



Toolkit for Equitable
Emergency Management

Appendix I

Questions to
Consider: Hazard
Identification

2025

Appendix I - Questions to Consider: Hazard Identification

Focus Area/Theme	Questions
Understanding the Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is being consulted in the hazard identification process? • Are we considering environmental or climate-related hazards (e.g., floods, earthquakes, hurricanes) and human-made hazards (e.g., industrial accidents, terrorism)? • What events have occurred previously, and what were their impacts? • How might climate change, urban/rural development, or technological advancements introduce new risks?
Gathering and Analyzing Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sources of information will be used to identify hazards? • What assumptions could we be making? • Are we using scientific data, community input, Indigenous Knowledge, historical records, and expert analysis? • How will data be collected and verified? • What methods will ensure data accuracy and reliability? • Are data collection methods accessible to diverse community members? For example, are there language barriers or cultural sensitivities that need to be addressed to ensure the participation of all groups?
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will community members be involved in hazard identification? • What local knowledge and experiences can residents share about potential hazards? • How can we ensure that hazard identification is inclusive of all community perspectives? • Are we engaging diverse groups, including marginalized and vulnerable populations, in the process?
Assessing Vulnerability and Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who and what are most vulnerable to these hazards? • Who is the most impacted by the hazard identification process? • Are there specific populations, buildings, or infrastructure particularly at risk? • What factors contribute to community vulnerability? • Are there social, cultural, economic, or environmental factors that increase vulnerability? • How will exposure to hazards be assessed? • What areas are most likely to be affected by each hazard, and to what extent? • What are the potential impacts of each hazard? • How might different hazards affect people, property, infrastructure, and the environment? • What assumptions are being made about vulnerability and exposure to hazards?
Integration with Other Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will hazard identification integrate with other assessments and plans? • Are we aligning with existing emergency plans, development plans, and environmental assessments? • How will hazard identification inform risk reduction strategies? • How will the findings guide mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts?

Documentation and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will the results of hazard identification be documented and shared?• What formats and channels will be used to communicate findings to partners, stakeholders, and members of the community?• How can we ensure transparency and accessibility of hazard information?• Are we providing information in clear, understandable language and accessible formats?
Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will hazard identification be reviewed and updated over time?• What processes will be in place for regular review and adaptation based on new data and changing conditions?• How will feedback from the community and stakeholders be incorporated?• What mechanisms will allow for continuous input and improvement?