



Culture as a barrier in disaster management

There are multiple and obvious examples of how culture can act as a barrier to disaster management, that can ultimately lead to greater loss of life or property. For example, some citizens might build on hazard-prone locations because they are forced to make their livelihood there; some believe their fate is “in God’s hands”; others may not respond to early warning messages because they do not trust the rule of law or cannot relate to the language or communication style of the messages. A great deal of research effort is spent on investigating how cultural factors increase risk and vulnerability.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Norms/values](#), [Customs/traditions/rituals](#), [Worldviews](#), [Languages](#), [Communication](#), [Livelihoods](#), [Rule of law](#), [Attitudes toward authorities](#), [Attitudes toward the media](#), [Attitudes toward environmental issues](#)

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

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#)

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

Recommendations:

- [Develop risk assessments methodologies, which consider cultural factors, the manner in which people cognitively process information and which employ a gender perspective](#)

Source

[Deliverable D7.3 "Report on cultural factors and citizen empowerment" \(page 19\)](#)

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