



Community Risk Reduction



Safer, Healthier  
Communities

# Ti Rocher

## VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

*April 2010*





## **Acknowledgements**

The dedication of persons from the Ti Rocher community, who attended and participated in the VCA training, and the support from the Principal of the Ti Rocher Combined School, who made the school available for conducting the weekly sessions, were paramount in getting this document finalized. The community members of Ti Rocher reflected the camaraderie and spirit that has been synonymous with St. Lucian communities. The service given to the process by the volunteers from the St. Lucia Red Cross National Intervention Team continues to reflect the dedication of the organization in ensuring that our communities are safer and healthier.

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## Table of contents

<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part 1: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment of Forestiere Village .....</b>	<b>7</b>
What is VCA? .....	7
How is the VCA carried out? .....	8
1. Gathering data from secondary sources .....	9
2. Direct observation .....	10
3. Focus group discussions .....	11
<b>Part 2: Risk assessment in Forestiere Village .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Methodology for a Risk assessment .....	16
1. Identifying hazards and their potential impact on the community .....	17
2. Local capacity to respond to hazards .....	19
3. Type of measures to mitigate disasters .....	21
4. Ability to act on hazards (CIT analysis) .....	24
5. Plan of action .....	27
<b>Conclusion: The next steps .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Annex 1: List of participants in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment .....</b>	<b>30</b>



## **Abstract**

Initial focus group sessions and community meetings commenced in December of 2009 to mobilize the community and build an awareness of the VCA process and the project within the community. The actual VCA sessions started in January of 2010. During the early stages of the VCA training, the initial participation was indeed low; however, with some community sensitization, a final core group of twenty (20) participants became regular attendees. The core group of VCA participants came from a wide cross section of the community and their various professions added to the diversity of the group.

The training sessions took place predominantly on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm at the Primary School, which also an emergency shelter and serves as a focal point for community activities. During the time period and, January to April, a total of eleven data collection sessions were carried out with the project team including two nightly sessions with Ms. Nicole Williams from the CRRO in Trinidad. A number of other meeting sessions were organized by the participants themselves to facilitate the data collection.

The group members continue to meet as they finalize plans for the execution of the community micro project and put other plans in place for the sensitization of the community especially during the hurricane season.



## **Foreword**

The present VCA study was carried out through a series of community meetings from December 2009 to April 2010 with various organizations in Ti Rocher and the residents of the community

This study is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regional project “Improving the preparedness of Caribbean communities to respond to disasters affecting their locality”. This program, implemented in 2010-2011, covers the National Societies of Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam, Bahamas, Guyana, St. Kitts and Antigua, through the support of the European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and the United States Office for Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

## **Acronyms**

CIA	Change / Influence / Accept
CIT	Change / Influence / Transform
ECHO	European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
OFDA	United States Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
NEMO	National Emergency and Management Organisation
SLURC	Saint Lucia Red Cross
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CDRT	Community Disaster Response Team



## Introduction

In December 2009, Ti Rocher embarked on a journey of self-analysis, examining its strengths and weaknesses, the external and internal threats and the resources it has to cope with these threats. Heads of households, local leaders of religious and sports groups, and workers of all trades discussed the history of their community and the problems they encounter. They shared their experiences and their tips for overcoming daily difficulties. As a group, they identified the main problems ahead and discussed the future of their common home.

The process was organized by volunteers and staff of the St. Lucia Red Cross Society (SLURC) as part of a region-wide attempt to improve community-based disaster preparedness. The community work was based on the methodology known as “Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment,” or VCA. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and understand the most pressing issues and threats in the community (vulnerabilities) while simultaneously identifying the local and external resources available to minimize the risks to the villagers (capacity).

The VCA approach is composed of a series of tools for community-based participatory consultations to ensure a better understanding of how the community functions. Behind this process lies the assumption that a community more aware of its own limitations can better organize itself to overcome them. In the context of the SLURC project, the stated objective was to improve the capacity of the community to cope with the disaster-related risks in its environment.

To this end, the first section summarizes the results from the VCA process, as carried out in Ti Rocher. It presents the history, the local dynamics and the coming challenges as perceived by the people who live in Ti Rocher. Although this program specifically focuses on natural disasters and hazard mitigation strategies, the results presented in this first section provide guidelines for a broader approach towards sustainable community development.

The second section focuses on the output from the community focus groups in relation to the risks faced by the community: What are the main risks? Can they be mitigated? By whom? Using the results presented in the proposed Action Plan, the community members – supported by SLURC teams – will identify and implement strategies to mitigate these risks. The information gathered here will also provide the necessary baseline information for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the community.



## Part 1: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment of Ti Rocher

### What is VCA?

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) is a participatory investigative process designed to assess the risks that people face in their locality, their vulnerability to those risks, and the capacities they possess to cope with a hazard and recover from it when it strikes. Through VCA, National Societies can work with vulnerable communities to identify the risks and take steps to reduce them by drawing on their own skills, knowledge and initiative. **In sum, VCA helps people to prepare for hazards, to prevent them from turning into disasters and to mitigate their effects.**<sup>1</sup>

***Vulnerability can be defined as:***

*The characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of natural or man-made hazards.*

The

definition of vulnerability suggests that it cannot be described without reference to a specific hazard or shock. So, the question that must always be asked is, "Vulnerability to what?" People living along coastal areas or rivers may be vulnerable to seasonal storms and flooding, while the inhabitants of countries with social, political and economic problems may face difficulties in achieving a satisfactory and sustainable quality of life.

*The reverse of vulnerability is **capacity**, which can be described as:  
The resources of individuals, households, communities, institutions and nations to resist the impact of a hazard.*

The coping strategies of people in response to various hazards will differ from one society to another and will often change over time. People in chronically-prone countries facing multiple hazards, such as drought, locust infestation and civil unrest, find their capacity levels weakening, reducing their ability to mitigate the effects of the next crisis.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from *VCA toolbox with reference sheets*, IFRC, Geneva, 2007, page 6.

<sup>2</sup> Quote and definitions from *Vulnerability and capacity assessment, An International Federation Guide*, IFRC, Geneva, 1999, page 11-12.



## How is the VCA carried out?

The VCA process relies on a few key principles:

**Data collection:** Preliminary data can be collected through the use of questionnaires developed specifically for each community or for each type of hazard. However, as information is not always immediately available on the ground – because of time constraints, security issues or financial resources – the VCA process also relies on the gathering of secondary data. Precious information about the community can be gathered from research by government bodies, the United Nations and other development- and research-based organizations.

**Community participation:** The goal of the VCA process is to empower the community to allow it to respond on its own to the risks to which it is subjected – or allow it to identify those who can help it to respond. For this reason, community members constitute the core of the process. The main criterion for a successful VCA is the receptiveness of the local community and its willingness to be an active part of the process. Only if all vulnerable groups are included can they find collective answers to the threats they face.

**Sharing information:** The VCA process helps the community understand its relation to its environment. Through discussions among neighbors and the collection of data, the community members will be better able to understand – and therefore reduce – the threats to which it is subjected. The final VCA document also offers an opportunity to share information beyond the community by bringing up issues to the relevant authorities, partner organizations or local leaders.

The VCA is mainly used *to identify in advance, and change where possible, the conditions that create or contribute to the state of vulnerability of at-risk populations.*<sup>3</sup> As such, the main usefulness of VCA comes from an improved understanding of the risks and of measures to mitigate those risks. To gather all information relevant to a better understanding of the community, the following steps have been followed:

1. Review of secondary sources: this first crucial step consists in collecting information that already exists, to avoid duplicating efforts already carried out. Most of this phase consists in collecting written material, or identifying all resources relating to a better understanding of the community;
2. Direct observation: A summary presentation of the community, by someone external, often allows to get a first impression of the local dynamics and main issues;
3. Focus group discussions: The heart of the VCA process lies in this phase of community interaction, using tools for the involvement of all stakeholders.

Based on these three steps (presented hereafter in points 1, 2 and 3), disaster-related information has been gathered and is presented in part 2.

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<sup>3</sup> Idem, page 12, emphasis added.





## 1. Gathering data from secondary sources

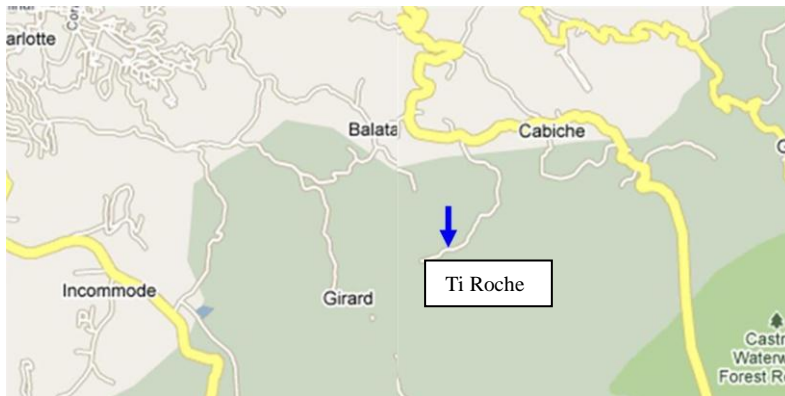
### Location of the community



The community is located in the Northwest interior of the island.

### Population of the Community

400





## *2. Direct observation*

The small community of Ti Rocher is located in the interior North-West portion of the island which forms part of the forested region of St. Lucia, just about 8Km away from the main City of Castries. The community is considered rural with a large portion of lands being allocated in the past to main the banana and other agriculture crops. The community also had a high number of persons involved in other forms of employment with the government and private sector.

- The dominant Christian denominations are Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist and Evangelical
- Ti-Rocher Wellness Center also serves the Forestiere community
- The Primary school serves as the church for the community of Forestiere and Ti Rocher;
- One Primary School – Ti Rocher Combined School;
- The community is in a forested area with high rainfall and a large percentage of **forest**;
- Community is rather prone to **landslides** due to its precipitous nature;
- 1 community Wellness Center and daycare center
- 1 gas station
- Large presence of **underground streams** thus the community always has water;
- High presence of wooden and wall (concrete) houses
- Absence of hurricane retrofitting on **wooden houses**;
- A percentage of houses still use **pit latrines**;
- 1 multi-purpose court which is well fenced and located next to the school, day and wellness center;
- 1 Cemetery
- Good drainage on the main road but **an absence of drains in the other parts** of the community;
- **2 main entrances** into the community, one via Babonneau and the other via Castries
- Very **narrow main road with poor lighting** at some points;
- Good **garbage collection** system;
- Garbage disposal problems in the housing area above the school, coupled with drainage problems.
- A major concern with the **haphazard driving** along the Ti Rocher, Gesneau road
- A concern over the lost of community spirit especially among **young persons**;



### ***3. Focus group discussions***

***Semi structured questionnaires and focus group discussion are qualitative information-gathering tools. The former by teams interviewing residents and the latter where a group of selected individuals, guided by a facilitator, are invited to give their thoughts and views on a specific issue.***<sup>4</sup>

To facilitate the process of interaction with key community stakeholders, the VCA has a series of tools for participatory appraisals. These include, but are not limited to:

- a. Historical profile;
- b. Historical visualization;
- c. Seasonal calendar;
- d. Institutional and social network analysis;
- e. Livelihoods and coping strategies analysis;
- f. Mapping;
- g. Transect Walk/Cross Section;
- h. Household/neighborhood vulnerability assessment;
- i. Assessing the capacity of people's organizations;
- j. Venn diagram.

Not all tools are used every time, nor are these tools the only ones used to encourage community mobilization. More than the tools, the success of the VCA is measured by the mobilization it induces within the targeted community.

Tool b, i and J were not used during the VCA process. The analysis of the other tools used are reflected below;

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<sup>4</sup> From *VCA toolbox with reference sheets*, IFRC, Geneva, 2007, page 66.



**a. Historical profile**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>HISTORY</b>
1800's	Delmar's from Martinique settle
1930's	<b>Major landslide</b> destroys road and rebuilding of current road
1960's	Society Hall served as Primary School
1968	Martin Desporres Primary School Closed
1968	Ti Rocher Combined School Opens
1970's	Telephone (Land Line)
	Introduction of Television
1980	<b>Hurricane Allen</b>
	- No electricity for 2 months
	- Church and school used as <b>shelters</b>
1994	<b>Tropical Storm Debbie</b>
	- <b>Road collapsed</b> by Gas station
<b>1997</b>	Pink Mealy <b>bug infestation</b> – destroying plantains
1999	<b>Tropical Storm Lenny</b> destroys banana plantations
2007	African <b>snail infestation</b>
2008	<b>Major landslide</b> at Bones Gap
2010	Bush fires caused by <b>drought</b>

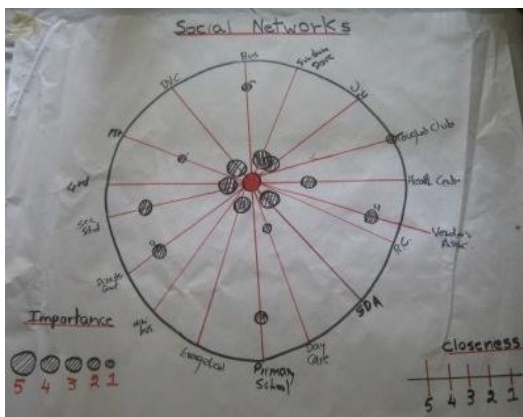


### b. Seasonal calendar

HAZARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HURRICANE						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DROUGHT	X	X	X	X	X							
EARTHQUAKE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LANDSLIDES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Social Activities</b>												
New Year	X											
Independence		X										
Lent	X	X	X	X								
La Maguerite				X								
Jounen Kweyol												
Labour Day					X							
La Rose					X							
Easter				X								
Mother's Day					X							
Christmas Celebrations												X

Once again the main hazards are landslides, hurricanes drought and earthquakes. The July to January period offers greatest exposure to weather risk. The extreme dry season is in April and may. The latter part of the year has minimal cultural and religious activities and offers a good time to introduce training and risk reduction activities.

### c. Institutional and social network analysis



This community has recently had an upsurge of a number of social institutions designed to foster the growth and development of Ti Rocher. They have been rated as being very close to the community and are organizations which Ti Rocher can depend on to render support during and community disaster or local emergency

- Four Road (Quarte Chimen) United
- Sunshine Doves
- Ti Rocher Development Committee
- Ti Rocher Disaster Preparedness Committee
- Denominational support groups (Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic and Evangelical)



A number of newly formed organizations have now added their support to community development these are:

- Les Piton Minibus Association
- Secondary School Parent Association
- Parent Teachers Association (Primary School)
- Toughest Sports Club

The presence of a multi-purpose court adds to the youth development focus of the community, however stronger institutional support for such structures is needed to enable their proper functioning. The major sports club in the community is the Toughest Sports Club.

The presence of structures such as a health center, daycare and Parent Teachers Association is reflective of the community's drive to have a holistic approach to their development.

#### **d. Livelihoods and coping strategies analysis**

The community of Ti Rocher, while predominantly being a farming community in the past has grown to be a rather sub-urban type of community within this agriculture part of the island.

The community members of Ti Rocher are involved in a wide range of employment with, with the more **youthful population** being involved in the following areas:

- Hotel workers
- Private Sector and Government workers
- Construction workers
- Mechanics/Technicians
- Teachers

The **older population** is predominantly involved in the following:

- Farming
- Minibus Driver (along with some younger persons)
- Government Workers
- Security

While there are a number of community organizations within Ti Rocher, during the time of disasters or emergencies area of assistance comes from the following sectors of the population;

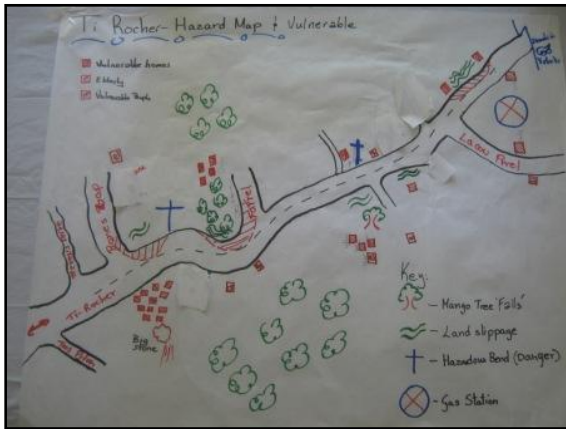
- a. Church members
- b. Family
- c. Friends
- d. Neighbours
- e. Other outside organizations(private or governmental)

The major concern when it comes to disasters in this community, due to past experiences, has been **loss of livelihood because of crop damage and landslides affecting access to and from the community**. Because of its unique and elevated location, Ti Rocher can be easily cut-off via the main road from the rest of the island. During such disasters the major areas which are affected are as follows:



1. Amount of monies spent on transportation; therefore, less travelling
2. Purchasing of processed foods (milk, cereals, flour and canned foods)
3. Fuel

### e. Mapping



(Hazard map of Ti Rocher)



(Resource map of Ti Rocher)

### f. Cross Section/Transect Walk

The Cross Section/Transect Walk of the Ti Rocher Community focused on the six major areas of Ti Rocher:

- a. Steven's Drive
- b. Lacou Pwel
- c. Bones Gap
- d. Farrel
- e. Old Quarry
- f. Gas Station/Post Office area

Within the six main areas, the section of the community called **Steven's Drive was deemed most vulnerable due to its location, elevation and poor drainage and access issues**; The transect walk result are reflected below:

#### (Steven' Drive area)

<b>Type of Ground</b>	Hilly and sloping
<b>Livelihoods</b>	Bus drivers, farming, private and government sector workers, construction and technicians;
<b>Risk/hazards</b>	Soil erosion, landslides, groundwater contamination, fallen trees and electrical poles;
<b>Conditions that increase vulnerability</b>	Sloppy ground, absence of drains and proper access roads, poorly constructed houses, closeness of houses, construction of homes close to trees and electrical poles;
<b>Beliefs and values</b>	Religious views, volunteerism and community oriented



<b>Capacities</b>	Rain water harvesting, disaster response training, transportation;
<b>Natural environment</b>	Water, forested area, lots of agricultural crops

### g. Household/neighborhood vulnerability assessment

The assessment highlighted the major vulnerabilities of the community with respect to the households and neighborhood. The precipitous nature of the community and its location being in a forested region of St. Lucia has left it vulnerable to a number of events:

- Tropical Storm Debby: 1994 (crop damage)
- Land Slide : 1998
- Tropical Storm Lenny: 1999 ( crop damage/land slides)
- Hurricane Ivan: 2004
- Hurricane Dean: 2007
- Heavy rains- landslides and crop lost (2008)

The assessment of the community identified the following vulnerabilities as being major issues of concern for residents:

- The homes in the Steven’s Drive area are very close to each other;
- The inability of emergency vehicles to access the Stevens Gap area;
- Close proximity of houses to the main road;
- The reckless driving) practiced by the youth along the main road especially on evenings;
- A presence of Pit latrines in all of the major parts of the community;
- Indiscriminate dumping of garbage in some section of the community even with a good garbage collection system;
- The slippage of land next to the Ti Rocher Gas Station
- Major parts of the community are prone to landslide especially areas of the right hand side of the road opposite the Primary school;
- Absence of drains and guttering for houses;
- The lack of access roads for emergency vehicles;
- Presence of an abandoned quarry on the main road and derelict heavy equipment;
- Presence of houses below the main road
- Absence of guard rails along dangerous road curves
- The absence of a bus shelter;
- The lack of lighting and safety signs along the Ti Rocher main road
- A large number of bars/rum shops;

Another concern for the community is the vulnerability of its major physical resources. The following list shows the vulnerabilities of the community’s major resources:

1. **Access Road** : Prone to land slippage
2. **Primary School** : Prone to land slide
3. **Post Office** : Prone to landslide
4. **Gas Station** : Prone to landslide





## Part 2: Risk assessment in Ti Rocher

The VCA process made it possible for the St. Lucia Red Cross Society (SLURC) to get to know Ti-Rocher, while allowing the community members to share their knowledge, fears and ideas. At the same time the project has offered a unique opportunity to go from theory to practice.

The SLURC – in collaboration with partner agencies and local community stakeholders – has used the VCA method to identify and solve problems within their capability. In particular, as the following pages will show, the implementation of the VCA tools improves understanding of:

- ✓ the nature and level of risks that vulnerable people face;
- ✓ where these risks come from;
- ✓ who will be the worst affected;
- ✓ what is available at all levels to reduce the risks; and
- ✓ what initiatives can be undertaken to strengthen the impact of programs to raise the capacity of people at risk.

### Methodology for a Risk assessment

The following five-step approach was used with the Ti-Rocher community members:

1. The first step meant identifying for each hazard the **Potential Risks to the community**: the areas of vulnerability and the capacity that exists within the community.
2. The second step required identifying for each Hazard **Actions that could be undertaken** to transform vulnerabilities identified into capacities.
3. The third step consisted of differentiating the types of measures, whether they related to prevention, mitigation or preparation for response.
4. The fourth step involved a CIA Analysis, in which participants considered each and every action to transform vulnerability into a capacity and decide whether such changes were realistic.
5. The fifth and final step involved identifying a Plan of Action that could be implemented by the community. While a number of actions were identified, this final step identified realistic actions. It should be noted that the information gathered and the specific actions identified below, while not reflected in the final plan of action, are still relevant and needed and could be utilized by other agencies.

The results of these five steps are presented hereafter (points 1 through 5 below).



**1. Identifying hazards and their potential impact on the community**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Potential Risk</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Land Slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of homes</li> <li>• Loss of livelihoods</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Loss of physical assets</li> <li>• Loss of natural resources in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas station</li> <li>• Primary School</li> <li>• Main Road</li> <li>• Houses in the Steven’s Drive area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy equipment operators</li> <li>• Disaster response personnel</li> <li>• Technicians</li> <li>• Minibus drivers – transportation</li> <li>• Chainsaw operators</li> <li>• CDRT Groups</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> </ul>
Garbage Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases</li> <li>• Flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses along the main road</li> <li>• Gas station area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community leaders</li> <li>• Church Youth Groups</li> <li>• Football team</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> </ul>
Overhanging Trees near residential area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes</li> <li>• Loss of educational opportunities for a period of times</li> <li>• Loss of place of worship</li> <li>• Loss of physical resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Ti Rocher area near Gesneau</li> <li>• Homes at the bottom of the main Ti Rocher road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy equipment operators</li> <li>• Disaster response personnel</li> <li>• Technicians</li> <li>• Minibus drivers – transportation</li> <li>• Chainsaw operators</li> <li>• First Aid responders</li> <li>• CDRT group</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> </ul>



Extreme Fast Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of life</li> <li>• Damage to personal property</li> <li>• Loss of physical resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entire community</li> <li>- Students attending the Primary school;</li> <li>- Elderly persons;</li> <li>- Businesses and homes along the main Ti Rocher road and to the bottom of the road;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid responders</li> <li>• CDRT group</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> <li>• Community Leaders</li> </ul>
Homes along main road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of life</li> <li>• Damage of property</li> <li>• Loss of physical resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons living along and below the main road</li> <li>• All road users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid responders</li> <li>• CDRT group</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> <li>• Community Leaders</li> </ul>
Absence of proper access routes and drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of life</li> <li>• Damage to property</li> <li>• Loss of physical resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes in the Steven’s Gap area</li> <li>• Other physical resources in the Steven’s Drive area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid responders</li> <li>• CDRT group</li> <li>• Development Committee</li> <li>• Community Leaders</li> </ul>

## 2. Local capacity to respond to hazards

HAZARD	Vulnerabilities identified	Actions to transform vulnerabilities into capacities
<b>Landslides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas station</li> <li>• Primary School</li> <li>• Main Road</li> <li>• Houses in the Steven’s Drive area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sourcing of additional funding to build <b>retaining wall and fix gabion baskets</b> near gas station;</li> <li>- <b>Education</b> campaign of landslides and protective measures;</li> <li>- Assist community members in developing emergency <b>family plans</b>;</li> <li>- Establishing agreements with heavy equipment operators and bus drivers to use vehicles if such an event occurs;</li> </ul>
<b>Overhanging Trees near residential area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Ti Rocher area near Gesneau</li> <li>• Homes at the bottom of the main Ti Rocher road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Form task gangs to cut overhanging trees;</li> <li>- Engage utility companies to facilitate the trimming of trees near utilities poles and lines;</li> <li>- Seek support from Ministry of</li> </ul>



		agriculture and communications to facilitate the trimming of trees
<b>Extreme Fast Driving</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entire community</li> <li>- Students attending the Primary school;</li> <li>- Elderly persons; Businesses and homes along the main Forestiere road;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community education programme on safe driving</li> <li>- Discussion with drivers within the community of safety practices</li> <li>- Engaging traffic department to conduct traffic safety programmes;</li> <li>- Engaging Ministry of communications to put up safety signs;</li> </ul>
<b>Garbage disposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses along the main road</li> <li>• Gas station area</li> <li>• Lacou Pwel area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage disposal education programmes for community;</li> <li>• Clean up campaigns at least bi-monthly;</li> </ul>
<b>Homes along main road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons living along and below the main road</li> <li>• All road users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road safety campaign;</li> <li>• Engaging Ministry of Communication to discuss the installation of guard rails and safety signs along road;</li> </ul>
<b>Absence of proper access routes and drainage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes in the Steven's Gap area</li> <li>• Other Physical Resources in the Steven's Drive area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of access route and drains into Steven's Gap;</li> <li>• Education campaign with residence of emergency family plans;</li> </ul>



### 3. Type of measures to mitigate disasters

The third step consisted of separating the types of measures into three categories:

- Prevention actions: action which tries to reduce the probability of a disaster in the community;
- Mitigation actions: action that attempts to protect, strengthen, rehabilitate or reconstruct;
- Preparation actions: action that aims to strengthen the capacity of the community of Forestiere to respond in an effective and efficient manner

Identifying prevention, preparation and mitigation activities

Actions to transform vulnerabilities to capacities	Prevention	Preparation	Mitigation
<b>Landslides</b>	Sourcing of additional funding to build retaining wall and fix gabion baskets near gas station;  Educational campaign of landslides and protective measures;	Assist community members in developing emergency family plans;  Establishing agreements with heavy equipment operators and bus drivers to use vehicles if such an event occurs;	
<b>Garbage Disposal</b>		Clean up campaigns at least bi-monthly	Garbage disposal education programmes for community;
<b>Overhanging Trees near residential area</b>	Form task gangs to cut overhanging trees;  Engage utility companies to facilitate the trimming of trees near utilities poles and lines;		Seek support from Ministry of Agriculture and communications to facilitate the trimming of trees
<b>Extreme Fast Driving</b>	Engaging Ministry of communications to put up safety signs;		Community education programme on safe driving
			Discussion with drivers within the community of safety practices



			Engaging traffic department to conduct traffic safety programmes;
<b>Homes along main road</b>	Engaging Ministry of Communication to discuss the installation of guard rails and safety signs along road		Road safety campaign;
<b>Absence of Proper access routes and drainage</b>	Construction of access route and drains into Steven's Drive;	Education campaign with residence of emergency family plans;	



#### 4. Ability to act on hazards (CIT analysis)

The fourth step involves a CIT Analysis<sup>5</sup> in which participants considered each and every action to transform vulnerability into a capacity and decide whether such changes were realistic. Each problematic situation had to be categorized according to the three possible options:

- the situation can be **changed** with the participation of the people at risk;
- the situation cannot be changed directly, but could be **influenced** by the people at risk so that third parties can offer a solution to the identified need; or
- the situation cannot be changed or influenced and the community needs to **Transform** the threat.

Actions to transform vulnerabilities into capacities	Prevention	C I T	Preparation	C I T	Mitigation	CIT
<b>Land Slides</b>	Sourcing of additional funding to build retaining wall and fix gabion baskets near gas station;		Assist community members in developing emergency family plans;			
	Educational campaign of landslides and protective measures;		Establishing agreements with heavy equipment operators and bus drivers to use vehicles if such an event occurs;			
<b>Overhanging Trees near residential area</b>	Form task gangs to cut overhanging trees;				Seek support from Ministry of agriculture and communications to facilitate the trimming of trees	
	Engage utility companies to facilitate the trimming of trees near utilities poles and lines;					

<sup>5</sup> CIT: C = change, I = influence, A = Transform.



<b>Extreme Fast Driving</b>	Engaging Ministry of communications to put up safety signs;			Community education programme on safe driving	
				Discussion with drivers within the community of safety practices	
<b>Garbage Disposal</b>			Clean up campaigns at least bi-monthly	Garbage disposal education programmes for community;	
<b>Main Road</b>	Engaging Ministry of Communication to discuss the installation of guard rails and safety signs along road			Road Safety Campaign	
<b>Absence of Access Route</b>	Construction of access route and drains into Steven’s Drive;		Education campaign with residence of emergency family plans;		





## 5. Plan of action

**Plan of action:**

<b>Hazards/Issues</b>	<b>Vulnerable Areas</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>
(1) Access Route in Steven's Drive	Steven's Drive area and homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construction of access route and drains into Steven's Gap;</li> <li>➤ Education campaign with residence of emergency family plans;</li> </ul>
(2) Land Slippage	Near the Gas station Lacou Pwel Farrel Mr. Bagan (old Quarry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sourcing of additional funding to build retaining wall and fix gabion baskets near gas station;</li> <li>➤ Educational campaign of landslides and protective measures;</li> <li>➤ Assist community members in developing emergency family plans;</li> <li>➤ Establishing agreements with heavy equipment operators and bus drivers to use vehicles if such an event occurs;</li> </ul>
(3) Overhanging Trees near residential area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Form task gangs to cut overhanging trees;</li> <li>➤ Engage utility companies to facilitate the trimming of trees near utilities poles and lines;</li> <li>➤ Seek support from Ministry of agriculture and communications to facilitate the trimming of trees</li> </ul>
(4) Extreme Fast Driving	Entire Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construction of access route and drains into Steven's Gap;</li> <li>➤ Education campaign with residence of emergency family plans;</li> </ul>
(5) Main Road		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Road safety campaign;</li> <li>➤ Engaging Ministry of Communication to discuss the installation of guard rails and safety signs along road;</li> </ul>
(6) Garbage Disposal	Lacou Pwel Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Garbage disposal education programmes for community;</li> <li>➤ Clean up campaigns at least bi-monthly;</li> </ul>
(7) Exposed cliff area around Gas station	Area around Gas station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Installation of guardrails along exposed area;</li> </ul>



## **Conclusion: The next steps**

The completion of the VCA training for the community of Ti Rocher has indeed understood their risk and have positioned them to be a safer and healthier community. This community team has recognized a number of micro projects which can be undertaken in their community and is presently exploring the costing and other logistics to embarked on implementing the project of choice.

The group is about to undergo their Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) training which will be conducted on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2010. After which they will be putting their skills into practice via a disaster simulation which will be organized by the St. Lucia Red Cross. The simulation will seek to test the ability of the CDRT to manage an EOC during a disaster and how communication between the CDRT and the Red Cross and other stakeholders is managed.

Another major step is the establishment of a management group to facilitate the operations of the organization and to continue the working relation with the Red Cross. The group hopes by the end of July 2010 that they would have engaged individuals in the community to develop emergency family plans and also a community disaster plan which would further enhance the resilience of Ti Rocher.

## Annex 1: List of participants in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

### Resource Personnel

#	Names	Addresses
	Hubert Pierre	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Terencia Gaillard	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Bennet Charles	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Rupert Fletcher	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Mr. Fabian Lewis	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Ms. Nicole William	IFRC
	Joanna Jn. Baptise	NIT member
	Cyril Edward	NIT in training
	Steven Verdant	NIT in training
	Avril Charles	NIT member
	Justine Charles	NIT member
	Althea Charles	St. Lucia Red Cross Volunteer
	Nicole Bowers	NIT in training
	Magyver Esnard	NIT in training
	Mrs. Dorine Gustave	Development Officer- Ministry of Social Transformation



### Focus group meetings – Dates & participants

Dates	Names	Addresses
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Rita Constantine	Ti Rocher
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Francis Albersin	Ti Rocher
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Priscillia Cadelle	Ti Rocher
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2010	Kimira Delaire	Ti Rocher
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Elandia Delaire	Ti Rocher
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Shillya Cetoute	Ti Rocher
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2010	Madge Delmar	Ti Rocher
March 9 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Laura Joseph	Ti Rocher
March 16 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Genovefa Valcin	Ti Rocher
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2010	Allison Paul	Ti Rocher
April	Juliana Cools	Ti Rocher
	Edmonise Henry	Ti Rocher
	Clodia Albertini	Ti Rocher
	Vicky Henry	Ti Rocher



	Shona Peter	Ti Rocher
	Julia Farrell	Ti Rocher
	Dygna Murphy	Ti Rocher
	Zilta Felicien	Ti Rocher
	Amaya Felicien	Ti Rocher
	Christiana Thomas	Ti Rocher

**The Executive Members of the Ti Rocher CDRT include:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
	Chairperson	
	Deputy Chairperson	
	Secretary	
	Treasurer	
	Public Relations Officer	