Risk Assessment Scoping Table Top Exercise

This exercise will help you think through how to scope your risk assessment and can be use with your project team to make the process more effective, efficient and transparent.

First, as a group, discuss the following considerations that should guide the project team in scoping your risk assessment:

- **Let your goals guide you:** the information you gather in the risk assessment will help you select priority mitigation and adaptation actions needed to help your community achieve their goals. Gathering information to understand how and why an asset is vulnerable, and what the consequences of that vulnerability could be, can help you build a compelling case for why your community should take action and a foundation for seeking funding for action.
- **One size does not fit all:** you can assess different assets differently. For example, you will likely want to collect asset-specific vulnerability and consequences information about emergency response facilities (police and fire stations) and public buildings. However, it may only be feasible to evaluate the exposure to the relevant hazards of residential housing units. It is okay to mix and match approaches, and you may find as you proceed with your assessment that you have to shift your approach depending on the number of assets exposed to different hazards or the amount of information that is available.
- **Take advantage of representative assets**: Evaluating individual assets will provide the most robust assessment, however evaluating individual assets is not possible, or advisable, for some asset classes. Supplement your understanding of different asset classes by assessing representative assets that are chosen because they are similar to others in the assets class, they serve a unique function in your community, or if there would be high consequences if they were damaged or disrupted.

Second, using the goal setting exercise from the morning, write three example community goals on the top of the table-top scoping worksheet.

Third, the names of different types of assets are written on post-it notes. Place these on the scoping matrix provided based on the type of assessment to be conducted and whether the information would be collected for the individual asset or asset class as a whole. Add additional assets or asset classes your group would need to assess to help achieve your community goals by writing on the blank post-it notes provided.

Fourth, discuss why your group placed certain assets where you did. Consider if the risk assessment your group scoped is achievable and if the information you would need is readily available. If not, what could you do to conduct a more feasible risk assessment that will still provide you enough information to support good decision-making? What strategies could you use to plan and implement a more robust risk assessment in the future?

Finally, look back at the example community goals. Discuss if the risk assessment your group scoped would provide you the information you need to develop mitigation or adaptation actions to help advance your community goals. Would the scope provide you the flexibility you need to scale up/down the assessment if different goals become more/less important based on your assessment findings?

Resources to use from the Risk Assessment Process Package
- Headlines Exercise
- Asset Identification Worksheet
- Risk Assessment Questions
- Risk Assessment Scoping Handout

Assessment Scoping Matrix

Example Community Goal _____

Example Community Goal _____

Example Community Goal _____

	Less　　　　　　Level of Detail　　　　　　More	
	Exposure	**Assessment Questions**
Output	Number of land uses, parcels, people, buildings, etc., exposed to a hazard	Understanding of what happens (vulnerabilities and consequences) if exposed to a hazard
Asset Class		
Individual Assets		