

## PARTICIPATORY VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

**Pathway Component:** food production; agricultural income; food expenditure; food access; diet

**Search Category:** agricultural productivity; food access; consumption; farm & non-farm income; household food & non-food expenditure; value chains & market systems

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**URL:**

[http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc\\_lib/108\\_1\\_participatory\\_vulnerability\\_analysis\\_guide.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/108_1_participatory_vulnerability_analysis_guide.pdf)

### CONTENT SUMMARY

**Brief Description:** This guide helps field workers and communities analyze people's vulnerability, create action plans, mobilize resources, and enact appropriate policies, laws, and strategies to reduce their vulnerability to disaster.

**Uses:** The PVA guide is for field staff in emergencies and development-related programs. Using PVA to analyze vulnerability brings tangible benefits:

- It reveals different aspects and causes of vulnerability and offers mechanisms for follow-up programs.
- Using vulnerability as an indicator allows for better targeting and/or establishment of project baselines. This can increase effectiveness of emergency and long-term activities.
- It can be predictive, as planning and mitigation efforts are made to offset potential future vulnerabilities.

**Tool Components:** The guide includes three phases for conducting a Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA):

- **Phase 1:** Preparation. Provides insight on preparation for a PVA exercise. This phase includes developing terms of reference,

analyzing secondary data, and identifying stakeholders for the exercise and briefing them on the objectives.

- **Phase 2:** Analytical framework. There are four analytical steps carried out in this phase: i) situation analysis; ii) analysis of the causes of vulnerability; iii) analysis of community action and capacity and; iv) drawing action from analysis.
- **Phase 3:** Multi-leveled analysis. During this phase, users conduct analysis and generate action at the community, district, national, and international levels using the step-by-step analytical framework.

### OPERATIONS

**Number of Staff Required:** Not specified; this will depend on the purpose of the PVA, the information required, and the funds available.

**Time:** The time required will vary according to the specific objectives of each PVA. In the example Terms of Reference, the Zimbabwe PVA took six days, from the initial workshop/training to the field work. Note that this does not include the planning and secondary data review.

**Cost of Assessment:** Not specified; this will vary depending on the purpose and context of each PVA.

**Training:** A preparatory workshop of 2-3 days is recommended to ensure common understanding of both the field exercise and the PVA process among team members.

**Geographic Targeting:** The multi-level analysis takes place at international, national, district, and community levels. The community chosen will depend on the purpose of the PVA.

**Type of Data Collection:** The specific information required will depend on the purpose of the PVA. General information includes: prevalence/extent of vulnerability; coping strategies; present threats/vulnerabilities; unsafe conditions; dynamic pressures; root causes; sources, assets and entitlements used to reduce vulnerability; and external assistance used to reduce vulnerability.

**Degree of Technical Difficulty:** The guide explains the process clearly, but the assumption is that the PVA team is already conversant with Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and REFLECT tools.

**Complements other Resources:** As noted above, it is expected that staff are already familiar with the PRA methodology; if not, PRA guidance would be a useful complement to this guide. Additionally, the results of the PVA could be feed into the design of a wide range of projects.