

Reducing risk of disaster in our communities

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Tearfund

Organisation

Tearfund is an evangelical Christian relief and development agency working through local partners to bring help and hope to communities in need around the world. The organization focuses on working with local partners in over 70 countries in the sectors of: community development, disaster prevention and response, and HIV/AIDS advocacy.

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Abstract

The Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR) process has been used by Tearfund partners around the world as an evidence-based method to reduce disaster risk. The PADR process involves supervisors and middle managers working with local people to identify and analyse their vulnerabilities and capacities, and to develop and implement an action plan. This book provides both the methodology for carrying out PADR, as well as the analytical tools necessary for follow up action planning. It details a six step process: preparations, hazard assessment, vulnerability and capacity assessments, key informant interviews and action planning. This document, available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, is useful for supervisors and field workers from local relief and/or development organizations. It provides helpful examples and guiding questions are included for most of the tools making the PADR process easy to implement. A high degree of community participation in the process is essential.

Intended end users

The intended users are local people who have identified a need to reduce disaster risk. The Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR) process should be facilitated by a **field worker from a local relief, development, or humanitarian organization** with additional support from or advocacy to the district, national and international levels. It can also be useful for **trainers of trainers**.

Geographical focus

PADR has been used successfully by Tearfund partners in many countries including Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Sudan. This publication has been produced for **global** application.

Type of Material

This publication is a **comprehensive manual** detailing the Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR) process. It provides both the methodology for carrying out PADR, as well as the analytical tools that are needed for follow up action planning. It details a six step process: preparations, hazard assessment, vulnerability and capacity assessments, key informant interviews and action planning.

Language

This publication is written in English and is available in French, Spanish and Portuguese through the Tearfund website at: <http://tilz.tearfund.org>.

Scale of assessment

The focus of the assessment is on the **community level** and recognises **multilevel** external factors that influenced community at provincial, national and international levels.

Type of assessment

The aim of the Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR) process is to increase people's understanding of their vulnerabilities and capacities, so that they can develop positive approaches to improve their situation. The process involves using Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) methods to **assess the hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities** at the community level and develop action plans.

Analytical methods

Disaster Risk Assessment Methods mentioned are:

- **Participatory Assessment of Disaster Risk (PADR)**

General Assessment methods include:

- **Hazard Analysis**
- **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**
- **Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)**
- **Vulnerability Analysis**
- **Capacity Analysis**

Tools

Helpful examples and guiding questions are included for most of the tools making the approach easy to implement by the local people. The tools are used with reference to five categories of analysis for vulnerabilities and capacities including economic, natural, constructed, individual and social assets; this provides a link with the Sustainable Livelihoods Network.

The participatory tools include:

- **Hazard and Resource Mapping**
- **Hazard Mapping**
- **Seasonal Calendar**
- **Transect Walk**
- **Timeline**
- **Venn Diagram**
- **Historical Mapping**
- Hazard Ranking
- **Focus Group Discussion**
- Folk songs, stories, poetry
- Drama

Technical tools include:

- **Direct Observation**
- **Key Information Interviews**
- **Secondary Data**

Notes on methods

This publication provides the methodology for carrying out PADR, as well as examples of the analytical tools that are needed.

Case studies / practical examples

Case studies on various parts of the world where Tearfund has experience are included in boxes throughout this publication. Topics covered include advocacy, experience with participatory tools, impact of disaster risk reduction measures and action planning.

Resource people

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Author of guidance note

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