

2.3.2

SERIES 2

Understanding
Vulnerability & Risk



Activity 2.3.2

Future Trends, Future Vision

In the previous activity, you explored past development trends in your city. It was sort of like a car journey—you set off from the past going in a direction that has got us to the present. In this activity, you will continue the journey in the same line and see where you end up. What will the future of your city look like if these trends continue? This information will help you further frame your vulnerability assessment, and will eventually support the development of your resilience strategy.

IN THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL:

- ✓ Discuss what the future city could look like if current trends that were explored in activity 2.3.1 continue;
- ✓ Imagine, and have everyone briefly present, their vision of the best possible future for your city; and,
- ✓ Discuss the difference between these two futures, and what it will take to get from the extrapolation of trends to the best possible future.

ACTIVITY 2.3.2: FUTURE TRENDS, FUTURE VISION

INSTRUCTIONS: FUTURE TRENDS

Part 1: To begin, you should discuss and select as a group a point in the future to focus on.

It should be far enough out that there are likely to be significant changes, both in development and possibly in climate, but not so far out that the scope of changes is beyond imagining. It may be similar to or shorter than the period of time explored in the first activity, but probably should not be longer.

Part 2: Working individually, consider what the trends have been and think about what the city will look like if those continue.

How big will the city be? Where will people live? What will they do to make a living? How will they get around? Who will be vulnerable and why? As you do this, think about where current systems are fragile, and whether existing laws or policies are helping or hindering improvement. Think about how past disasters have impacted the city and whether the size and nature of disasters and disaster response are getting better or worse. Think about whether livelihood

options are increasing or decreasing, whether there is in-migration or out-migration, whether there are a few livelihoods on which much of the city is dependent and what the future of those livelihoods might be.

You can write or draw if this helps you think. There are no right or wrong answers.

Part 3: Following this individual reflection time, take turns describing your future city to the group.

If others have shared many aspects of your future city already, focus on the aspects that have not been discussed. Is there general agreement within the group about what the future will look like if trends continue? Is this a future you want to live in? What are some positive aspects of this future and what are some negative aspects?

INSTRUCTIONS: FUTURE VISION

Part 1: Imagine the best possible future for your city. In the Future Trends exercise, you imagined the future of your city if current trends continue. However, in many cities, continuing current trends of poorly planned development, explosive growth of marginal or migrant communities, increasing demand and stress on basic services, etc. will likely lead to greater risks and less resilience in the future. The goal of this exercise is to begin to identify where the leverage points are for building a more optimistic, resilient future.

Begin by closing your eyes and imagining, or writing or sketching on paper, your vision of the best possible future for your city. Use the same point in time as was used for the future trend assessment. How would this future be different than that future? Imagine that your children and grandchildren are living in this ideal future city. How do they make a living? What do they do in their free time? Where do they live, and what do they eat? How do they get around? What does their city look like—is it skyscrapers and bumper-to-bumper cars on the roads or are there trains and buses, space for pedestrians and parks?

Part 2: After everyone has taken a few minutes to develop their future vision, briefly share your vision, or aspects of your vision that are new or different from other shared visions, with the full group. If time allows, your facilitator

may note whether your visions address all four aspects of the Climate Resilience Framework. If not, brainstorm as a group the missing elements. For example:

- What has happened to currently vulnerable populations within the city? Are they still vulnerable?
- Have weak systems been improved? Have they been replaced? Are the replacements just improvements on the old system (i.e. raised dikes) or completely new systems (i.e. living with floods, stilt housing, or extensive, connected parks that double as drainage to route water through the city)?
- How have constraining institutions been overcome?
- What happens when climate hazards—floods, typhoons, droughts, etc.—occur? How are they dealt with? How have people, systems, and institutions adapted to handle these hazards?

Part 3: Finally, briefly discuss what could be done to begin moving from where current trends are leading to the best possible future you have envisioned.