

Fox Hill Community Assessment

*For
Disaster Reduction*

July 2010

The International Federation's Global Agenda (2006–2010)

Over the next two years, the collective focus of the Federation will be on achieving the following goals and priorities:

Our goals

Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Our priorities

Improving our local, regional and international capacity to respond to disasters and public health emergencies.

Scaling up our actions with vulnerable communities in health promotion, disease prevention and disaster risk reduction.

Increasing significantly our HIV/AIDS programming and advocacy.

Renewing our advocacy on priority humanitarian issues, especially fighting intolerance, stigma and discrimination, and promoting disaster risk reduction

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2008

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Introduction

The Fox Hill Community is located at the Eastern end of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. Nassau is New Providence's main city and the capital of the Bahamas. This 330 year-old city portrays an aura of history, colonial style and charm; however Nassau is the 'hubhub' of modern Industry & Communications, mainly in Tourism and Financial Services.



Fox Hill is one of many vibrant communities in Nassau, and holds many traditions and historic buildings that brought all Nassauvians together. The residents in that community are loving and caring, and are affectionately referred to as 'Fox Hillians'. It is stated in history that Fox Hillian slaves were emancipated a week later than the rest of the Nassauvian slaves due to the far distance (at that time) of the Fox Hill community. To this day, the Fox Hill Community celebrates Emancipation Day, a National Holiday, one (1) week later. In Fact, many attest that Fox Hillians still hold the true value of Bahamian ethnicity and customs. Black Beard's Tower, Blue Hole, Judge Sandilands' house are just a few attractions within this unique Community.

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate and observe all potential hazards, vulnerable areas and capacity measurements and resources. Our expectations for the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) training is to improve response time, improve community knowledge and prepare the community for any unforeseen disasters, through awareness and education.

Training participants have assessed their area to:

1. Identify hazards and vulnerabilities in the surroundings
2. Recognize skills and resources available
3. Identify actions which the community can implement to reduce risk
4. Prepare micro-project proposals.

What follows are the results of these assessments undertaken by community members over the period July 5th – 15th 2010 held at the Fox Hill Urban Renewal Office in Fox Hill, New Providence.

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The main hazards in the Fox Hill Community are:

1. Floods and its impacts on the low line community
2. Cotton tree roots that intrude on the main road that obstruct traffic. It is also deemed hazardous when it blooms because the falling cotton makes it difficult for drivers
3. Dilapidated buildings (houses, old church buildings, apartments etc.)
4. Broken street lamp poles – (Damage from previous severe hurricane systems and motor vehicle accidents)
5. Blue holes (limestone sink holes) 3: (No fencing surrounding blue holes)
6. Debris (abandoned appliances that poses a risk to the water table and becomes a breeding ground for vectors)

Figure 1 – Hazard & Vulnerability Map of Fox Hill Community



Observation of Fox Hill after VCA Community Walkabout

Participants from the Vulnerable Capacity Assessment (VCA) training went through the Fox Hill community to thoroughly evaluate and observe foreseen hazards, capacities and vulnerable areas. Teams were divided into smaller groups to accurately assess the community.

Listed below are their findings:

- Debris – Old/rusty cars, junk yards (pollution/ contamination of water table/vectors)
- Overbearing / unmanageable cotton trees (traffic hazard in bloom)
- Damaged lamp poles – Loose wires hanging on houses
- Tall oak trees hovering overhouses, lamp poles & wires
- Dilapidated houses / buildings – homeless and criminal activity
- Blue (sink) holes (3) – No surrounding fencing
- Piles of rodent infested garbage/waste - Health hazard needs removal
- Hazardous areas

Upon completion of the community walkabout participants were grateful to realize the unique attributes of the Fox Hill community and what it has to offer, together with the hazardous area in which it harbors. Participants also appreciated the profound knowledge learnt from the sharing residents of the neighborhood.

Community Resources and Skills Map

No community is without skilled people and some items to help them in an emergency. In Fox Hill, there are services such as the Police, National Insurance Board, food stores, churches, gas stations and auto repair shops. There is heavy equipment and trucks owned by residents which could be available to community residents if needed in any disaster or unforeseen circumstances. Other essential utility appliances such as chain saws, backhoe and other resourceful machinery are accessible within the community. Mr. Derrick Davis, Mr. Fredrick Mitchell M.P., Pastor J. Carl Rahming, Lorenzo Carey and Pastor Carrington Pinder are just a few residents and community leaders who can make available such items if called upon.

There are many skilled persons in the community such as carpenters, electricians, masons, contractors, fisherman, nurses, craftsmen and farmers.

Figure 1: Resource and Capacity Map



Historical Timeline – Fox Hill Community¹

1800	Samuel Fox – Liberated Slave (Fox Hill named after him)
1834	Emancipation Day (Every First Monday in August)
1842	1 st Church – St. Anne’s Anglican Church
1900	Finalyson, Rahming, Smith , Davis, Johnson, Adderley, Brice, Burnside, Ferguson - Family names origin
1905	Robert Saunders (British Judge) granted land & developed it
1907	L.W.Young was the First Fox Hillian to represent community
1918	Carlton Francis was Second Fox Hillian to represent community
1946	St. Augustine School was the first all boys school erected in Fox Hill
1926	1 st clinic to open in Fox Hill (was located in lodge hall)
1929	Major hurricane – Flooding , massive winds – some lost of life
1930	All age school erected in Fox Hill
1930	1 st Police Station (Uncle Rolly Ferguson shop/home)
1930	1 st permanent burial society (Clinic)
1931	1 st grocery Store – Melvin Rahming (owner)
1950	Joseph Flowers – Fox Hillian hanged for murder
1965	Hurricane Betsy – Strong winds, severe flooding
1973	Independence – July 10 th (Bahamas)
1979	Hurricane David – Most homes damaged – Aid received from Government
1999	Hurricane Floyd - severe winds – no damage
2002	Hurricane Michelle – heavy rain –heavy flooding in usual areas
2004	Hurricane Francis - minimal damage
2007	Hurricane Noel - heavy rain – flooding

After 1979 building standards appear to have improved such that subsequent hurricanes caused little housing damage. Nevertheless the flooding continued.

¹ To be checked

Community Baseline and secondary data:

Official Community Name: Fox Hill, Nassau Bahamas

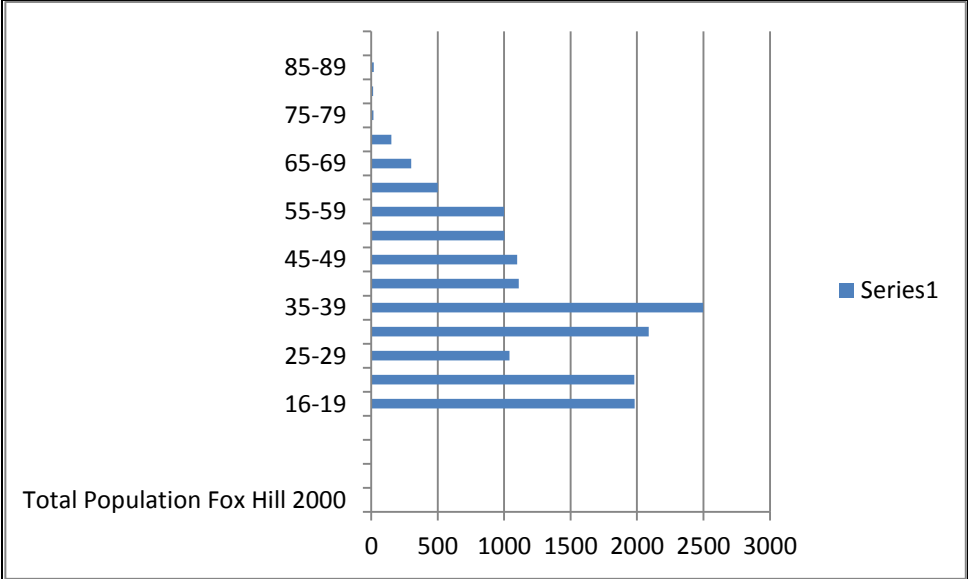
Location of Community: Fox Hill is located at the eastern end of the island where it is East of Village road, West of Eastern Estates, South of the Eastern Road and of North East of Sea Breeze.

Main access route: The Main access road is Bernard Road that runs into the heart of Fox Hill Village. Another main side access route is Fox Hill Road.

Population Fox Hill Community: 14,569 (Avg) Residents (Based on National Census 2007)

(Based on National Census 2007)

9083 households Males 6071 Females 6698 not including children under 16



Fox Hill is a large developing urban population

Livelihoods and Coping Strategies

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Amt of Families</u>	<u>How Affected</u>
Farming (Crops/Livestock)	2%	Flooding, wind damage, loss of crops
Fishing	2%	Boat equipment damaged/ No Fish
Construction	23%	Sites destroyed/ No work needed
Self-Employed (Vendors/ carpenter/electrician etc.)	8%	No market demand
Small Business (Jungle Club, Tom Radiator, Major's)	5%	Drop in sales/Increase in overhead exp.
Unemployed	35%	Economy Taxes Increase
Heavy Equip Op.	4%	Slight decrease in market demand
Craft (Straw, Hair Braiding, baskets)	4%	No sales / Market demand decrease
Housekeeping	5 %	No market demand
Nurses (Sandilands, PMH, Doctors, clinic)	3%	Business as usual/Incr. if needed
Unknown (No Record/Source of Livelihood – Inclusive of Haitian, Cuban, Jamaican Communities)	9%	Not known how affected

Livelihoods:

Livelihoods within the Fox Hill Community are mainly construction (Masons; Carpenters; Electricians and helpers), with a high unemployment rate. Families take initiatives and venture into all sectors of the society to provide for their families and to maintain a standard lifestyle.

Coping strategies:

Fox Hillians are very resilient people and have remedied preventive measures to cope with seasonal disasters (Flooding, broken lamp poles etc). Such coping strategies include positioning sand bags in front of low lying entrances to houses and business establishments,

removing tree limbs that block passage ways and securing immediate home surroundings as best as they could.

Seasonal Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rain												
Hurricanes												
Flu												
Fox Hill Day												
Chicken Pox												
Farming												
Fishing												
Guy Fox												
Christmas												
Harvest												
Church Activities *												
Cotton/bloom												

* Mothers Day Club, basketball tournament, community outreach, soup kitchen, etc.....

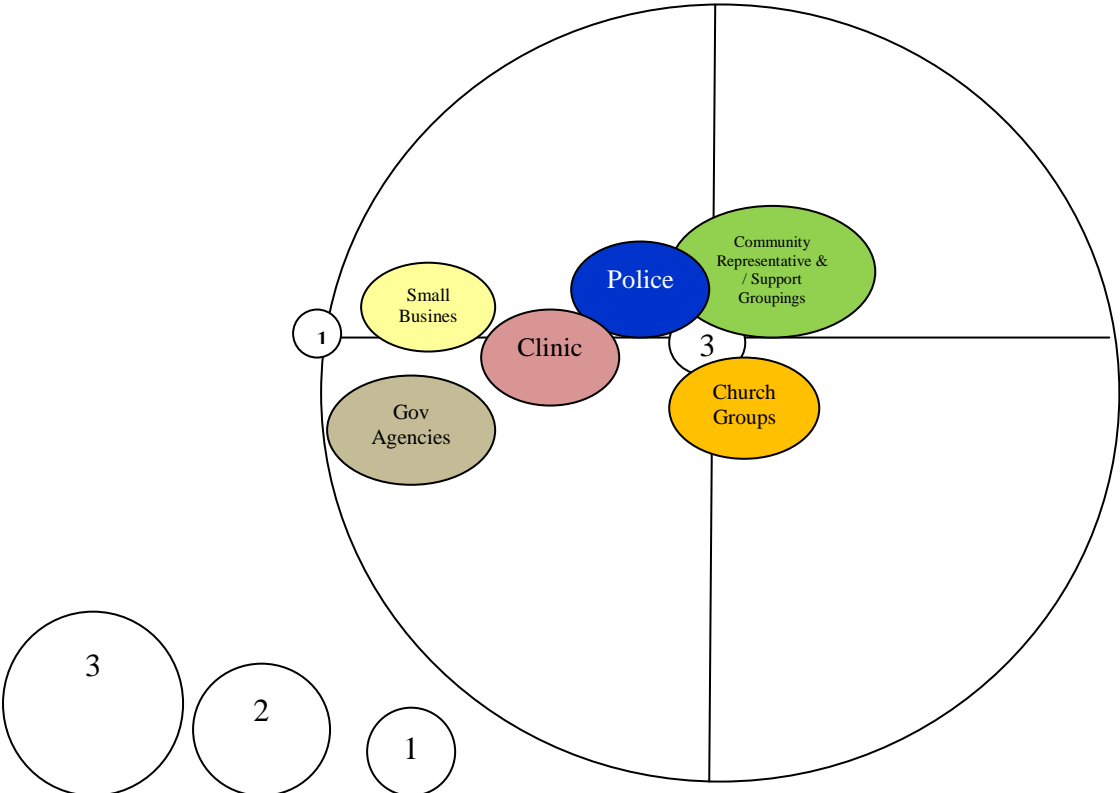
Analysis: Fox Hill is a very family orientated community and one can find on any given Saturday some activity on the Community Park in the village. Illustrated above, Fox Hillians have many seasonal activities/habits that keep them involved throughout the whole year. Flu season coincides with the school term. The flu campaign should occur during the summer when the children are out of school to intensify the prevention campaign. April and May is considered the period of the most rainfall and therefore, the time to grow crops. Fortunately, the majority of the flood areas are located on the main Fox Hill Road and behind the Community Park. Farmers are able to benefit from the seasonal rainfall with minimal risk of flooding to affect crops.

‘Fox Hill Day’ is celebrated the second Tuesday in August each year. It is the annual celebration that Fox Hillians look forward to with lots of anticipation and excitement. The celebrations begin with Church services at every Church in the community followed by

everyone gathering at the Park in the center of the community, where Fox Hillians boast with community pride and tell folk tales about the neighborhood and plating of the Maypole. Families get a chance to show off their cooking and baking skills to the rest of the Island. Residents from all communities in Nassau look forward to this day to celebrate with them. Fox Hill Day also brings a lot of business to natives through craft sales, native delights/food and straw work.

Social networks in Fox Hill Community

For example	Groups & Institutions	Point of Contact	Telephone numbers
Government	Social Services	Ms. Williams	364-2200
	Royal Bahamas Police	Inspector Rolle/ Off. Taylor	324-2030
	Sandilands Primary	Thelma McKenzie	364-9600
	Fox Hill Clinic	Nurse Gwendolyn Johnson	324-3255
Business	Budget Meat Mart	Mr. Smith	324-6688
	Jungle Club	Mr. Davis	324-2165
	Toms Radiator	Mr. Delancy	324-2487
NGOs	Fox Hill Kiwanians	Eastern District	324-5555
	Toastmasters	Jason Springer	324-9286
Religious	St. Paul Baptist Church	Dr. J. Carl Rahming	324-2371
	St. Marks Baptist	Dr. Carrington Pinder	324-1260
	Church of God	Pastor Rahming	324-0523



Reducing risk and making the community stronger

Hazards	Solutions
Tall Trees hovering lamp poles and wires	Cut / Trim and maintain CC
Cotton Ttee roots intruding in main access route (Bernard Road)	Maintain roots and level road by continuous paving II
Blue Holes (3)	Construct fencing to limit access CC
Dilapidated/ old Buildings	Remove Buildings with community involvement CC
Flooding Areas (main access - Bernard Road, Romer Street, Springfield Road)	Implement / restructure and maintain drainage system CI
Garbage / Waste (Residential homes, vacant lots)	Remove excess waste with community involvement CC
Damaged lamp poles	Influence removal with Gov. Agencies (BEC, BTC and MOW) II
Abandoned appliances (breeding spot for vectors / Risk for water table(metal))	Clean up / Remove – Community Involvement CC
Debris – junk yard (breeding spot for vectors / Risk for water table(metal))	Eradicate through community involvement CC

Project Proposals

Title: Fox Hill Community Centre - Construction not completed. Poses hazard/risk to community due to loose plywood and equipment attached to building. Centre is not protected or maintained and poses threat to surrounding neighbors

Time: 2 - 4 Months

Problem Statement:

The community centre construction is stagnant and has been that way for months now. The funding to erect and complete the Fox Hill Community Centre is generated by Fox Hillians and community funds raised at community activities. Due to the economic downturn, community residents do not have the opportunity to donate financially as they use to and the community centre is now on hold. It would be great for us to try and assist with the completion of the building so residents can have use it.

Objectives:

Our objective is to complete the Fox Hill Community Centre to a ready state so that residents can use the building as a shelter in the event of a disaster.

Activities

Activities	When
1. Complete community building	
2. Construct / clean up garden and landscaping	
3. Remove unwanted/ lose building materials	

Budget

Activities/ Material	Cost	Who?
Paint		
Sand		
Ply Wood		
Nails/Bolts		
Concrete / Reinforcement Fiber		
Glass /Windows/ doors		
Air Condition System/ Fans		
Lighting fixtures		
	\$10,000.00*	

Partners: Bahamas Red Cross, National Emergency Management Agency, Government Agency, Fred Mitchell/Jacinta Higgs, Fox Hill Urban Renewal, Community residents

*Estimation based on participants' limited expertise and skill set. Accurate quotes and invoices for the project proposal can be obtained if project is selected.

Project Proposals

Title: Drainage (Fox Hill Road (3 locations), Springfield Road, Romer Street and Johnson Road)

Time: 2 - 3 Months

Problem Statement:

In our community when it rains some roads and residents homes are flooded. Fox Hill is prone to flooding due to the low lying foundations and clogged drains in neighborhoods.

Objectives:

Our objective is to install / repair and clean the drainage system with the influence and aid from the Red Cross. Government has drainage systems in place but not enough. With the help of the Red Cross, Fox Hillians will be able to improve their quality of living and comfort level

Activities

Activities	When
1. Map out where drains are needed	
2. Obtain Government Approvals as required	
3. Train persons to assist with cleaning & repair drainage systems	
4. Host awareness meetings	

Budget

Activities/ Material	Cost	Who?
PVC Pipes		
Big Trucks		
Back Hoe		
Shovels		
	\$4000.00*	

Partners: Bahamas Red Cross, National Emergency Management Agency, Local Government, Water & Sewage, Ministry of Works, Bahamas Electricity Corporation, Community Residents

*Estimation based on participants' limited expertise and skill set. Six (6) drain sites were identified. Depending on which site is chosen Fox Hillians can produce accurate quotes and invoices for the project proposal.

Methodology

The Community Assessment (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - VCA) is a participatory investigative process. It is designed to assess the risk that people face in their local areas, as well as the resources and skills the community have to cope and recover from adverse events.

The process is a skills-transfer approach. The community is trained to carry out the assessment and develop solutions which will reduce risk. The output is not only an assessment of community risk and capacities, but also micro-project solutions to reduce the frequency and impact of disasters.

The results of the VCA are developed through direct observation and interaction with other community members over a period of time. Persons gathering the information in the field record and analyze their:

- Direct observations of visits through the community,
- Structured and semi-structured interviews with other community members
- Focus group meetings with target audiences
- Mapping of hazards, vulnerabilities, capacities and resources
- Brainstorming as a team and
- Quick surveys.

The information gathered from the community is cross referenced with secondary statistics, historical records and other materials available.

The intention is to understand the community better and have the residents implement solutions to risk reduction developed by themselves.

Participants List

Fox Hill Community, Nassau, Bahamas

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - Participants July 5th 2010

	Name	Address	Tel. Contact	Email address
1	Shavon Davis	Romer Street	324-5471	Von_1207@hotmail.com
2	Garvin Butler	Fox Hill	455-7389	mervegotti@hotmail.com
3	Kamara Rolle	Ferguson Ave	436-09318	kamara@live.com
4	Taria Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
5	Talisa Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - Participants July 6th 2010

	Name	Address	Tel. Contact	Email address
1	Shavon Davis	Romer Street	324-5471	Von_1207@hotmail.com
3	Kamara Rolle	Ferguson Ave	436-09318	kamara@live.com
4	Taria Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
5	Talisa Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
6	Teisha Munnings	-	324-2631	teishadaweisha@hotmail.com
7	Dexavier Knowles	-	423-5168	
8	Patrice Rolle	-	448-8516	
9	Keisha Richmond	Romer Street	324-1205	
10	Erma Hanna	-	364-4370	
11	Charlene Smith	-	364-4370	
12	Portia Sands	Fox Hill	364-1893	

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - Participants July 7th 2010

	Name	Address	Tel. Contact	Email address
1	Shavon Davis	Romer Street	324-5471	Von_1207@hotmail.com
2	Kamara Rolle	Ferguson Ave	436-09318	kamara@live.com
3	Taria Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
4	Talisa Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
5	Dexavier Knowles	-	423-5168	
6	Patrice Rolle	-	448-8516	
7	Keisha Richmond	Romer Street	324-1205	
8	Crystal Smith	-	552-6591	
9	Portia Sands	Fox Hill	364-1893	

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - Participants July 13th 2010

	Name	Address	Tel. Contact	Email address
1	Kendra Sweeting	Reeves Street		
2	Dexawiar Knowles	Romer Street	556-0709	
3	Loana Smith	Stepp Street		
4	Marsha Ramsey	Davis Street		
5	Patrice Rolle	-		
6	Talisa Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	

7	Angela Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
8	Tania Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
9	Keisha Richmond	Romer Street	324-1205	
10	Lashanda Petty	Sandilands Rd.		
11	Florence Hariss-Smith	Stepp Street		
12	Irene Higgs	Reeves Street	324-2072	
13	Cleomie Saunders	Bernard Road	364-1894	
14	Sybil Curtis	Rose Street	324-4945	
15	Pearlene Braynen	Beatrice Ave.		
16	Ida Butler	Dorsett Street	468-6986	Ida.butler@yahoo
17	Leotha Davis	Cox Street		
18	Elizabeth Butler	Springfield	364-7652	
19	Louise Smith	Sandilands Rd.		
20	Cecilia Ferguson	Davis Street		
21	Miram Roker	Fox Dale	324-1461	
22	Ella Smith	Bernard Road	364-9336	
23	Lilly Mae Gaitor	Johnson Rd	324-4746/4547860	

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment - Participants July 14th 2010

	Name	Address	Tel. Contact	Email address
1	Kendra Sweeting	Reeves Street		
2	Dexawiar Knowles	Romer Street	556-0709	
3	Loana Smith	Stepp Street		
4	Marsha Ramsey	Davis Street		
5	Patrice Rolle	-		
6	Talisa Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
7	Angela Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
8	Tania Curry	Romer Street	324-1205	
9	Keisha Richmond	Romer Street	324-1205	
10	Lashanda Petty	Sandilands Rd.		
11	Florence Hariss-Smith	Stepp Street		
12	Irene Higgs	Reeves Street	324-2072	
13	Cleomie Saunders	Bernard Road	364-1894	
14	Sybil Curtis	Rose Street	324-4945	
15	Pearlene Braynen	Beatrice Ave.		
16	Ida Butler	Dorsett Street	468-6986	Ida.butler@yahoo
17	Leotha Davis	Cox Street		
18	Elizabeth Butler	Springfield	364-7652	
19	Louise Smith	Sandilands Rd.		
20	Cecilia Ferguson	Davis Street		
21	Miram Roker	Fox Dale	324-1461	
22	Ella Smith	Bernard Road	364-9336	
23	Lilly Mae Gaitor	Johnson Rd	324-4746/4547860	

Notes:

6 men were present on Tuesday and assisted along with participants with the survey but did not partake in earlier VCA sessions due to work restraints. They showed interest in any other upcoming training session/workshops. The Haitian Community was also included in the survey and VCA training where we had two representatives who shared insights and was able to communicate to them through their native language.

Community Expectations

- Learn All risk and hazards in Fox Hill community
- Learn more about the physical layout of the Community
- More understanding of the Fox Hill community
- What could be done about the flooding

Glossary

Brainstorming: The gathering of as many ideas as possible in a short period of time, usually to solve problems.

Capacity (C): Combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization which may reduce the level of risk, or the effects of an event or disaster.

Coping Strategies: The ways in which people manage and reduce the impact of a hazard.

Disaster: Serious interruption of the functioning of a community or society which causes loss of human life and/or important material, economic or environmental losses which exceed the capacity of the affected community or society to manage the situation using their own resources.

Direct Observation: A process of observing objects, people, events and relationships.

Emergency: A situation of a threat or actual hazard which requires an almost immediate response, to prevent or reduce harm. Often the affected community has the capacity to respond using their own resources.

Hazard (H): A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity, that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Historical Profile and Historical Visualization: Tools for gathering information of what has happened in the past to tell how past events has had an effect on the community. These are represented as lists and a table of sketches respectively.

Livelihoods: The way people use the resources they have available to support their lives. For most people this means the method of earning cash income.

Mitigation: Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards.

Mapping: A visual form to get an overview of the main features of an area in relation to its surroundings (Spatial map). It can also show dangers and exposed homes, services and infrastructure (Hazard and Vulnerability map); or resources and skills available in the community (Capacity Resource Map)

Risk: Probability of harmful consequences or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, interruption of economic activity or environmental deterioration) as a result of interactions between natural or anthropological disasters and conditions of vulnerability. It is sometimes expressed as $(H \times V) / C = R$

Seasonal Calendar: Visualization over the course of the year of weather patterns, social and economic conditions, festivals and other seasonal activities.

Social Network: The community's key groups and individuals, the nature of their relationship with the community and the perceptions residents have of their importance.

Transect Walk: A walk through the community to observe the people, relief of the land, surroundings and resources. It is represented as a cross-section diagram beneath which are descriptive topics. It helps to understand inter-relationships in a selected section of the community.

Vulnerability (V): The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards.

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VCA Toolbox with Reference Sheets. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 2007

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.