

Social Vulnerability, Sustainable Livelihoods and Disasters

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Organisation

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Abstract

The purpose of this document is to provide, the Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Department (CHAD) and DFID in particular, with an enhanced capability to develop policy for reducing social vulnerability to hazards.

Intended end users

End users are primarily **donors**, such as staff at DFID and CHAD, but also people who would like an overview of the available vulnerability, hazard and capacity assessment methods.

Geographical focus

The geographical focus is not country specific, as it is an overview of available methods.

Type of Material

This **overview** provides detailed descriptions of some of the available and already developed methods for assessing vulnerabilities, capacities and hazards in the field of disaster risk management.

It contains:

- ♦ information, analysis and resources to improve the incorporation of disaster vulnerability awareness into mainstream development assistance, and
- ♦ suggestions for an improved basis for the inclusion of vulnerability analysis in humanitarian policies.
- ♦ an initial survey and assessment of various vulnerability analysis methods and analyse their relevance to policy design in humanitarian and development work;
- ♦ an inventory of existing work on vulnerability analysis and their links to sustainable livelihoods approaches;

It provides case studies discussing and using examples of Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis (CVA), Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (VCA) (IFRC), Risk-Mapping and Local Capacities: Lessons from Mexico and Central America (Oxfam) and Household Livelihood Security Approach (HLSA) (CARE), as well as tables at the back of the document giving brief information on a wide array of methodologies. There is also a table of the available literature on vulnerability analysis methods provided.

Language

This manual is written in English.

Scale of assessment

The scale of assessment is focused both at the **municipality** level, as well as at the **community** level.

Type of assessment

The overview provides a diverse array of assessments available in the disaster risk field, such as Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), Household Livelihood Security Assessment (HLSA).

Analytical methods

There are numerous methods given in the overview. However, most are just briefly mentioned in the context of the assessment.

Disaster Risk Assessment Methods include -

- ♦ **Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment**
- ♦ **Damage Needs and Capacity Assessment**
- ♦ **Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment**
- ♦ **Household Livelihood Security Assessment**
- ♦ **Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment**

General Assessment methods include:

- ◆ **Livelihood analysis**
- ◆ **SWOT analysis**

Tools

Participatory Tools include:

- ◆ **Historical profiling**
- ◆ **Focus group interviews**
- ◆ **Oral histories**
- ◆ **Community mapping**
- ◆ **Transect walk**
- ◆ **Seasonal calendar**
- ◆ **Problem tree**
- ◆ Vulnerability checklist
- ◆ **Wealth ranking**
- ◆ Economic relationships charts
- ◆ **Kinship charts**
- ◆ **Venn diagrams**

Technical tools include:

- ◆ **Semi structured interviews**
- ◆ **Surveys**

Notes on methods

- ◆ Overview gives a useful and in-depth evaluation of the available vulnerability and capacity assessments in the field of disaster risk management
- ◆ Although there are many methods and tools mentioned in the overview, details on 'how-to' carry out assessment and actually use tools are limited.
- ◆ There is a conceptualization and comparison of methods but no actual guidance on how to implement the assessments mentioned.

Resource people

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Author of guidance note

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