**Hazards Storytelling Exercise**

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

To share experiences with hazards. Storytelling is a means of creating commonality and understanding other perspectives. It strengthens social ties and provides information in a way that statistical data cannot. This exercise explores what hazards affect the community, how community members are made vulnerable to disasters, and what helps them get through it.

Workshop participants should feel free to opt out of the activity. It may be emotional, especially for people who have experienced trauma from past disasters or chronic social and environmental problems. To learn more, see Trauma-informed Approach on the Resources tab.

## What you will need

**Who:** workshop participants, facilitator, recorder

**Where:** part of Workshop 1

**How long will it take:** 1-1.5 hours

**Materials:** this handout, writing supplies

## Instructions

1. Before beginning, the facilitator takes time to create a space where people feel comfortable sharing openly and listening attentively. The facilitator gives instructions for completing the activity (see the Facilitator’s Guide for suggested language).
2. Break up into groups of three and distribute the storytelling hand-outs. Each person takes on a role, switching with each turn:

**Storyteller:** Share an experience that addresses one of the prompts.

**Notetaker**: Write down notes on important points of the story.

**Listener:** Listen. After the storyteller is done, ask follow-up questions.

1. Give everyone 5 minutes to prepare their stories using the prompts below.
2. One person shares their story, while the second interviews and the third takes notes. After 10 minutes rotate roles so a new person can share their story. [30 minutes]
3. If there is time, organize participants into new groups of 3 and do a second round with a new story prompt. [30 minutes]
4. The facilitator leads large group discussion on themes that emerged from the stories. [20 minutes]
5. The recorder writes down group discussion results and collects the handouts with notetakers’ notes (if participants agree, see Data Ethics on the Resources tab).

## Prompts and interviewing questions

(Print the instructions below to give participants to use in the activity)

Storytelling Prompt 1: tell a ***5-minute story*** about a time when you experienced a disaster. Where were you, what happened, how were you affected, and what did you do afterward?

Listener: After the sharer tells their story, ask a 1-2 follow-up questions, such as:

* Did you observe disparate effects across your community?
* What helped you get through it?

**Note-taking space**

Storytelling Prompt 2:

1. Describe a time when you worked together with a group of people in your community to address a problem.
   1. Listener: After the sharer tells their story, ask a 1-2 follow-up questions, such as:
      1. What were things that helped you work together?
      2. What challenges did the group overcome?
      3. What did you learn from this experience?

**Note-taking space**

## What to do next

In the ERB tool, use the recorder’s notes from this activity to answer Question 4 on the Key Takeaways Form on Assessment. Use a word cloud to visualize key themes or another technique from the How to Use Storytelling document to learn from this activity and use it to figure out what additional data on hazards, equity, and resilience the core team should collect. The next page in ERB is for the Workshop 1 activity, Explore Future Scenarios.