



Participatory tools to reduce vulnerability. Experiences in progress

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1. Who we are



Social cooperative (founded on 2018)

Long-time experience at **NGO ActionAid** (human rights)

Participatory planning

Civic monitoring

Youth activism

Prevention and local development

Research

2. Hazards and risks

Natural or manmade phenomenon which affects environment

Earthquake	50% Italy's area at risk Seismic risk
Landslide Flood Avalanches	6-10% Italy's area at risk Hydraulic risk
Wildfires	12% destroyed forests Fire risk

Risks are undesirable effects that come from different sources

Risks increase in highly vulnerable contexts

3. What is vulnerability

“Vulnerability defines the characteristics of a person or group and their situation that influence their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a hazard” (Wisner et al, 2001)

Vulnerability defines **community's exposure** to hazards and shocks

Dynamic and complex concept, cannot be analysed directly

Quantitative and **qualitative** analysis exist that focusing dimensions of vulnerability

Resilience cycle

Level I - before the impact (hazard and risk perception)

Level II - during and after the impact (impact reaction)

Level III - after the emergency (reconstruction)

Community is the heart

4. Participatory approach

- **Assumption or aim:** accountability (responsibility, transparency and participation) from local authorities
- **Planning:** analysis on resources, stakeholders, tools
- **Flexibility:** to the context, resources and opportunities
- **Continuous process:** monitoring and evaluation
- **Professional staff:** facilitators



5. A community-based method: Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA)

The PVA is a qualitative and in action analysis, a systematic process that involves **communities and other stakeholders** in an in-depth examination of their vulnerability.

The essence of PVA is: analyse community's **vulnerability**, draw **action plan**, mobilise **resources** and enact appropriate **policies, laws** and **strategies** to reduce their vulnerability to disaster.

Steps and tools:

1. Situation analysis - eg. focus group, timeline
2. Analysing causes - eg. problem tree, concept mapping
3. Analysing community action - eg. problem tree/objective analysis, concept mapping
4. Drawing action - eg. overall vulnerability matrix, community action plan
5. Multi-levelled analysis and action

5. A community-based method: Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA)

Bottom-up method, **flexible** and **adaptable** to different contexts and communities

Stakeholders: communities with local leaders and government officials

ActionAid PVA training
from 2000 in several countries.
For example:

Zimbabwe (HIV/AIDS)
Bangladesh (flood and cyclones)
India
Myanmar
Ghana
Gambia (hazards)



6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)

Italy - L'aquila - Sassa



Aims: analyse hazards and risks, know Civil Protection Plan and propose improvements

Steps and tools:

1. Analysing hazards and risks (focus group and problem tree)
2. Data mapping (workshop)
3. Analysing Civil Protection Plan (focus group and action plan)
4. Visiting places (neighborhood walkscape)
5. Conclusion (public meeting with local leaders to discuss results and commitments)

6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)



Step 1. Focus group and problem tree



A RISCHIO DI.....

- TRAMBA VARIATA
- FRANCA
- DIRETTO AMBIENTALE
- TORRENTO
- INQUINAMENTO
- INSICUREZZA SCOLASTICA
- RISPETTO ALLE EMERGENZE
- SECUREZZA PERSONALE

PERCHÉ.....

- IL LUOGO IN CUI VIVIAMO CI ESPOSCE A QUESTI RISCHI E NON SENTIAMO DI AVERE GLI STRUMENTI PER DIFENDERCI/AFFRONTARLI DA ESSI.
- PIÙ CONOSC. TECNICA
- CHI È COMPETENTE PER ISTRUIRCI E DARCI INDICAZIONI SUI RISCHI CHE CORRIAMO? HO PRONIA MA RISOSTE CERTE.
- SICUREZZA PERSONALE LEGATA ALLO SPOLLAMENTO DEL CENTRO VICOLO 201...
- LEGATA ALL'ISOLAMENTO DELLE PERIFERIE E RIFORME A FLUVI E RAPINE
- PRESENZA DI AZIENDE FARMACUTICHE CHE SOGLIO SCARICARE MATERIALI NELL'AMBIENTE.

A RISCHIO DI.....

- DISOCCUPAZIONE
- PRECARIETÀ
- FIGA DEI GIOVANI
- MORTE DELLA CITTÀ

PERCHÉ.....

- NON SI OTTILIZZANO LE RISORSE DEL TERRITORIO (AMBIENTE, PARCHI, MONTAGNA)
- MANCANZA DI SISTEMI DI INCENTIVI (p.e. ARTIGIANI - PMI)
- NON SI VALORIZZANO LE COMPETENZE LOCALI (p.e. ANZIANI)
- MANCA UN SISTEMA (università, ricerca, ambiente ecc...)
- ISOLAMENTO VERSO L'ESTERNO
- SCARSA PARTECIPAZIONE della CITTADINANZA (forma di organ. v. po. a. 2014)

6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)

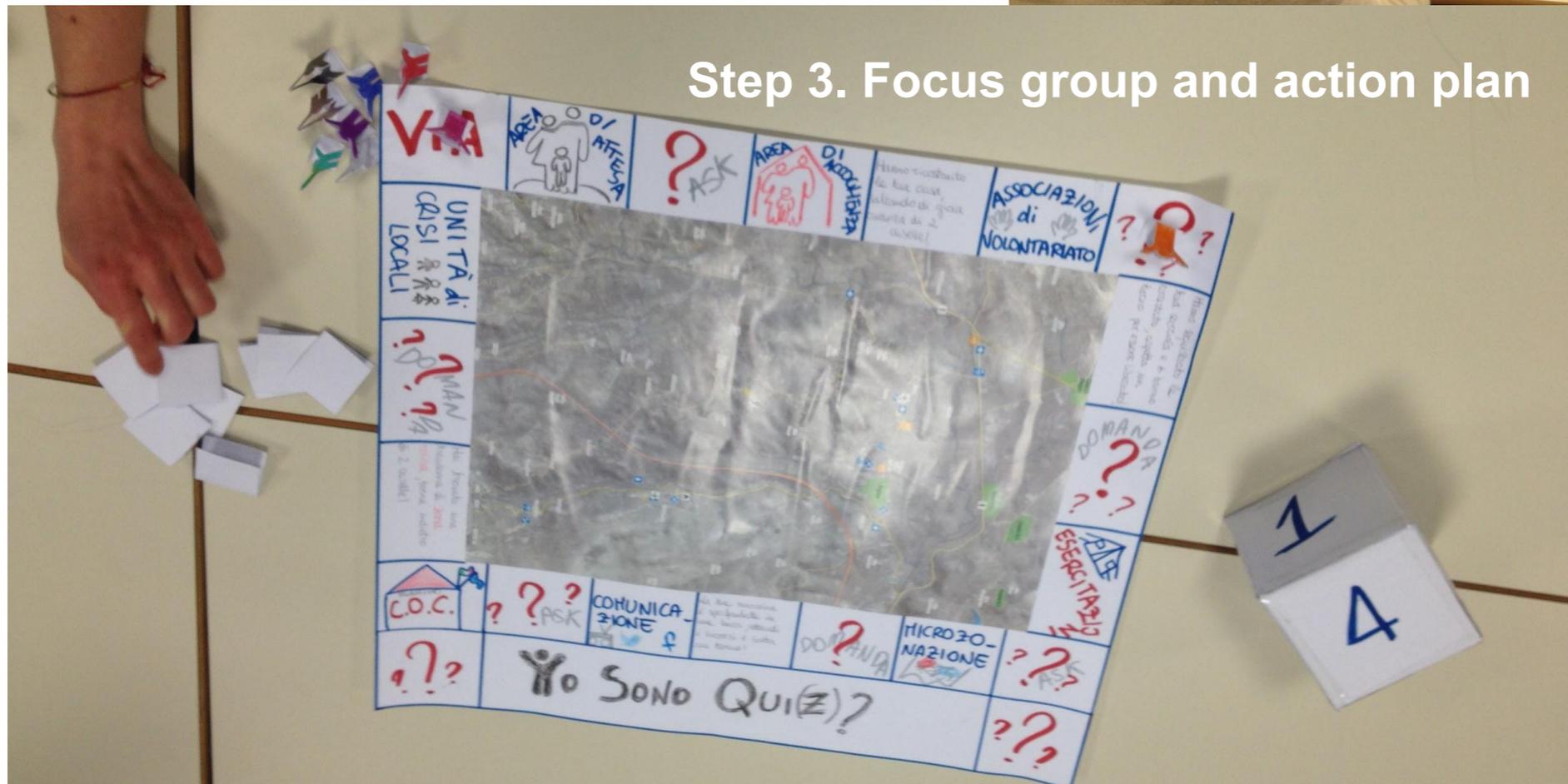


Step 2. Data mapping workshop

6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)



Step 3. Focus group and action plan



6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)



Step 4. Neighborhood walkscape



6. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)



Step 5. Public event

7. Case study: Io sono qui! - Sassa (AQ)

Stakeholders: inhabitants, teacher and students (Gianni Rodari school) and local leaders.

Follow-up activities: monitoring and evaluation

Direct outcomes: services for waiting areas, communication system in case of emergency (sms, twitter, app), square bashing

Indirect outcomes: building knowledge, networks and relationship between people, empowerment

PVA offers a **valuable contribution** to reduce vulnerability and to attain human security.

Vulnerability is the power that lack to prevent risks becoming disasters.

Bibliography

Wisner, Blaikie, Cannon and Davis, 2001 “At risk. Natural hazards, people’s vulnerability and disaster”

Actionaid international, 2004 “Participatory vulnerability analysis. A step-by-step guide for field staff”

Actionaid international, 2011 “Disaster Risk Reduction through Schools: A Groundbreaking Project”

PVA training - <http://www.actionaid.org/img/pva-training>

Ebook “Io sono qui” - <http://www.metis-cs.it> (under construction)

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