



Empower vulnerable groups (i.e. children, elderly, and people with disabilities) by including them in disaster management decision-making and actions

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While everyone living in disaster-prone areas is vulnerable, some groups (e.g. children, elderly people, and people with disabilities etc.) have been proven to be more vulnerable than others. Research has shown both that marginalised groups are more likely to suffer from disasters and that disasters exacerbate vulnerabilities and social inequalities. To avoid this, vulnerable groups should be included in disaster preparedness and disaster resilience actions as active agents for resilience to be effective and equitable. They should always be included in disaster management decision-making, alongside other groups from that community, thus reducing their vulnerability in case of a disaster.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Policy Makers](#), [Disaster Managers](#), [Citizens](#)

Disaster Phases: [Prevention](#), [Preparedness](#), [Response](#), [Recovery](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#), [Active citizens](#), [Red Cross](#), [NGOs](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional hazards](#)

Cultural Map Entries:

- [Links between age and gender and the vulnerability hypothesis](#)
- [Danger in elderly people overestimating their physical abilities during a disaster](#)
- [Children who are alone at home during a disaster see as a vulnerable group](#)
- [Scouts as potential helpers in a disaster setting](#)
- [Ethnic diversity contributes to collective community experience and knowledge on disaster preparedness and response](#)
- [The roles of religious leaders in disaster preparedness](#)
- [Local communities as the first line of response in a disaster](#)
- [Fatalism, a challenge to prevention](#)
- [Benefits of citizen volunteering and local knowledge](#)
- [Perception of elderly as volunteers](#)
- [Perception of foreigners as volunteers](#)
- [The influence of socio-economic status on citizen willingness to cooperate with authorities in case of a disaster](#)
- [Participatory planning processes in disaster management](#)
- [Empowering women as actor citizens in disaster planning](#)
- [Reducing women's vulnerability in disaster situations](#)
- [Capacities of women in disaster management](#)
- [Protection tools for women the response and recovery stages](#)
- [Turning children from passive victims of floods to actor citizens](#)
- [Children's' expectations during disasters](#)
- [Insurance companies' responsibilities in taking account of children's' voices and needs](#)
- [Reducing children vulnerabilities through education](#)
- [Empowerment of senior citizens in disasters](#)
- [Citizen participation relating to cultural factors](#)
- [Identifying and training locals for CBDM](#)
- [Cultural factors within the CBDM approach](#)

General association with cultural factors: [Age-related roles](#), [Ethnicity](#), [Socio-economic status](#), [Social exclusion](#)



Implementation steps:

- A.** Identify individuals and/or groups who are vulnerable to disasters and individuals/organisations who are willing to volunteer in disaster situations to help them. Related cultural factors: [Social networks](#), [Social exclusion](#)
- B.** Use the knowledge accumulated by the community on risks and vulnerabilities to facilitate the easier identification of vulnerable groups. Related cultural factors: [Individual/collective memory](#), [Local knowledge](#)
- C.** Ensure a balanced representation of vulnerable people in discussions with the disaster-affected-population. Related cultural factors: [Social exclusion](#)
- D.** Develop specialized and detailed guidelines for working with socially vulnerable groups in that respective community. Related cultural factors: [Social exclusion](#)
- E.** Support the development of social capital as an effective approach that builds the resilience and capacities of the community to mitigate the impact of disasters in vulnerable populations. Related cultural factors: [Social exclusion](#)

Sources:

	Deliverable 4.2: Report on “risk cultures” in the context of disasters - CARISMAND (pdf, 1.8 MB)
	Deliverable 5.3: Report on citizens' reactions and opinions: Citizen Summit 1 (Romania) - CARISMAND (pdf, 1.9 MB)
	Deliverable 6.3: Report on cultural issues as provided for within select European states and their relevance in disaster situations - CARISMAND (pdf, 3.3 MB)
	Deliverable 7.1: Report on literature review - CARISMAND (pdf, 2.5 MB)
	Deliverable 7.3: Report on cultural factors and citizen empowerment - CARISMAND (pdf, 2.4 MB)

Further reading:

Alsop, R., Frost Bertelsen M. and Holland J., 2006. Empowerment in Practice - From Analysis to



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Culture And RiSk management in
Man-made And Natural Disasters

Implementation, The World Bank, Directions in development serie, n. 35032, Washington DC.

Bookman, A. and Morgen, S. (eds.), 1984. Women and the politics of empowerment. Philadelphia: Temple University Press

UNDP 2006. Communication for Empowerment - developing media strategies in support to vulnerable groups – Practical Guidance Note. Available at: <http://www.communicationforsocialchange.org/pdfs/communicationforempowermentfinal.pdf>.

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<https://toolkit.carismand.eu/a/recommendation-empower-vulnerable-groups>

