

2.4.2

SERIES 2

Understanding
Vulnerability & Risk



Activity 2.4.2

Exploration of Historic Climate Event Impacts

In this activity, you will explore one or two recent, significant climate events for your city. These can include events such as droughts, floods, typhoons, or heat waves. The goal of this exploration is to understand the roles that agents, systems and institutions played in exacerbating or mitigating impacts of past events.

IN THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL:

- ✓ Select one or two significant climate events for your city to explore in detail;
- ✓ Identify people and systems impacted by the events;
- ✓ Discuss the role of agents, system fragility, and institutions in mitigating or exacerbating the impacts of the event; and
- ✓ Consider how recently implemented or planned development or policies might change the impacts of similar events in the future.

ACTIVITY 2.4.2: EXPLORATION OF HISTORIC CLIMATE EVENT IMPACTS

INSTRUCTIONS

In the full group, select one or two significant climate events that have impacted your city. At least one event should have occurred within the past 5 or 10 years. Then, divide into small groups (5-8 people each). In each small group, discuss the questions posed in the following table and record your answers in the space provided.

When all groups have completed their tables, reconvene and share your answers. Did all groups answer the questions similarly, or were there significant differences between groups?

If there were significant differences, spend some time exploring why. Are there different understandings of the Climate Resilience Framework and how agents, systems and institutions are used, or different perspectives on the past climate events you were exploring? There is no “right” way to answer these questions. If there are widely differing understandings of past disasters, this should be carefully explored. Understanding the reasons for the different responses will provide valuable input for the resilience building process.

If there were not significant differences, briefly consider as a group whether the inclusion of members of a vulnerable group, or from different organizations or departments would change the answers in any way.

ACTIVITY 2.4.2: EXPLORATION OF HISTORIC CLIMATE EVENT IMPACTS

INSTRUCTIONS

This exercise will be completed as small group discussions. Please have someone record the discussion on the following matrix.

Event:		Date:
Systems	What systems or aspects of systems were affected?	
	Why were those systems affected (underlying fragilities)?	
	Were these expected failures? Were there unexpected failures?	
	What was the role of organizational or agent response in improving or failing to improve the situation?	

City residents (Who)	Who was affected?	
	Why were they affected (underlying vulnerability)?	
	What were the impacts on those people, and were those impacts expected or unexpected?	
	What was the role of organizational or agent response in improving or failing to improve the situation?	
Institutions	Was government or organization response effective or ineffective?	
	Were there rules, laws, or policies that constrained or enabled effective responses?	
	Are there new rules, laws, or policies that, if enacted, would mitigate impacts of a future event?	
Exposure	Are there development plans currently underway that will affect the areas or systems impacted by this climate disaster?	
	Once completed, how will this development interact with similar climate events?	