**Vulnerability Profiling of the Communities/Households**

**Description of the Tool**

This tool helps the team in identifying, profiling and ranking the different types of vulnerable households in the village, identify the vulnerability characteristics of the different types of disaster and climate change related vulnerable households in a community, especially the most vulnerable households.

The process will help in identifying how each vulnerable group of households are different from one another. The criteria will be established by the community themselves.

**How to conduct the discussion:**

* In the targeted village, call for separate meetings with men and women. Please ensure the group has mixed representation of the different communities and different types of households.
* Before starting the meeting check for who all are sitting in the discussion and then ask if any community representation is missing out.
* Use circles on the floor and stones (Biggest one is for most vulnerable households, medium one is for medium vulnerable households and the smallest one is for least vulnerable HHs) and then discuss with the community to identify the different communities in the village
* Once each category of the households is identified, then facilitate the following discussions against each category.

**Time:** 2 – 2.5 hours

**Who will lead the discussions:**

Men and women of all categories. The group of women and men could be between 8 to 10 members. More than 12 members will not ensure full participation of each member and also makes it challenging for the note taker and facilitator to manage a high quality discussion. If needed, there could be 2 such discussions be conducted in the same village. So, please stick to the number of participants.

From Assessment team, there will be 2 persons – one as facilitator and another as note taker.

**Preparation (A Must for all staff including program team):**

* Facilitation guide (Print the copy of this guide, read and practice before going to the field, do a role-play if needed)
* Flipchart (if needed as spare)
* Markers
* Sketch pen
* Masking tape
* Stones or beans (3 colors - 20 each or 30 stones only)

**Process/Steps:**

**Introduction and Explain the purpose of the meeting**:

Guidance for introducing yourself and the purpose of the Meeting:

* My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for CRS /\_\_\_\_ which is based in \_\_\_\_ and has been working for vulnerable people in different districts of Assam. I have \_\_\_\_\_Years of working experience in CRS/local partner. We are here today to talk about how risks/disaster affect the village and different households in this village.
* I will ask questions and my colleague here will take notes of our discussions. There is no right or wrong answer, so please share what you think is necessary for us to know. Your participation in this discussion is voluntary and you can choose not to take part. The information that you give will be confidential. The information will not include any specific names. There will be no way to identify that you gave this information.

This will take about 2 to 2.5 hours for this meeting. If you all agree, then I can start the discussion. We are here for an assessment and at this point we cannot commit to providing any kind of support. Also, your non- participation will not affect any benefit you are receiving from the government or any other agency.

**Objectives of today’s discussion (Explain this clearly to the participants):**

1. Define different types/categories of vulnerable households in the community- their characteristics/profile of vulnerabilities
2. Approximately quantify the number of households in each vulnerable group in the communities

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Ask the communities to think about three types of families in the community:
   1. Those who face fewer problems due to disasters = least **vulnerable** households
   2. Those who are in the middle = **Medium** **vulnerable** households
   3. Those who face a lot of problems or loss due to disasters in your village = ‘**most affected** households’.
2. Draw one circle for each of the vulnerable groups (most vulnerable, medium vulnerable, and least vulnerable) (**NOTE:** preferably this needs to be drawn on the floor/ground to ensure communities’ own participation and their lead in the discussion. To distinguish each circle clearly on the ground, we can make 3 different sizes – first draw a BIG circle and then draw a small circle and then draw one in between. In this way, participants will be more comfortable and engaged as they can easily refer to. Remember, we are trying only their lead in their project design assessment).

* Explain that BIG Circle means most vulnerable, medium and smallest one is least vulnerable.
* Ask participants about each group one by one as below:

Most vulnerable HHs (BIG circle), Medium vulnerable group is smaller circle and least vulnerable is the smallest (Please note that for each of the groups the following questions have to be asked. So simultaneously keep referring to the two circles and ask the questions:

* 1. Why do you consider this group as most vulnerable one? List down all the characteristics that are referred by each participant? Ensure that **each participant has a say on this**. What else?
  2. Do they have land on their own for agriculture?
  3. Do they have land for their homestead or home? If yes, how many HHs own their own homestead land?
  4. How many HHs in this category is landless? Where do they currently live in? (**Ask: If anyone from this group belong to landless? If yes, ask them where do they live in?)**
  5. Do they have home of their own? What type of houses do they have ( Not down each category separately
     + **ROOF:** Thatched roof/tin roof or concrete; (Other- Specify)
     + **WALL:** mud wall/ Thatched Wal/concrete wall /Other (Specify)
     + **FLOOR:** mud floor or concrete floor? (Other- speciy)
     + How may HHs in each type of houses?
  6. Do they have any natural resources such as pond, forest land, trees etc in their homes?
  7. Do they have livestock? What types of livestock (Poultry, Cows or any other?)
  8. How many HHs approximately do have livestock? How many livestock approximately do they own?
  9. Do they have toilets of their own? Are these permanent toilets or temporary? How many HHs approximately own permanent toilets in this category?
  10. What kinds of livelihood activity they engage in most (agriculture labor, wage labor of all forms, service, domestic help for women, shops, and any activity that children engage in)? How many HHs approximately?
  11. What are the other secondary livelihood activity do they engage in? How many HHs in each livelihood category?
  12. Do they have sufficient food available throughout the year? If no, which months are most severe food insecure months? Why so? What do they do to cope up with this food insecurity situation?
  13. What type of risks/hazards (both disaster and climate related) affect this group most? Why those risks?
  14. When was the last most significant disaster or other climate related hazard affect this group of households?
  15. What kind of damage and loss did they experience in the last most significant disaster/climate hazards? (probe loss related to: homes, crop, sources of income, livestock, fodder, livelihood equipment, savings, etc)
  16. What do this group (most vulnerable/Medium vulnerable and least vulnerable HHs – ask separately in each category) do to cope up with the effect of disasters and climate related risks?
  17. How much time does it take them to get back to normal life?
  18. Do any of these households practice any savings - either cash or materials ( rice, seeds, etc). If yes, what and how do they do savings? How many months do they get savings?
  19. Approximately how many HHs in each group are women headed? What are their main sources of livelihoods? To what degree do they get affected by disasters or climate related risks as compared to other households – same/more or less? Why so? Do they receive any benefit from the local govt or any other agencies specifically? If not, why not?
  20. Approximately how many HHs in each group have persons with disabilities or elderly members or sick members? To what degree do they get affected by disasters or climate related risks as compared to other households – same/more or less? Why so? Do they receive any benefit from the local govt or any other agencies specifically? If not, why not?
  21. Are there other ways that these households vary/differ from each other? If so, what are those differences? Why this is so?
  22. Now, can you one by one place a stone representing each household in each of the circles – place more stones in the circle whichever has the most number of HHs in the community.

**Consolidation**: Share back with the community the three categories of HHs identified based on the discussion and confirm what is being discussed, explain the criteria and the vulnerabilities in each category. Ask if anything is left or missed out? Ask if what did we learn today? Ask, if anything that they need to ask to the assessment team. If no, thank them for their time and also explain how the further discussions will be made with the three categories such as group discussions with most and medium vulnerable HHs and interviews with the least vulnerable HHs and with the community leaders etc.