**Focused group discussion Men and Women on Understanding Disaster and Climate Related Risks, underlying factors and its impact on various types of assets of the community and HHs**

**Description of the Tool**

This process of FGD using this tool, is designed to help the facilitators’ team and the communities to

1. Identify and discuss **the hazards** (such as flooding, less rainfall or longer dry spells or warm season or pest attack or any other factors) that put the community at risk and affect frequently
2. How these hazards/risks affect the communities and the families and their various categories of assets such as land, crop, livestock, home and any other socio-economic assets
3. How these hazards/risks affect their community assets such as roads, land, critical infrastructures (water canal, drainage system, irrigation system, schools, health centers, etc)
4. Identify the key problems that communities and households (both most vulnerable and medium vulnerable) face due to hazards/risks identified above and prioritize those problems (related to livelihoods, **agricultural land, cultivation practices, pasture land if any, soil, livestock (fodder, health, hygiene, and grazing practices), household savings for any shocks/emergency/risk reduction activities**, which has the greatest impact on people’s ability to manage and reduce their future risks, both at the community level and household level.
5. **To identify a range of existing coping strategies at community and household level**.
6. **To identify the range of existing and possible solutions based on their own knowledge and resources to address some of these challenges**. (or to Identify the Good practices in the communities and HH level to address some of the risks and hazards identified as above).
7. To understand and identify communities and Hhs perceptions towards resilience or what will make them more resilient towards the identified effects of disasters/hazards.

**How to conduct the discussion:**

* There will be eight FGDs in each village. Two FGDs each with women (most vulnerable and medium vulnerable) and two FGDs each with men (most vulnerable and medium vulnerable).

**Time:** 3 hours

**Participants:**

Men from the targeted village (8- 10 persons for each focused group discussion)

Women from the targeted village (8 – 10 persons for each of the focused group discussions)

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

Print copies of this TOOL, read the tool before visit, do a role-play in your team if needed, sketch pen, chart paper and pens for the note taker.

**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 your household and your life and also what you do be cope with the situation. I will keep asking questions and my colleague here will keep taking notes. 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 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.

**Guiding Questions for discussion:**

**Identification of Hazards, trends and its impact**

1. How long have you been staying in this village?

Since last 5 years, please list out all types of hazards that you and your village is affected with?

When did you experience the worst disaster last in your village? What happened at that time (loss of lives, assets, etc? Who was most affected at that time? Why?

How did you cope up with that situation? Which loses you could recover fully from? How? Which losses were you not able to fully recover from? And Why?

Were there some specific HHs in your group/village who could fully recover? If yes, which were these households? Were there households that could not recover? If yes, which were these households?

1. In the last 10 years, what changes in climate or weather patterns have you observed in this area in the last 10 years looking at (probe):
2. Intensity and periods of rainfalls,
3. Severity of drought or dry spell, heat wave etc,
4. Deforestation,
5. Intensity of flood – (number of times of flooding increased or decreased; level of water; new areas getting flooded (more crop land is flooded or more villages are flooded),
6. Abundance and quality of water at water sources,
7. Surface and fertility of land
8. Access to seeds
9. Migration by who in the family (men/women or both?) and where/which location? Migration for how long? Any challenge?
10. Livelihood practices (shifting from one livelihood to another)
11. Crops or cropping pattern
12. Any other changes?
13. Why do you think this change has happened? How did these changes affect your life and livelihood?
14. How are you coping up with these changes – pl give examples?

**Understand how gender roles and responsibilities are affected by disaster or different risks as identified by the participant in above**

Now, we will discuss various activities/works being done by you all during a day and how it is affected by the risks and hazards that you identified. This will help us in understanding the impact on both men and women (Explain if needed that disasters/hazards affect men and women differently).

Here is a Clock (NOTE: Facilitator needs to draw the BIG clock before going to the field and place this on the floor). And then ask each participant:

1. **­**What time do you normally get up? (Instruction: Start from that hour and go by each hour until you reach 12 AM. For example, if they say they wake up at 6 AM. Then you will ask from 6 to 7 AM, what do you do? How long does each activity take?

(Fill the clock for each of 24 hours like this and then ask the following questions. OR if it takes time, then we can ask for every 3 hours - morning to noon, noon to evening and evening to night but using the clock so that communities can actively participate)

1. Do you receive any form of support from anyone in the family in doing these different activities?
2. Now, kindly reflect on your experience of last worst disaster and think, if any of these activities changed during and after that disaster? If yes, what changed and why those changes? How did you manage those changes? Did you get any support from any one?
3. Do you see opportunities in how men and women spend their time that could be changed to positively impact your family’s capacity to cope up with the impact of disaster?

**Impact of Disasters/Hazards on Assets**

Now we will discuss how disasters or similar risks impact all types of assets (social, physical, economic, political and natural assets)

**Livelihood – (include agriculture, fishing, daily wage earner, kitchen garden, etc)**

**For this we will be doing a mapping exercise. Please write down the different months of the year as per the Assamese calendar.**

1. What are the key sources of income in your community (farming, fishing, Kitchen gardening, livestock raising, Government, shops, daily wage labor/unskilled and skilled labor, others)? Please, precise type such as main/regular/temporary/seasonal. Which % (or numbers) of HH is practicing them?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Income source (IS) | Type of IS (Main/Regular/Temporary/Seasonal) | % (approx) of households practicing this IS |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | M9 | M10 | M11 | M12 |
| Are you engaged with any other livelihood activities apart from what you mentioned above as your income sources? (List and document each in separate raw here) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which months are you engaged in each of this livelihood activity? (List separately) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who in your family does this activity |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| What do you in the months/days when you do not have any livelihood/income activity? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which months you have most problems in accessing food or any other basic needs in your family? Why so? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. How did the last worst disaster (**refer from the discussion in the beginning**) affect your livelihood? Which months or for how many months or days were your livelihood was affected? Who was mostly affected – men or women? Why and How? How did you address that challenge? By whom? Men or women or both?
2. After the disaster, how long did it take for you to get back to regular livelihood activities?
3. What did you do to meet your immediate food needs immediately after the disaster?
4. What did you do to be able to get back to work and how much time did this take?
5. Did you receive any support from the local govt or any other agencies? If yes, what? If not, why not?

**Now, we would like to map out the Agricultural activities in this month-wise calendar**

1. Ask participant to map out the different months June to May in boxes and ask the following questions

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | M9 | M10 | M11 | M12 |
| Assamese months | Bohag | Jait | Ahar | Sravan | Bhadra | Aswin | Kati | Aghon | Pou | Magh | Fagun | Chait |
| English months | 14 April-May | May-June | June-July | July-Aug | August- Sept | Sept-Oct | Oct-Nov | Nov – Dec | Dec-Jan | Jan-Feb | Feb-March | March - April |
| Which crops/vegetables do you grow in which month? (List and document each in separate raw here) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| When do you prepare land? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who in your family does this activity |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| What activity do you do after land preparation? In which month? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who does this activity? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which months do you do sawing for each of the above crop? (**pl list crop separately here – add raws)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who does sawing? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| When do you do weeding, cleaning and maintenance? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who does this activity? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which month/s do you harvest? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which months your crop is affected by flood? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Which months your crop is affected by dry spell? Or any other hazards? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. How many months are you able to meet your consumption needs with the harvest? Are you able to sell any? Why do you sell?
2. Are you able to store safely? Do you face any challenge related to storing?
3. How do you access seeds?
4. Do you receive any supports to cultivate these crops from the government? If yes, what?
5. Was your crop including the seeds, equipment affected by the worst disaster or any other risks? If yes, Why? How did you manage or cope up with the situation or how did you address this challenge (**Probe:** reduce the meal, migration, selling of assets, diversify the income or so)? What do men do? What do women do in this case?
6. Did you or other households get any compensation from the government? If yes, who got compensation and how much?
7. Do you or other households insure their crop? If yes, from whom? After the last disaster did you get compensation from the insurance company?

**Kitchen Garden**

1. Do you all or some or a few have a kitchen garden? If yes, do you have enough vegetables for consumption throughout the year? Do you store vegetable seeds?
2. How did the last disaster affect the kitchen garden? Completely lost or some or not lost at all? Did it affect your consumption? How did you address this challenge?
3. After how many days are you able to replant seeds or start work on your kitchen garden (if affected by disaster)?
4. Is your kitchen garden affected by any other hazards such as lack of rainfall or pest attack etc? If yes, what and how do you address this challenge?

**Livestock**

1. What types of livestock (cattle and poultry) do you mostly own? How do these livestock contribute to your livelihood/income in the family? Do you use them for consumption only or also for sale?
2. Do you do vaccination for all types of livestock? If yes, who pays for it? How much? If not, why not?
3. How did the last disaster affect your livestock? What percentage die, which livestock live, which livestock get washed away? Why so?
4. Did you receive any compensation from the government?
5. Do you or other families insure your livestock? If yes, from where? If yes, because of deaths, did you or other families get the compensation?
6. What other challenges (such as fodder, vaccination, disease, deaths) did you face with the livestock in the last disaster?
7. How did you address these challenges after the disaster? Do you face any other challenges? If yes, what challenges do you face?
8. **Concluding Question:** Thinking about your primary livelihood, is there anything that you currently do to protect it from disasters and/or any other hazards such as changed in the climate/weather (Climate Change Adaptation) or to reduce the effect that disasters and/or Climate Change Adaptation have on it (protect assets, etc.)? (Repeat this question for other two secondary sources of income). If not, why not?

**Day 2: FGD contd with the same group as below:**

1. Welcome and greetings.
2. **Recap of Last discussion**: Do you all recall what we discussed in our last meeting (or yesterday)? Take about 10 minutes to reflect upon and the summarize as below:
   1. We discussed about our various types of hazards, risks, changes in the climated and how it has affected our livelihoods such as agriculture, other livelihoods, kitchen garden and fishing etc.
   2. We also discussed what activities we all do in a day and how it is changed or affected during and after a disaster.

**Purpose of Today’s discussion**

Today, we will continue similar discussions on how disasters/hazards affected our other assets such as homes/shelter, water and sanitation system, etc

* We will also discuss today about the existing Early Warning system if any and then,
* We will prioritize the problems that affect us most related to disasters/hazards and finally,
* We will also see what does it look like if we want to be better protected from the impact of hazards/disasters.
* Do you have any question? If not, can we start our discussion?

**Shelter**

1. What kind of shelters do you have? What material do you use for your shelter?

How do you access these materials? Who (men and women) in your family decides what materials and design to be used in the house? Who constructs the shelter – men/women or both?

1. How did the last disaster affect your shelter? What proportion of total households in the village completely lost their homes in last most significant disaster? What proportion of the households lost only partially? Who is worst affected by this?
2. Did you or other households receive any compensation from government? If yes, for what kind of damage did households receive compensation? How much was the compensation?
3. How long did it take for you to rebuild your shelter?
4. Do you face any challenges in rebuilding your shelter? If yes, what challenges? (Probe: do they get into borrowing or selling any of their ornaments)
5. What do you currently do to protect your shelter from disaster or climate risks?

**Drinking water and Sanitation**

1. What is the common source of drinking water in your village? Do you get sufficient water for your daily use for cooking, drinking and washing purposes? If not for how many months you do not get access to sufficient water? Why so? How do you manage to get water to meet your needs?
2. Did the last most significant disaster affect your drinking water source? How? Did you use any method to purify the drinking water during the disaster? If yes, what and if not, why not?
3. What did you do to address this challenge during last disaster?
4. Do you normally purify your water? If yes, how?
5. How long did it take to use the regular water source after the last disaster?
6. After the last worst disaster, did someone clean these different sources of water? If yes, who comes and when do the come?
7. Traditionally what is the practice of defecation for women, children, men and elderly in your village?
8. During the last major disaster, where to the women, men, boys, girls go to defecate?

**Early warning**

1. Do you have any Early Warning System (even at your community level) for both flooding and also for weather patterns/changes? If yes, what and how do you maintain the system? How do you get the information? What challenges do you face in Early Warning System and information channel?
2. During the last worst disaster, did you receive any information beforehand? If yes, where did you get this information from? When did you receive this information?
3. After receiving this information, what did you do? (Probe: what were your specific roles and what were the role of men in your household?) Who in your household and community did what? Did you protect any of your assets such as household items, livestock, seeds, fodder etc. Who took responsibility for which preparatory activity?
4. Did you face any challenge in receiving this information and then actions? If yes, what are those challenges and why?
5. Did you leave your house? Where did you go? Who was evacuated first? Did you face any challenge in this regard? If yes, what and why?
6. Is there anything that you wish that you had done that you didn’t?

**Problem prioritization**

Facilitator lists down all problems on a flip chart and then asks, out of all the above problems (Facilitator shows the different discussions such as livelihood loss, wage, roles of men and women, water, sanitation, early warning), facilitator asks each participant (provide 3 stones) to choose top 3 problems individually and confidentially. Once this is done, facilitator asks each chosen problem – why this problem? How would you do differently if you want to address this challenge and reduce the impact due to disaster? )

**Perception towards Resiliency**

1. Would you say that your community is better prepared to face disasters? IF YES, WHY and HOW? IF NO, WHY? What are the key lessons we should learnt from? What are the good practices we should strengthen?
2. Thinking about your current community and how you would like it to be in the future, what would you change within the coming 5-10 years to make it a better place to stay? Think about what you would improve in terms of

Physical resources

* + - Assets in term of infrastructures, such as school, bridges, health center.
    - Systems (water pipe system, waste treatment and solid waste).
    - Environment (drainage).

Other resources

* + - Knowledge, practice by community members, Local authorities, other actors and groups
    - Skills

1. What would you do to help the community move from the current situation to the improved situation?
2. What disaster risk reduction and climate change programs would you like to see in your community? What other programs would you like to see in your community?

Thank you very much for taking your time out to discuss all these details with us