

Community 1

Community 1 is a riverbank settlement that is heavily affected by landslides and flooding whenever there is heavy rain associated with a storm. It consists of shack dwellings, crude road surfaces, and inadequate waste disposal facilities. It is home to about 400 families.

This flooding is caused by the overflowing of the nearby river. Last year it flooded the homes of these families who have stated that they live there because they have nowhere else to go. Not only were they displaced, but the heavy rainfall has busted the gullies and destroyed pit latrines washing down faeces and other waste into the river. There has been high incidence of vomiting and diarrhoea among the children within the community, which has led to fears of water-borne diseases and cholera.

In other sections of this settlement, the heavy rainfall has loosened a huge rock which washed down due to heavy landslides. This rock landed in Barcelo, an avenue in the community, and blocked passage for some residents for many days. This has caused great inconvenience for 56% of the residents who are labourers who must go outside of the community for work and children who must attend school.

Community 2

Community 2 is a small upper-income coastal community, which is dotted with expansive beachfront properties near the coastline. It is situated near a reef. Most of the residents are expatriates, as well as local insurance executives and bankers who rely on a single road in and out of their community.

Community 3

Community 3 is a hillside community of about 1,800 persons on the outskirts of a capital city. The majority of the community members are farmers growing mainly cash crops – primarily bananas, coffee and nutmeg. Most of the small farmers work seasonally on the large coffee farms e.g. harvesting the coffee berries. Additionally some have jobs in the capital and others have small businesses (such as shops) in the community. This community is located in the mid-reaches of a large watershed which feeds an important dam in the water supply system for the capital. The community farms on steep slopes, often using unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn. These communities are already at risk from soil degradation which is reducing the productivity of their farms.

Community 4

Community 4 is a poor community of rural squatters. It consists of small crudely built houses, most lacking basic amenities and scattered over rugged terrain. A few are employed in agricultural pursuits, even for their own subsistence. A part of the explanation for this may be the fact that roughly sixty per cent of the households are headed by women. The women are of low educational attainment and lack skills training. This places them at a disadvantage in the labour market and those employed are in domestic service and petty trading, activities that attract incomes at the minimum wage or below. Male heads share similar characteristics and are employed as gardeners and labourers on construction sites. Unemployment in this community stands at thirty three per cent. In addition, a questionnaire administered to members of the community elicited the following information, which shows the topic of the question and the percentage of positive responses.

Income – Minimum Wage or less	68
No pipe at home	46
Water storage in drums	65
Chronic illness	53
Female household headship	60