Understanding the root causes of social vulnerability

Preparation for Training Session

What you will do: You will watch the *Understanding root causes of social vulnerability* video and then reflect on the questions below.

Why: The video provides a very basic foundation to the concept of social vulnerability and social resilience. The questions below are intended to prepare you for the conversations we will have during our training.

Instructions:

After watching the video, reflect on the following questions. Feel free to use the handouts provided at the end of this document or the guidance documents for MVP 2.0 to support your reflections.

You can do this reflection on your own or with your Core Team ahead of the training.

1. What is the difference between a state-designated EJ neighborhood and a priority population?

2. How would you describe social vulnerability to someone else who is curious but has not seen the video?

3. How would you describe social resilience to someone else who is curious but has not seen the video?

4. What kinds of factors or conditions of social vulnerability do you see in your municipality?

5. What kinds of factors or conditions of social resilience do you see in your municipality?

6. What questions do you have about social vulnerability, social resilience, and who is most likely to experience social vulnerability?

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AGENDA

6:00 pm	Welcome
	Who's in the room
	Review purpose and agenda
6:15 pm	Q & A: Videos and other materials reviewed
6:30 pm	Root cause analysis
	Practice doing root cause analysis
7:10 pm	Reflection
	Q & A: Root cause analysis
7:25 pm	Next Steps
	Closing

Do you have a question you would prefer to share anonymously? You can do so at this link:
https://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/flnhwlm

Creating a co-learning environment

The following are agreements that we will hold ourselves accountable to so that we can create an environment where we can learn with and through each other.

Participate as peers: Everyone comes here with different backgrounds and experiences all of which are valued and valuable to our learning together.

Share the air: If you tend to be quiet, you are encouraged to speak. If you tend to be vocal, make sure to step back to let others speak, too.

Be curious: Listen with active curiosity to the ideas we discuss, to each other, and to yourself.

Take the ideas, leave the names: We aim to create a learning space that is free from shame, blame, and attack both in this training and afterwards. Keep "who says what" confidential unless given permission to share with others.

Expect non-closure: This training is just the beginning of your learning. You will continue to have questions and that is ok.

Practice compassion, grace AND take care of impacts: Do your best to give each other the benefit of the doubt and also take responsibility for hurt you may have inadvertently caused.

Aim to be present: Be in the room with us and help us cultivate the energy for learning. To the extent possible, keep your video on and close down any distractions you are able. Take care of your body and do what you need to do to stay present.

Main activity

What you will do: You will practice doing a root cause analysis based on a specific scenario. Your facilitator will guide you through the process.

Why: This is a short practice to build the skills and ways of thinking needed to understand vulnerability and resilience in your municipality which will result in stronger and more inclusive projects and priorities.

Instructions:

Total time: 15-20 minutes

1. Your facilitator will present a scenario to you.

    a. You will have 1 minute to quietly reflect on the scenario.

2. As a team, uncover what are the root causes of the problem in the scenario.

Things to remember:

1. There may be multiple root causes. Identify as many as you can. Go as deep as you can.

2. Keep your focus on the conditions or systems that create that vulnerability.

If you have time:

1. Discuss what are the primary and secondary impacts for people who live with the scenario presented.

    a. If you are unable to address the root causes, what might happen for people who live with the vulnerability in the scenario presented?

    b. What assets could be created or strengthened to minimize or prevent those impacts?

        i. Assets might include trusted community institutions, well-loved community spaces, desire to (re)connect with nature, experience with community care and multi-generational living, mutual aid initiatives, language skills, etc.

Understanding the root causes of social vulnerability

An incomplete list of conditions and factors that contribute to social vulnerability

This is an incomplete list of the conditions and factors that contribute to social vulnerability for people and communities. There may be other factors that are specific to your community context that you should add to this list in the box below.

Communities with people living:

- In designated Environmental Justice neighborhoods
- With unstable or otherwise insecure immigration status
- With limited English language proficiency
- With physical or cognitive disabilities
- With any form chronic illness including physical, mental, and emotional health challenges
- With incomes equal to or less than 200% the federal poverty level
- With housing costs that are more than 30% of income as either a renter or owner
- In crowded, unstable, or unsafe living conditions
- With limited internet access at their home
- With a high school diploma or GED or less (no college or postsecondary education)
- Without health insurance
- With food insecurity, including receipt of SNAP assistance, use of food pantries, or other experiences of forgoing meals for non-medical reasons
- With energy (or utility) costs that are more than 6% of income

Communities with people experiencing:

- Houselessness
- Social isolation
- Exposure to environmental pollutants or other hazards
- Lack of access to nature, green space, or open spaces
- Lack of inclusion in democratic governance processes

Communities with households that include:

- People of Color
- LGBTQIA+ people
- Refugees or asylum seekers
- People who are 17 years of age or younger
- People who are 65 years of age or older
- Who are single-parent households
- Grandparent raising grandchild(ren)
- Caregivers for elderly residents or residents with a disability
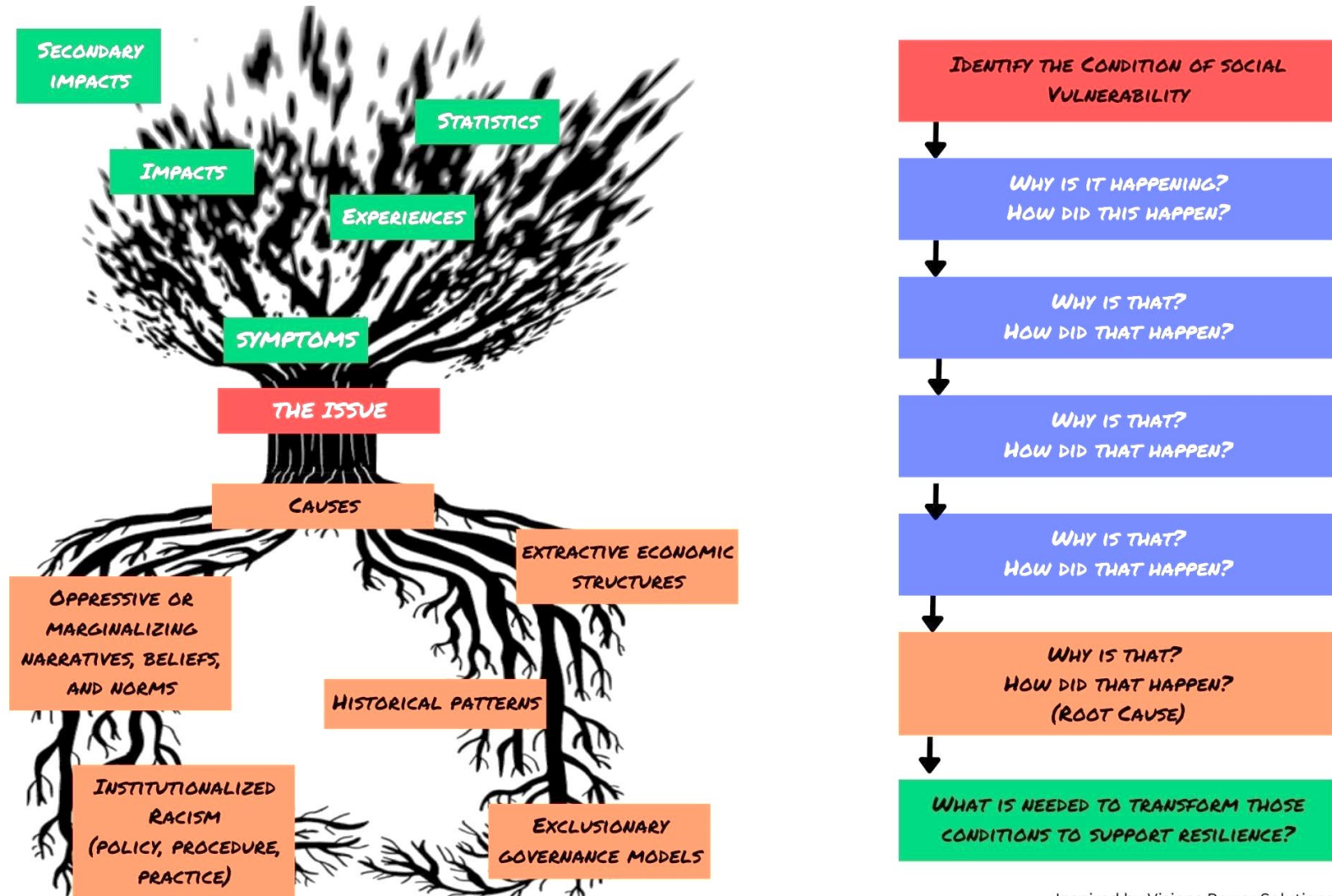- Who are seasonal workers

Other conditions and factors:

- Reliance on mobile devices for access to the internet
- Lack of access to a personal vehicle and does not live within a quarter mile of a bus stop or half mile to a rapid transit stop
- Bus or rail frequencies that exceed more than 15 or 20 minutes
- Renter households
- Historically redlined or yellow-lined neighborhoods
- History of detention or incarceration
- Lack of access to quality education
- Exclusionary zoning ordinances

What is specific to your community?

Root Cause Analysis

Secondary impacts

Statistics

Impacts

Experiences

Symptoms

The Issue

Causes

extractive economic structures

Oppressive or marginalizing narratives, beliefs, and norms

Historical patterns

Institutionalized Racism (policy, procedure, practice)

Exclusionary governance models

Identify the Condition of social Vulnerability

Why is it happening?
How did this happen?

Why is that?
How did that happen?

Why is that?
How did that happen?

Why is that?
How did that happen?

Why is that?
How did that happen?
(Root Cause)

What is needed to transform those conditions to support resilience?

Inspired by Visions Power Solutions