Victorian Government
Australia

Assessing Resilience and Vulnerability in the Context of Emergencies: Guidelines

Victorian Government, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

Organisation

The Department of Human Services is Victoria's largest Government department and employs over 12,000 people directly and over 80,000 people indirectly through organisations such as hospitals and aged care facilities, ambulance services and community service agencies. The mission of the Department of Human Services is 'To enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Victorians, emphasising vulnerable groups and those most in need'.

Website: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about.htm

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Abstract

This publication provides a conceptual framework for identifying, analysing and assessing communities' vulnerability and resilience to hazards. It provides the methodology for a resilience and vulnerability assessment as one aspect of community profiling and local emergency management and planning.

Intended end users

End users are intended to be **disaster risk management field practitioners**, and planners at **municipal and district governments**, **NGO's** and **International agency staff** active at the community level. However, it can also be used by communities themselves if they are engaged in emergency prevention, response or recovery activities.

Geographical focus

This document is based on work undertaken by the Victorian government and their Department of Human Services in Melbourne, **Australia**. It can, however, be used for assessing resilience and vulnerability in the context of emergencies wherever required.

Type of Material

This document provides basic **guidelines** for conceptualizing and identifying community vulnerability and resilience. Includes:

- Definitions and theory behind conceptualizing community vulnerability and resilience
- Explanation of how this type of assessment fits into broader emergency and preparedness planning
- Theory behind community involvement in assessment

Overview of how to understand vulnerabilities and resilience in communities. The publication gives a conceptual framework for understanding vulnerability and resilience, as well as a basic guide for conducting an assessment.

Language

These guidelines are 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 framework is based on 'advice on emergency recovery management planning'. Focus is placed on Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment methods communities in relation to emergencies and disasters.

Analytical methods

There are few methods or tools given in which to undertake the **Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment**.

Provided are a list of hazards which the specific emergency management system has dealt with in recent years, as well as 'hazard factors' which should be considered when conducting a **Hazard analysis**.

Methods which are given are broken into two assessments:

- Initial: It is stated that actual hazards, as well as the locality, scale and demographics of the hazard must be looked at for the particular hazard and the potentially effected community.
- Further: It is stated that it is necessary to identify and agree on sources of data used and methods used to acquire the information in the assessment.

Data sources are also given in order to collect information about demographic, socio-economic and other aspects of community life. Data sources range from local to regional, state and national.

Tools

Participatory tools include:
- **Focus groups interviews**

Technical Tools include:
- **Census data**
- **Surveys**
- **Questionnaires**
- Group surveys

Notes on methods

- The publication is user-friendly and basic with detailed conceptualization of concepts of both vulnerability and resilience.

- Defines vulnerability and vulnerable groups with a broad scope.

- Provides easy-to-use checklists for 'things to think about' when assessing vulnerability and resilience.

- The guidelines mainly give 'checklists' for components of the resilience and vulnerability assessment but few tools for actually carrying it out.

Resource people

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