideologies, self-confidence, and perception; (4) policy/institutional framework that includes community decision-making structures and community relations with governmental and NGOs.

The Crunch model analyzes and describes the progression of human vulnerability to natural hazards. It is based on the concept that a disaster results from the interaction between vulnerability and exposure to a hazard. Thus, disaster risk reduction entails lessening the vulnerability of people exposed to hazards and building their capacity. The Crunch model and the CVCA matrix are complementary. Both tools provide a general framework for analysis.

During the five-day training, 20 participants (including four women) representing local partner organizations, advisers from the municipalities, international organizations, and technical staff of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Livestock shared their experiences and improved their knowledge about climate change concepts. The workshop involved group work and plenary sessions, watching of films on climate change themes in Africa (Burkina Faso) and in Asia and a one-day field visit for practical application of the CVCA and Crunch model tools in the selected villages.

First, the participants defined the concepts of hazard, capacity, risk, and vulnerabilities, discussed the degree of exposure to hazards in groups and made plenary presentations. From the group work presentations, it was clear that the participants understood the concepts. Real life examples of the concepts were given to facilitate further understanding. After the definition of the concepts, the participants watched two films; "local voices, local choices" and "break the circle of silence". The films demonstrated how vulnerable communities affected by disasters are organized at several levels to reduce future risks.

Second, participants were introduced to tools for the analysis of disaster risk reduction, notably the CVCA matrix used to evaluate the hazard and the Crunch model used to evaluate the degree of exposure and human vulnerability to natural hazards.

Third, the participants were then divided into four groups to evaluate hazards such as drought and locust invasion. These hazards were evaluated in terms of origin, strength, warning signs, frequency, seasonality, duration, and impact of the hazard. The participants also evaluated the degree of exposure to the hazard. This was done by answering questions such as "who was more susceptible to the effects of hazards in the community", "how did the hazard affect different groups in the community", "how did the hazard affect livelihood strategies, infrastructures, and basic services", "were the impacts different between the young and the elderly and what were the effects on people living with HIV/AIDS", "were the impacts different between men and women".

Fourth, the CVCA tools were applied using existing climate change risks in the villages of Oueglega and Tama in the Tanghin Dassourri municipality. The results of the hazard, capacity, and vulnerability analysis based on the four aspects of the CVCA matrix were presented and discussed in the plenary session. In addition, the community members elaborated action plans and identified the organizations to support their implementation. The participants also discussed the relevance of the different tools and reflected on the challenges faced while using the tools in the field. Some of the challenges identified included conflicts among community members while drawing resource maps in relation to access to and control of natural resources. Further both the CVCA matrix and the Crunch model required ample time for preparation and implementation.

Finally, the plenary presentation and synthesis of the discussion led to the elaboration of the CVCA matrix and the Crunch model. The main lesson from these tools was that the poor are the most vulnerable and that they have skills, resources, and strengths to mitigate the effects of climate change. The evaluation of the degree of exposure to hazard covered three cross-cutting themes of climate change, gender, and HIV/AIDS.

The recommendations made by participants include adequate time allocation and better planning of field work, gathering of secondary information before field work, creation of separate focus groups (men, women), conduct individual interviews; respect of communities' views and their adaptation strategies to climate change, increase use of the CVCA tools in projects and programs design and adaptation of the CVCA tools to local context to promote community ownership and facilitate ease of use.

The full report is available (in French) upon request via our website. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit http://wawash.fiu.edu/.

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