



Danger in elderly people overestimating their physical abilities during a disaster

Maltese participants pointed at elderly people who overestimate their physical abilities. This finding is consistent with research in Germany where “active pensioners” put their lives at risk during the 2003 heatwave. However, a number of the more mature participants also pointed out that “those who are retired but still strong” may join volunteer groups, learn more about disaster response and become active helpers.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Age-related roles](#)

Disaster Phases: [Response](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Local authorities](#), [Active citizens](#), [Healthcare and emergency services](#)

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

Recommendations:

- [Develop guidelines for disaster practitioners that take into consideration the different needs of and approaches to different ethnical groups](#)
- [Consider vulnerable groups when designing and implementing disaster response measures](#)
- [Empower vulnerable groups \(i.e. children, elderly, and people with disabilities\) by including them in disaster management decision-making and actions](#)

Source

[Deliverable D5.4 "Report on citizens' reactions and opinions: Citizen Summit 2 \(Malta\)" \(page 18\)](#)

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