

## A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

# Prioritising our actions



### Why use this activity?

This activity follows on from **Tool A2: Vulnerability and capacity assessment**. With the information produced so far, this activity helps the community to begin to identify the actions they might want to take in order to:

- **Reduce the vulnerabilities** identified in Part 1 of the vulnerability and capacity assessment.
- **Strengthen the capacities** identified in Part 2 of the vulnerability and capacity assessment, and build new capacities.



### A brief description

A facilitated discussion and ranking exercise in order to prioritise actions to take to prepare for disasters.



### You will need

- A community map already drawn by the group
- Small stones or bottle tops (6 for each participant)
- Paper and pens



### Timeline

This activity will take 1-2 hours.

Many natural hazards cannot be prevented. However, it is possible to take practical action beforehand to reduce the potential impact of hazards on a community so that the risk of a disaster is reduced. This is known as mitigation. Preparedness is a set of activities preparing for the impact of a hazard – activities that will help the community members to cope and to recover. It is important that actions prioritise include both mitigation and preparedness. See **Tool A2: Understanding how we respond to disasters**



## What to do

- Remind the participants of the previous activities done during the vulnerability and capacity analysis.
- Ask the following discussion questions:
  - What actions could be taken *without help from outside the community* to reduce our vulnerabilities, and to strengthen existing capacities or build new ones? Encourage the group to be creative about solutions.
  - What actions are required by people or institutions (eg NGOs or government) to help reduce our vulnerabilities, and strengthen and build capacities?
- Ensure that input from women is encouraged, especially in contexts where there is cultural separation between genders and men tend to dominate.
- Make a note of all of the actions suggested. Write them on pieces of paper. Ask the group to rank them. First ask everyone to vote for which change would have **the biggest impact**. Second, ask people to vote for which change is **easiest for them to make**.
- Ensure both mitigation and preparedness actions are included (see **Tool A2: Understanding how we respond to disasters**)
- Select as many of the changes as the group thinks is possible to follow up.
- Draw out the table below onto large pieces of paper. Fill in the table based on the results of the discussion.

Action	Who is responsible?			Deadline
	Community	NGO	Government / other	

**Next steps:** We suggest that do you **Tool A2: Minibus planning exercise** after this activity in order to develop a more comprehensive action plan.