

Toolkit for Equitable
Emergency Management

Appendix A

Glossary of Definitions

2025

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- **Community:** Specific geographic area, such as a local authority or municipality, or people who are connected through shared governance, cultural heritage, and land, such as Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Metis, Inuit). Additionally, it includes groups of individuals who are linked by shared social identities, values, or interests, regardless of their physical location. This definition recognizes the diversity of connections that bind individuals together, whether through place, culture, or common social experiences and identities.
- **Community Vulnerability:** The degree to which a community is susceptible to harm, damage, or disruption in the face of various hazards or emergencies. This vulnerability encompasses a range of factors including social, economic, environmental, ecological, cultural, and infrastructural aspects that influence a community's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- **Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA):** A comprehensive evaluation process used to identify, analyze, and prioritize potential hazards, assess the risks they pose to a community or organization, and determine the vulnerabilities that could exacerbate the impact of these hazards. May also be known as a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), Disaster Risk Assessment, or similar.
- **Intersectional:** The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.
- **Intersectional Analysis (IGA):** A framework or lens for understanding how various social categories like race, gender, class, sexuality, and disability interact to create unique experiences of discrimination and privilege (also refer to definition on Gender-Based Analysis Plus).
- **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus):** An intersectional gender analysis that goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation in project/program/policy design, development, and implementation. An example in emergency management is applying GBA Plus to ensure recovery efforts are reaching those most impacted by an event.

- **Social vulnerability:** Social vulnerability specifically focuses on the societal dimensions of vulnerability, particularly the susceptibility of certain groups or communities with intersecting identify factors (race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, income, class, health etc.), to the impacts of hazards or disasters. It considers factors such as socioeconomic status, access to resources, demographic characteristics, cultural dynamics, and institutional capacity, highlighting how social inequalities and disparities can magnify the effects of disasters on marginalized or disadvantaged populations.
- **Vulnerability:** Vulnerability refers to the degree to which a system, community, or individual is susceptible to experiencing harm or damage from a hazard or stressor. It encompasses various factors including physical, social, economic, cultural, and environmental conditions that influence the ability of a system to withstand or recover from adverse events. It relates to the potential for adverse impacts from hazards or disasters.