



# The Vulnerability & Risk Assessment approach (VRA)

## What the VRA is

The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) aims to develop a common understanding among a wide range of stakeholders about the main hazards and issues affecting people in a social-ecological landscape, and subsequently to jointly design measures to reduce risk, enhance well-being and promote resilient development.

The VRA explicitly makes women and women's organizations protagonists of the process by recognizing and highlighting the diversity of socially differentiated groups of women and by providing a space for dialogue.

## How the VRA supports development efforts

- joint analysis of vulnerability by a **wide range of stakeholders** and from different levels of governance
- addresses the **social-ecological landscape**; not limiting its focus and responses to community level
- seeks to integrate **gender** throughout the process and emphasizes the need to build analysis inclusively of women's views
- builds and strengthens **relationships** between stakeholders, enabling local issues and the voices of marginalized groups to come to the surface;
- fosters **empowerment** through co-creation of proposals aimed at building resilience
- **Influences** policy and practice

## The process



## The VRA's Knowledge Group

The Knowledge Group is the backbone of the VRA, of its findings and its analysis. The Knowledge Group consists of roughly 12–20 people with a stake in the social-ecological landscape in question. As described below, it should have a strong representation of communities and of marginalized groups. The Knowledge Group will spend two full days together and run through the four steps of the VRA in a roundtable discussion approach; as such, the findings of the VRA are largely the result of this group's thinking.

## What people are saying

- "The VRA is like a backbone, a tree. And other vulnerability assessments branch off that" – Abdul Latif Walizada, Poverty Reduction Programme Manager, Oxfam in Afghanistan
- "This exercise will influence and contribute to draft our district development plan, particularly the activities related to climate change" – Pelaelo Master Tsayang, Principal Economist & District Planning Officer, Bobirwa Sub-District, Botswana
- "I used to think I couldn't do anything for myself. But the ideas from this workshop made me see that I can!" Mopane worm harvester, 65 years old, Botswana
- "The VRA integrates modern/scientific knowledge with traditional/community based knowledge – this has been a gap in much climate change adaptation work" – Paul Joicey, Country Director Oxfam in Myanmar

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