

Chapter 3, Hazards, Disasters and Threats Storytelling Activity

(For more guidance on how to conduct a storytelling activity, see Chapter 2)

Objective:

The objective of this activity is to understand the past experiences of community members with hazards, disasters, and threats in order to start to identify who is most vulnerable, how and why.

Who?: Core team and other stakeholders and community members

Where: in person or virtual workshop

Time needed: two hours

Materials will you need: storytelling worksheets, writing instruments

Steps:

1. Introduce the purpose and flow of the activity. Review storytelling resource area in Chapter 2 for conversation guidelines, privacy considerations and consent, and acknowledging trauma. (15 minutes)
2. Divide participants into groups of 3 and have them sit next to each other or convene in a virtual break-out room.
3. Each person should have a one story worksheet and one interview worksheet.
4. Each person completes their story worksheet (10 minutes).
5. The group takes turns sharing their stories. One person is the teller, one person is the interviewer, and one person is the note-taker. (10 minutes per person)
 1. The interviewer follows the prompts on the interview worksheet to guide the teller in sharing their story.
 2. The note-taker takes notes about the story on the interview worksheet.
 3. After 10 minutes switch roles so each person has a turn sharing their story.
6. Repeat steps 1-4 with a new set of partners and complete the second story exercise using story prompt #2.
7. Bring the group back together for a discussion and report out.

What are similarities and differences in what people have experienced?

What do we notice about the reasons for different impacts and experiences?
8. Collect the storytelling worksheets and notes from the group discussion.

Output: you will have story worksheets and notes from the general discussion. These notes should be used to inform subsequent discussions of vulnerability and scoring indicators.

Story #1 worksheet

Story prompt: Describe a time when you experienced a hazard, disaster, or threat. Where were you, what happened, how were you affected, what did you do afterward?

Story #1 interview worksheet

Interviewer: help your partner tell their story by using these questions, or others.

Note-taker: write down the main points of the story, and any details about how the teller was impacted by the disaster, and why these impacts happened.

Please share what happened. How did it impact your wellbeing?

Did you observe disparate effects across your community?

What do you think could have been done differently?

For practitioners: How did this experience impact your work?

Story #2 worksheet

Story prompt: Describe a time when you worked together with a group of people in your community to address a problem.

Story #2 interview worksheet

Interviewer: help your partner tell their story by using these questions, or others.

Note-taker: write down the main points of the story, and any details about how the teller was impacted by the disaster, and why these impacts happened.

Please share what happened. Who worked together, and what did you do?

What do you think you learned from this experience?

What were the challenges you overcame?