

## Disaster risk reduction: Mitigation and preparedness in development and emergency programming (Chapter 4 : Project Planning)

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### Organisation

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ODI is Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. The Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) is an independent forum where field workers, managers and policymakers in the humanitarian sector share information, analysis and experience. HPN's aim is to improve the performance of humanitarian action by contributing to individual and institutional learning.

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### Bibliographical details

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### Abstract

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This publication provides frameworks around how to conceptualise risk. It also highlights tools and general best practice for undertaking risk assessment and disaster risk reduction.

### Intended end users

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End users are intended to be practitioners: principally project **planners** and **humanitarian fieldworkers** working at sub-national and local levels, mostly in **NGOs** and **community-based organizations** (CBOs) but also as local **government staff**. This publication is also aimed at **development workers** and **emergency managers**. The book is for those working with vulnerable people, wherever they may be, before, during and after disasters.

## Geographical focus

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The overview is aimed principally but not exclusively at developing countries.

## Type of Material

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Provides an **overview** for conceptualising risk assessment, including:

- ◆ Frameworks and tools in which to understand risk.
- ◆ Useful sources of information when conducting assessments.
- ◆ Likely problems and expected difficulties when undertaking assessments.
- ◆ Cautionary notes
- ◆ Overview of how to go about undertaking a risk assessment
- ◆ Generic concepts of best practice in undertaking risk assessment and reducing risk

## Language

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The publication is in English.

## Scale of assessment

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The scale of assessment is focused at the **community** level

## Type of assessment

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Risk assessment is understood as hazard assessment, vulnerability assessment, and capacity assessment.

Provided is a general overview of how to undertake such assessments in terms of conceptualising risk and using best practice when planning risk reduction.

Greatest focus is on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) with an explicit use of the IFRC's Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment toolkit. There is also a natural hazard focus and discussion of GIS applications and Livelihoods Analysis framework.

## Analytical methods

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The methods and tools mentioned in this document are by no means exhaustive. They include a mix of methods including technical tools, for assessing hazards, and participatory tools for assessing vulnerability and capacity.

*Risk Assessment Methods provided are:*

- ◆ **Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)**
- ◆ **Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)**
- ◆ **Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA)**

*General Assessment Methods provided are:*

- ◆ **Hazard analysis**
- ◆ **Livelihood Analysis**

## Tools

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*Participatory Tools utilized in the assessments are:*

- ♦ **Transect walk**
- ♦ **Venn diagrams**
- ♦ **Wealth ranking**
- ♦ **Stories and Oral histories**
- ♦ **Problem tree**
- ♦ **Seasonal calendar**
- ♦ **Historical profiling**
- ♦ **Focus group interviews**

*Technical Assessment tools include:*

- ♦ **Direct observation**
- ♦ **Geological hazard maps**
- ♦ **Hydrological maps**
- ♦ **Meteorological data gathering tools**
- ♦ **Physical and socio-economical mapping and modelling**
- ♦ **Semi-structured interviews**

The document also makes explicit mention of the incorporation of **GIS** capabilities into risk assessment.

## Notes on methods

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- ♦ This document would be most useful for people who wish to get an understanding of how to conceptualise risk and think about undertaking risk assessment as part of relief or development projects.
- ♦ The conceptual framework provided only examines classic vulnerability and hazard assessment, seeing the hazard as external and the vulnerability as internal.
- ♦ Lists tools for undertaking CVA (largely PRA)
- ♦ Discusses the importance of the assessment process and the manner in which it is conducted.
- ♦ Good cautionary notes about probable complications and difficulties to be expected while undertaking and producing the assessment.
- ♦ Good use of case studies to illustrate general themes.
- ♦ Good set of guidelines for undertaking a risk reduction project.
- ♦ Little focus on the *methods* for undertaking hazard analysis
- ♦ Includes tools for incorporating DRR into organisational work, including project development.
- ♦ Due to the fact that the document is more of an overview of risk assessment, an explanation of all the tools mentioned for assessing risk is not included – this includes all the tools mentioned in the section ‘Analytical methodologies/tools’ which appear in this document.

## Case studies / practical examples

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This overview contains several case studies, outlined in boxes, illustrating how the methods discussed have been applied in practice.

## **Resource person**

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## **Author of guidance note**

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