

## „Resilience Walk“ - Introduction Game

### Background - Hazardia Village

*The facilitator explains the situation in Hazardia on the basis of the map.*

Hazardia is a small village located in a mountainous area. Hazardia is prone to various small-scale disasters which vary according to the season: floods and landslides during the rainy season, hailstorms in autumn, heavy snowfall in winter and severe droughts during the summer. Moreover, over the past years Hazardia has become more ecologically vulnerable, due to deforestation, land degradation and an increase in torrential rainfall. The local people of Hazardia perceive that a gradual change in climate has increased the frequency of natural disasters, particularly heavy floods and landslides.

Hazardia is mainly a farming village, however, in terms of economic status, the people living in the village of Hazardia are quite diverse. Whilst the wealthier farmers live in a raised part of the village on the less slopy, afforested side of the village (Zone A), the poorer families live in the floodplains; either on the left side of the river (Zone B) or on the right side of the river (Zone C), where people are also facing a steep barren slope, which serves as communal grazing land and is highly degraded due to overgrazing.

Minor flood events happen in Hazardia 1-2 times every year, however, major flood events often accompanied by landslides have increase over the past decade and now affect the village every 2-3 years. During these major flood events Hazardia is completely cut off from the outside; sometimes it is impossible to reach the regional capital (normally reachable in 3 hours) for weeks. As a result of the increase in major flood events the government has installed a sophisticated flood early warning system, last year. However, as the warnings are sent out via cell phone, only those with a cell-phone available are warned in time.

### Village Characters:

*Distribute a resilience walk character card to each participant (individual cards or one character per pair). Instruct participants to not share their characters' identity with one another Ask them to think about their characters and to form a picture of who they are and what place they take in the community as well as locate themselves on the map.*

**Village chief** lives with his family in a nice, solid house in Zone A. He has a big herd of cattle and a good relationship to the local governmental authorities. The village chief employs day labourers to herd his cattle.

**Farmer A** lives with his family in Zone A, but his fields, where he cultivates mainly maize and wheat are down in the floodplains. He has recently bought an insurance policy, which protects him in case of crop failure due to natural disaster.

**Farmer B** lives with his family in Zone A. He cultivates apples on the less slopy side of the village. As he just put in his new apple plantation, there was no money left to buy an insurance coverage or install hail protection.

**Farmer C** lives with his family in Zone B. He farms a small plot of land and has a few cows, sheep and poultry. The family mainly lives of subsistence farming. Last year, the farmer had some spare money, which he invested into improving the construction of his house. It now has a stable, raised fundament to withstand normal annual flood events.

**Farmer D** lives with his family in Zone C in a simple house, which, since years, would need major renovations to repair the damage caused by past flood events. He owns five cows and twenty goats. As he is landless, he needs to graze his cattle on the communal land. As the

communal land does not give enough feed for his goats as well, the children need to take them to the mountains to find grass.

The **widow** lives with her four children in Zone C in a simple and small house. The family mainly lives of what grows in their home-garden, as well as from the milk from their four goats. For grazing the goats are sent to the communal land. As the widow is made responsible for the death of her husband by other people in the village, she cannot count on any support in times of hardship.

The **merchant for small groceries** lives in Zone A in a house where she also runs her store. Whilst the merchant lady used to travel to the regional capital herself to buy goods for her store on the market until a few years ago, she can now afford to assign a truck driver to deliver the goods directly to the village.

The **wood merchant** lives in Zone A. He cuts wood up in the mountains, which is then carted down in the river to his warehouse located in Zone B, in immediate proximity to the river. From there the wood is sold to the regional capital. He is also a member of the village council.

**Day-Labourer A** works for the wood merchant and cuts and carts wood. He lives in a communal home for migrant workers located in Zone B. As he is new in the village he does not know many people except for those living with him in the communal home.

**Day-Labourer B** works as a herder for the village chief. Whilst he used to live in a communal home for migrant workers until last year, he could now, with some help from the village chief, afford to live in his own house located in Zone B.

The **Teacher** teaches all the village children in the school located in Zone A. He himself lives in a small house in Zone B. Although having moved to Hazardia from outside, he is highly valued by the village community and was recently elected to the village council.

The **Nurse** is in charge of the local health center where she also lives in a room, built on to the health center facility. The health center is located in Zone B. On several occasions the nurse has proven her great support to the community, she helps everyone and sometimes even treats people without charging them.

The **elderly couple** lives in Zone A; both are handicapped and have no relatives in the village to look after them. Their kids have long moved away to the big cities to earn a living, however, the elderly couple is not supported by them with any remittances. The roof of their house would need immediate repair as it is leaking badly.

The **truck driver/owner** lives in the regional capital. He receives a lot of business from Hazardia. He does the deliveries for the grocery merchant lady, and transports wood back to the regional capital.

The **student** lives in the regional capital during the week, where he studies law at the university. The weekends he spends with his uncle's family, a landless farmer family living in Zone C with only some cows and goats as assets. Once a graduate lawyer, he wants to hold the local government accountable for better protecting the people living in the flood plains from the damages caused by major flood events.

## Disaster Situation and Questions:

*Ask the participants to look at the village map again and explain the disaster situation.*

Now please imagine the following situation: One week ago a major flood event has occurred once more in Hazardia village. Weeks of heavy rainfall coinciding with snow melt, made the river swell unproportionally and finally overflow. The village is totally cut off from the outside, as further down in the valley the road to the regional capital has been destroyed by a landslide and the bridge in the village has been washed away. Zone C and B have been heavily flooded. The communal land in Zone C was even hit by a landslide, killing the animals which were grazing there at the time. In Zone A the week long torrential rainfall lightly destroyed 1/3 of the houses.

*All participants (alone or in pairs according to character) stand in a row in front of the facilitator. The facilitator will now ask a sequence of yes or no questions. For every question the participants should think of what their character's answer would be. They should come forward one meter if the answer is **yes**, or stay in place if the answer is **no**. Please listen to the questions carefully!*

1. Did you receive a text message warning you about the flood?
2. Could you save your most important belongings before the flood hit?
3. Did you receive support from other people in the village before the flood hit?
4. Did you receive support from other people in the village after the flood hit?
5. Were you not hurt on the flood event?
6. Can you still live in your house?
7. Did you not lose any of your animals?
8. Did you not lose your crops?
9. Did you not lose your daily income?
10. Did you not lose your means of production?
11. Do you still have enough food in stock for daily meals or are you able to buy food?
12. Are you able to share/sell food with/to other people in the village?
13. Could you sustain your living with your savings in this first week after the flood?
14. Do you have savings to sustain your living beyond this first week after the flood?
15. Do you have an insurance covering your crop or livestock losses?
16. Are you able to access first aid items?
17. Will you be able to restore/rebuild your house without external help?
18. Will you be able to rebuild your economic basis without external help?
19. Will your social status in the village be stronger once the flood catastrophe is over?
20. Do you have influence on the government to restore the access to the village as soon as possible?
21. Do you have influence on the local government to make the Early Warning System better, develop Preparedness Plans and set-up Village Preparedness Committees?

## Evaluation of the Exercise/Discussion:

- **Identify those who are at the front?** Who are the characters at the front? Ask the participants why they think that they are at the front?
- **Identify those who are at the back?** Who are the characters at the back? Ask the participants why they think that they are at the back?
- **Identify those who are in the middle?** Who are the characters in the middle? Ask the participants why they think that they are in the middle?
- Please raise your hand if you live a) in Zone A, b) in Zone B, c) in Zone C. Why are not all people from Zone A, B, C respectively on the same line?

- Please raise your hand if you are a farmer. What is the reason that not all farmers are standing on the same line?
- Please raise your hand if you have a) a business of your own; b) if you are dependent. What effect does this have on where you stand?
- Please raise your hand if you a) think you have a good network in the village, b) if you think you are fairly alone. What effect does this have on where you stand?
- Those at the back, how do you feel about being at the back? What do you feel about those in the front?
- Those in the front, how do you feel? Was it fun to be able to "run away from the others" and now be at the front of the group?

*What is the essence of this exercise? What does this tell us in relation the Disaster Risk Reduction?*

### **Quintessence of the exercise (write on a flipchart):**

- 1) A hazard is not per se a disaster. A hazard can become a disaster if people (or assets) are susceptible to the risk, if they are vulnerable (e.g. have no financial means, no kinship network, etc. to fall back on) and are in a place with high exposure. If a hazard turns into a disaster there are always human or economic losses. Disasters are always a combination of factors, they have a strong socio-economical component. Effective measures to reduce the risk of shocks or longer term stresses should address all aspects of risk: hazard, vulnerability and exposure → This will look further into this, today in the afternoon as well as tomorrow.
- 2) Risks are different in different places and at different times, meaning strategies to strengthen resilience need to be locally or regionally specific. To find good measures of risk reduction and adaptation, it is therefore a must to know the context where we are working in (in this case the village of Hazardia and its community) well. A thorough assessment of hazards, vulnerability (sensitivity)/exposure and adaptive capacity is the key to good Community Managed Risk Reduction projects. → We will look into this on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> workshop day.

### **Hazardia Village**

