

Module 2c: Disaster Management Exercises

Revised version:
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Protected wells in flood-prone village in Mozambique (Photo: Knud Falk / Danish Red Cross)

Exercises

Title Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Environmental Management (EMR) – overlaps and synergies

Introduction and background for facilitators:

Participants place sample “community activities” in 3 overlapping circles - to illustrate the difficulty of distinguishing between, and the overlapping fields of CCA, DRR and EMR. This exercise demonstrates areas of overlap and how one field of work can inform the other. The aim is to understand that there are huge synergies between the three thematic areas, and the objectives are similar: reducing vulnerability and increasing the resilience of communities to climate-related impacts.

NOTE: the exercise can also be used to illustrate the overlap with Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) instead of EMR, depending on the context and learning objectives. Exercise material (activity slips, below) are available for this too.

Aim/learning objective:

On completing this exercise, participants will have a better understanding of the similarities and differences between CCA, DRR and EMR.

Materials and preparation:

1. Three rope circles for each of 2 group = 6 rope circles. Prepare them in advance: you need about 20 m of rope to make 3 good circles of about 2 m diameter each – so 40 m if you want to run two groups
2. Print the many “activities” and the DRR/CCA/EMR “headers” in the attached Word file – and cut all of them so the “activity” is on a separate small slip of paper; mix them well and divide into two groups (about 40 activity slips in each)
3. Supporting powerpoint to introduce the exercise (separate file)

Duration: 45 minutes to 1 hour

**Participant
numbers and/or
arrangements:**

Participants can be arranged into two groups (or more, if you have prepared more rope circles)

**The exercise
step by step:**

1. Divide participants into 2 groups
2. For each group, lay out three large circles of rope on the ground so they overlap like the circles on the slide
3. Give each group half of the slips with “activities” – and explain that these slips contain potential activities (examples from community work by Red Cross and others) that a community project may like to implement
4. Get each group to nominate a speaker
5. Give the PowerPoint intro presentation “CCA-DRR-EMR-overlaps” which introduces terms and subjects
6. Give each group 20 minutes or so to sort the many “activities” within the circles – and decide if each belongs in any of the “exclusive” DRR/CCA/EMR parts, or in the “overlapping” parts; discuss why/why not they choose “exclusive” or “overlap” in each case
7. When finished, facilitator gather both groups around one of the sets of circles encourage each group to present on what they thought were the main reasons for placing the activities where they did. The facilitator can ask them about the discussions the group had – and facilitator may challenge some of the decision and maybe help re-arrange.

**Discussion
items:**

This exercise usually starts with a separation of DRR, CCA and EMR activities. But gradually people place most of the statements in the overlapping zones. Ask them why and help clarify if there are obvious “mistakes”.

Facilitator tips: The discussion can get lively and some groups may get very confused over the distinctions. You may need to keep an eye on groups and refer them back to the presentation. You may suggest they first identify clear examples of “clean” DRR activities with no obvious CCA or EMR links (e.g. “awareness raising on road safety” or “earthquake preparedness”) and then see how the other activities compare

It is important for participants to realise that while there are huge overlaps, CCA is NOT equal to DRR business-as-usual. DRR must be “upgraded” and tweaked to consider more extreme events to be considered “climate smart”. We need to consider changing risks in what we do. Using seasonal calendars, for example, to discuss whether crops and diseases are changing. New types of hazards might occur that we need to respond to and prepare for. Considering the external environment, and how erosion and flood risks (and some livelihoods opportunities) are closely linked to environmental (mis)management, is key to plan for climate-smart DRR and build resilience.

The facilitator can end with asking participants of examples from their own work where they see DRR/CCA/EMR synergies or differences.

If the exercise is run with CCM instead of EMR, point out the key synergies between CCA and CCM (and even with EMR): any tree planting and forest conservation efforts are helping limit erosion and flood risks AND the trees are keeping carbon dioxide (CO₂) “tied up” as wood so it does not act as a greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

**Relevant
sections
of Climate
Training Kit:**

Community risk reduction, Health and care, Early warning early action.