

Community Risk Management (*Gestión Comunitaria de Riesgos*)

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Foro Ciudades para la Vida (*The Cities for Life Forum*)

Organization

Foro Ciudades para la Vida, (The Cities for Life Forum), is an umbrella organization composed of 86 institutions (universities, municipalities, private organizations and NGOs) that promotes sustainable development in 30 Peruvian cities since 1996. The national programme of the forum has three sub-programmes:

- Development of management capacities and promotion of Agenda 21 for cities.
- Urban development and sustainable building practices.
- Quality of the environment.

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Abstract

The first chapter presents a conceptual framework highlighting the main elements of risk management and key concepts around risks in an urban context. The second chapter focuses on the role of community participation in urban risk management. A case study illustrates the approach taken. In the third chapter, participatory tools are presented which are used to develop risk, hazard, and vulnerability and capacity assessments. The assessment process is presented in detail. The last chapter presents the methodological and organizational process for the development of local risk reduction plans and measures.

Intended end users

Community based organizations in urban areas, municipalities, **disaster risk managers** and **community development workers**.

Geographical focus

Peruvian urban areas, but it can be adapted to other urban contexts.

Type of Material

A well-structured **comprehensive manual** that offers a simple conceptual framework on risks and community participation in an urban setting. Moreover, the manual provides the communities with a step-by-step methodology to map risks and plan risk reduction actions.

Language

The manual is written in Spanish.

Scale of assessment

The assessment focuses on urban areas of Peruvian society. The assessment has a **community** level approach.

Type of assessment

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment with special emphasis on participatory risk mapping.

Analytical methods

The VCA approach proposed by this method is based on the assessment of the probability of hazard and the subsequent risk of physical and functional damage. The assessment is focused on risk mapping. The manual proposes a step-by-step participatory planning process, as follows:

1. Local organization (the aim of this step is to organize a working group with the community and local organizations for the assessments)
2. Information gathering
3. Risk map development
4. Risk assessment workshop
5. Priority ranking
6. Identification of proposals
7. Dissemination and evaluation

Tools

- Community maps: spatial map, **hazard map**, **risk map** and capacity map
- **Focus group interviews**
- Census
- **Historical profile**
- Vulnerability and Capacity framework
- Risk light (each colour, green, yellow and red, represents a level of risk)
- Risk assessment and planning workshop
- **Ranking**

Notes on methods

- The conceptual framework presents the definition of risk and vulnerability. It divides vulnerability into 10 complementary types. However, it does not include capacity as a conceptual element of the risk equation in this part, although capacity later appears as part of the assessment methodology.
- It presents in a pedagogical manner the relationship between environmental hazards and urban systems.
- It proposes a simple and systematic methodology to develop the assessment and planning process, but it does not insist on how to use the analytical tools, and does not mention some tools that might be required, particularly in an urban area, such as surveys and transect walks.
- It pays special attention to the assessment workshop and the development of local plans, proposing a methodology to implement risk and emergency plans, as well as a comprehensive and systematic list of possible community based risk reduction actions.

Case studies / practical examples

The manual presents the process of strengthening the citizen's participatory approach through a case study developed by the NGO Natura in the “*pueblo joven*” (shantytown) of Villa María de Chimbote.

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Author of guidance note

The ProVention Consortium contracted Iñigo Barrena, to author this guidance note.

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