

## Assessing Resilience & Vulnerability: Principles, Strategies & Actions - Guidelines

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Emergency Management Australia (EMA)

### Organisation

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EMA is the Australian Government's agency dedicated to promoting a national approach to emergency management in Australia. EMA works with states and territories in the areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for all types of disasters which affect communities and the environment.

Website: [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)

### Bibliographical details

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The document is available from the CRA toolkit at [www.proventionconsortium.org](http://www.proventionconsortium.org).

### Abstract

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This publication aims to provide an understanding of resilience and vulnerability as key elements of disaster management. It offers some alternative perspectives on evaluating, understanding and managing resilience and vulnerability.

### Intended end users

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End users are a range of audiences. **Community based organisations** can use the guidelines for assessing their own needs and capabilities; municipal and agency levels can use in evaluating community and constituency needs, assisting in planning; regional, state and national **government staff** can use to assist in planning, auditing and evaluating plans and developing tools for policy and programme development.

## Geographical focus

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Although this publication was developed in **Australia**, it is applicable throughout the world when assessing resilience and vulnerability in communities and municipalities.

## Type of Material

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This publication provides **guidelines** for assessing resilience and vulnerability. It contains descriptions on a range of different analysis methods, as well as providing the main principles and issues surrounding resilience and vulnerability. It provides a section on how to determine who is resilient and who is vulnerable, as well as providing a list of structural issues to consider, as well as loss, damage and needs.

The publication also contains instructions on how to undertake a capability assessment, as well as providing an outline for resources needed when planning an assessment. It also provides methods for conducting assessments – hazard, locality, scale and demographics and provides tools in appendices at back of the document. It also discusses data sources and the factors that contribute to increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability.

The publication also provides descriptions of all of the necessary analytical and assessment tools and methods at the back of the publication in appendices. This is to enable the target audience to have knowledge of the available methods and tools to be utilized in the assessments for resilience and vulnerability.

## Language

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The publication is in English.

## Scale of assessment

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The guidelines look at non-structural assessments of resilience and vulnerability and management methods. Although it is recognized that structural measures have an important role to play in reducing risk, they have generally been given much more attention than the non-structural measures that will be assessed in this publication. **Households** and **communities** are focused on.

## Type of assessment

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These guidelines provide a framework for undertaking a **Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment**. The aim of the assessment is to reduce the vulnerability at risk communities by increasing their resilience.

## Analytical methods

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The guidelines present a number of methods for undertaking a **Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment**, including methods to assess hazards, resilience and vulnerability including:

*Disaster Risk Assessment Methods* include:

- ◆ **Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)**

*General Assessment methods include:*

- ◆ **Needs assessment**
- ◆ **Cost benefit analysis**
- ◆ **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**
- ◆ **Social Impact Assessment (SIA)**

## **Tools**

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*Participatory tools include:*

- ◆ **Focus group interviews**
- ◆ **Historical profiling**
- ◆ Brainstorming
- ◆ **Risk Mapping**

*Technical Assessment Tools include:*

- ◆ **Surveys**
- ◆ **Questionnaires**
- ◆ Trend extrapolation
- ◆ Assessment matrices
- ◆ **Census data**
- ◆ **Delphi techniques**

## **Notes on methods**

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- ◆ This document is targeted at a wide audience, which makes it particularly difficult to outline a specific process for assessing resilience and vulnerability. Although it is broadly aimed at the community-level, it would be difficult for a community to undertake the process in the guidelines without having outside support as the tools are not presented in great detail.
- ◆ The guidelines give a very good conceptual framework for resilience and vulnerability assessments.

## **Resource person**

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## **Author of guidance note**

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