

# CHECKLISTS

## FOR INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE PACIFIC



Office of the UN High  
Commissioner for Human Rights  
(OHCHR)  
Regional Office for the Pacific



Pacific Centre



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## Foreword

Recent humanitarian crises provoked by natural disasters have raised new challenges to all those involved in disaster management. It has become increasingly evident that any humanitarian intervention needs to integrate human rights dimensions in order to ensure the most appropriate response to victims, before, during and after natural disasters. Humanitarian and disaster management practitioners, therefore, have to be aware of human rights issues in order to reduce the vulnerability of affected populations and special groups, enable transition to normalcy and contribute to increased risk reduction, all within a rights-based framework.

These checklists, specific to the Pacific Region, aim to facilitate the integration of human rights issues in natural disaster management. They can be used by all concerned actors in situations of humanitarian emergencies to ensure that human rights concerns are effectively incorporated in every stage of preparedness, response and recovery.

These checklists are **not** to be used as a questionnaire or survey. They are meant to provide a “memory trigger” regarding key human rights issues. The checklists are dynamic tools that can be revised and expanded whenever needed.

Three separate, but inter-related checklists are presented to ensure that human rights issues are considered appropriately in the particular context of each phase of natural disaster management:

- I. A checklist to help identify human rights issues in **Emergency Response** so that appropriate actions can be developed. It is a list of key “survival-related” rights which require **immediate vigilance** during the emergency response and assessment.
- II. A checklist to identify human rights issues in **Disaster Response and Recovery**. This is a more detailed list which can be referred to both during response and recovery to help identify key human rights issues so that appropriate actions can be developed.
- III. A checklist to identify human rights issues in **Disaster Preparedness**. This list can be referred to both prior to the planning of preparedness activities as well as during implementation to help identify key human rights issues that may emerge.

The checklists are preceded by a brief introductory note, and are followed by a **Companion Note on Vulnerability** explaining issues related to vulnerability that may impact on human rights situations in the context of natural disaster management.

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Introductory Note:

## **Checklists for Disaster Response, Recovery and Preparedness**

The purpose of the checklists is to provide Disaster Management Teams (from the UN, national responders and/or international organisations) and humanitarian workers with guidance regarding key human rights issues and potential violations (“Red Flags”) to which they should be alert during response, recovery or preparedness activities in the Pacific Region.

These checklists are meant to provide a “memory trigger” regarding key human rights issues and are useful reference tools prior to assessments and disaster preparedness planning. Similarly they are a reminder during the evolving response and recovery processes and implementation of preparedness activities. These checklists are **not** to be used as a questionnaire or survey. Because of the highly sensitive nature of some of the issues covered, there is real potential that harm could be done if questions are asked by those who, while well intentioned, are not properly trained to deal with some of these issues (i.e. sexual violence, etc.). Additionally, it is not an exhaustive list of all human rights issues which may emerge, nor are all issues relevant in all contexts. Therefore, these checklists should not replace individual knowledge or common sense. As it is a “memory trigger,” these checklists are not meant to replace other information-gathering and/or assessment tools, but rather be complementary. The checklists can be helpful in the development or adaptation of such existing tools and in the development of further response, recovery and preparedness strategies.

Human rights issues that are identified (including topics where more information is required) should be flagged to the Disaster Manager/Team Leader for further analysis, and possibly, further action. Any further action, including further in-depth information gathering, **must** be decided upon by the Disaster Manager/Team Leader, in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator in the case of a UN mission. These are sensitive issues and need to be dealt with by trained personnel and as part of an overall strategy.

Further information on key human rights issues in natural disasters and the guiding principles for humanitarian response can be found within the *IASC Operational Guidelines on Human Rights in Natural Disasters, June 2006*.

The checklists are organized as follows:

- I. **Emergency Response** Human Rights Issues: a list of key “survival-related” rights which require **immediate vigilance** during the emergency response and assessment.
- II. **Disaster Response & Recovery** Human Rights Issues: a more detailed checklist which can be referred to both during response and recovery to help identify key human rights issues that may emerge.
- III. **Disaster Preparedness** Human Rights Issues: a detailed checklist which can be referred to both prior to the planning of preparedness activities as well as during implementation to help identify key human rights issues that may emerge.

The Disaster Response & Recovery and Preparedness checklists are structured in four sections and grouped according to the relevant rights involved (as per the *IASC Operational Guidelines on Human Rights in Natural Disasters*):

- Protection of Life, Security of the Person, Physical Integrity and Dignity
- Protection of Rights Related to Basic Necessities of Life
- Protection of Other Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Protection of Other Civil and Political Rights

Additionally, a **Companion Note on Vulnerability** provides information and insight on the issue of vulnerability of specific groups that may be affected by natural disasters. Some groups already are vulnerable, or may become (more) vulnerable in the event of a natural disaster. This companion note also refers to some of the factors that contribute to vulnerability within each group as well as some examples of preventive and/or protective measures which can be used by responders and/or implementing agencies.

The checklists include end notes which provide further explanation of some terminology that may not be familiar or self-explanatory.

## I. Checklist for Emergency Response

**Note:** This is ***NOT*** to be used as a questionnaire but rather as a reminder of key human rights issues to consider during emergency response assessments and operations and to identify potential human rights violations (“Red Flags”).

### Key Questions

1. Are there indications/reports/evidence that the following is occurring:
  - Killing of civilians, forced displacement<sup>a</sup>, aggression against civilians, destruction of housing, land and property, torture and/or arbitrary arrest?
  - Sexual violence, domestic abuse, people trafficking<sup>b</sup>, forced prostitution and/or slavery as a result of or in relation to the emergency situation?
2. Have sufficient law enforcement personnel been deployed to areas of risk or conflict and are they successfully ensuring the safety and security of all the affected population<sup>c</sup>?
3. Have **all** members of the affected population (both host and displaced communities) been informed and protected against dangers of secondary and other disaster risks (earthquake, flooding, landslide, fire, toxic waste, building rubble, asbestos, etc)?
4. If internally displaced person (IDP) camps exist:
  - Are they located in high-risk areas (natural disaster prone, conflict areas, etc)?
  - Are sufficient safety/security measures<sup>d</sup> in place within and around camps and do they take into account the specific security needs of vulnerable groups<sup>e</sup>?
  - Is recycled material safe for usage (e.g. shelter)?

5. Do independent humanitarian organizations have free and unrestricted access to all affected areas and/or populations?
6. Are there indications/reports/evidence that aid is being diverted or used for an unintended purpose (including as a part of a conflict)?
7. Do all those in need, including vulnerable groups, have safe and non-discriminatory<sup>f</sup> access to assistance?
8. Is aid being distributed on the basis of assessed needs and in sufficient quantity as per agreed international standards (**SPHERE** or other)?
9. If these goods and services are not available in sufficient quantity, are they being provided first to those in greatest need?
10. Are those in need amongst the non-displaced host population receiving assistance on an equal basis with those from the displaced populations?  
**Note:** *If not, this could create tensions within and between communities.*
11. Have steps been taken to prevent contagious and infectious diseases, including HIV, among the affected population?
12. Have appropriate measures been taken to re-establish contacts between separated family members and/or track locations of missing relatives?
13. Are burials conducted in accordance with local religious and cultural practices/beliefs and in a manner that respects the dignity and privacy of the dead and their families?

**Key Red Flag Issues****(as identified through the checklist):**

**Note:** *Identified human rights issues (including topics where more information is required) should be flagged to the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator for further analysis, and possibly, further action.*

**Recommended Next Steps**

**Note:** *This should be discussed with the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator prior to any actions taken.*

**Key Red Flag Issues 1:****Recommended Next Steps 1:****Key Red Flag Issues 2:****Recommended Next Steps 2:**

## II. Checklist for Disaster Response and Recovery

**Note:** This is ***NOT*** to be used as a questionnaire or survey but rather as a reminder of key human rights issues to consider during emergency response and recovery assessments and operations and to identify potential human rights violations (“Red Flags”).

### Protection of Life, Security, Physical Integrity and Dignity

#### Security and Returns:

1. Are effective measures in place to ensure the safety and security of all members of the affected population<sup>c</sup>, including in areas of return?
2. Are **all** returns voluntary and are they being facilitated as soon as possible by the authorities?
3. Is the displaced population able to freely choose where they wish to live within their country?
4. Does traditional/customary land ownership affect where some people can live and whether or not they can reclaim their housing, land and property?

#### Information:

5. Have **all** members of the affected population been provided with accurate information regarding:
  - The nature and scale of the disaster?
  - Early warning, potential secondary hazards and possible risk mitigation measures that can be taken (such as improving drainage, constructing flood protection, improving health and nutrition, improved vaccination, etc)?
  - Ongoing humanitarian assistance and recovery activities, including their entitlements (such as cash, in-kind assistance)?

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps:**

6. If IDP camps still exist, are they managed by civilian authorities?
7. Is the camp population participating in the camp management discussions in some form (including decision making processes)?

**Comments:**

**Protection of Rights Related to Basic Necessities of Life****Appropriate and Non-Discriminatory Basic Services:**

1. Do all members of the affected population have unrestricted and non-discriminatory access to goods and services to address their basic needs (water, food, health care, education, economic activity, etc.)?
2. Are goods and services provided and managed in a way that takes into account the safety, and preserves the dignity, of vulnerable groups (i.e. water supply, bathing/sanitation facilities/arrangements, etc.)?
3. Are recovery activities and measures culturally acceptable and appropriate to the needs of the affected population?
4. Are both women and men involved in the assessment and distribution of relief and recovery assistance?



5. Is there a need for trauma counseling and is it available (including through traditional and community networks) to **all** members of the affected population?

**Comments:**

## Protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

### Education:

1. Is free and accessible primary education being provided to **all** children (girls and boys) affected by the disaster?
2. Does the education provided respect cultural identity, language and tradition?

### Housing, Land and Property:

3. Has the return of housing, land, property and possessions to the affected population been facilitated by the authorities as soon as possible and has the affected population been properly informed/consulted?
4. Are fair and independent procedures in place to assist the following groups:
  - Those who have lost land deeds/property documents?
  - Those who retain ownership according to local, ancestral, traditional, customary laws and/or social codes but do not hold formal land deeds/property documents?
  - Women, particularly widows and orphaned

children, who may need to reclaim housing, land and property and obtain land title deeds in their own names?

- Those with competing claims to land and/or possessions?
- Those whose land no longer exists (landslide or erosion) or whose land is no longer useable or safe?

5. For those without land, is adequate alternative housing, resettlement, and/or access to productive land being provided, including for the medium and longer term?

#### **Compensation:**

6. Has a clear plan for compensation (cash, in-kind, etc.) including fair/objective criteria and terms been developed and communicated to the affected population?
7. Is compensation being disbursed in a timely, non-discriminatory manner?
8. Are appropriate, equitable and independent mechanisms in place to provide support to those that did not have land/assets prior to the disaster?
9. Is there access to judicial review if an individual/community believes that the terms of compensation are unfair?

#### **Shelter:**

10. If a transition from temporary shelter to permanent housing is underway:
  - On whose land is the permanent housing being built?
  - Does this shelter take into account accessibility, affordability, habitability, safety standards, security of tenure, cultural

adequacy, suitability of location, access to essential services<sup>h</sup>?

- Has the displaced population been consulted regarding the above elements and housing design?
  - Does the permanent housing design (and anticipated extensions by home owners) take into account future risks and incorporate mitigation measures and safety standards?
11. Have building codes or standards been agreed to and are they being enforced or practiced?

**Livelihoods:**

12. Has the affected population been able to resume their livelihoods and/or identify new employment opportunities?
13. If required, have projects to restore economic activity, including livelihoods, begun in the affected area and are they accessible to all members of the affected population?
14. Do these programmes include activities to replace livelihoods-related assets (lost/damaged boats/tools etc.) and/or to provide credit to the affected population?

**Comments:**

## Protection of Civil and Political Rights

### **Freedom of Movement/Return:**

1. Are there indications/reports/evidence that humanitarian assistance, freedom of movement, freedom to return or access to employment services are being denied to any portion of the affected population?
2. Have members of displaced families who wish to remain together been given the opportunity to do so?

### **Documentation:**

3. Is documentation (temporary or replacement) being issued without discrimination (including to women, unaccompanied/orphaned children, etc.)?

### **Complaints Mechanism:**

4. Have effective, independent and equitable mechanisms been established for individuals and communities to raise complaints or grievances on the disaster response (to humanitarian agencies and/or local authorities/governance structures/ Chiefs, etc.)?
5. Are transparent and accountable procedures in place to deal with these concerns?

### **Conflict Mitigation:**

6. Has provision of relief and recovery assistance contributed to harmful power relations and/or conflict within the affected population (within and/or between family structures, indigenous groups, divisions of gender, race, ethnicity, class, caste, religion, clan, wantoks)?

7. Has assistance created any new disparities between and among affected and non-affected populations?

**Consultation:**

8. Have **all** members of the affected population (including vulnerable groups) been meaningfully consulted and, where possible, involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of response and recovery programmes?
9. Have religious and cultural traditions (of both minority and majority communities) received due attention in planning and implementing assistance and recovery programming?

**Political Participation:**

10. Have measures been taken to ensure that **all** members of the affected population that have reached voting age (including the displaced) can vote and participate in elections? This may require voter registration and absentee voting mechanisms.

**Comments:**

**Key Red Flag Issues****(as identified through the checklist):**

**Note:** *Identified human rights issues (including topics where more information is required) should be flagged to the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator for further analysis, and possibly, further action.*

**Recommended Next Steps**

**Note:** *This should be discussed with the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator prior to any actions taken.*

**Key Red Flag Issues 1:****Recommended Next Steps 1:****Key Red Flag Issues 2:****Recommended Next Steps 2:**

### III. Checklist for Disaster Preparedness

**Note:** This is ***NOT*** to be used as a questionnaire or survey but rather as a reminder of key human rights issues to consider during preparedness planning and to identify potential human rights violations (“Red Flags”).

#### Protection of Life, Security, Physical Integrity and Dignity

##### Security:

1. Are there indications/reports/evidence that the following is occurring during non-disaster periods:
  - Killing of civilians, forced displacement<sup>a</sup>, aggression against civilians, destruction of housing, land and property, torture and/or arbitrary arrest?
  - Sexual violence, domestic abuse, people trafficking<sup>b</sup>, forced prostitution and/or slavery?
2. Have appropriate mechanisms to address human rights violations been established at national and local levels?
3. Has human rights training been provided to relevant disaster response personnel (national and local authorities, police, chiefs, community leaders, civil society, army, etc.)?

##### National Disaster Management Plans:

4. Do adequate government policies related to disaster risk management exist and are they enforced?
5. Does an integrated National Disaster Management Plan exist? Does it have clearly defined and appropriate roles and responsibilities for:
  - Varying levels of government (local and national)?
  - Community and Tribal Leaders?

- Civil society?
  - Relevant responding agencies (e.g. Red Cross society, UN(DAC))?
6. Are these roles and responsibilities well understood both by relevant organizations as well as by local communities and are they adequately resourced (with financial as well as human resources)?
  7. Have all relevant stakeholders (including local authorities, community and tribal leaders as well as vulnerable groups<sup>e</sup>) actively contributed to the development of disaster risk management policy?
  8. Has detailed participatory hazard risk mapping as well as vulnerability and capacity assessments been done? Has this information been proactively provided to at-risk communities<sup>g</sup> and planners?

#### **Early Warning:**

9. In areas at risk of natural disasters, do effective early warning/early action systems exist?
10. Do early warning systems take into account:
  - Demographics of the target audience?
  - Specific needs of different vulnerable groups?
  - Gender characteristics of the target audience?
  - Relevant traditional and indigenous knowledge?
  - Cultural characteristics of the target audience?
  - Livelihood characteristics of the target audience?

#### **Information and Training:**

11. Have at-risk communities been provided with accurate and easy to understand information regarding:
  - Nature and scale of the potential disasters they may face?
  - Possible risk mitigation measures that can be taken (such as improving drainage, constructing



flood protection, improving health and nutrition, improved vaccination, etc.)?)

- Early warning information?
- Evacuation plans/locations?
- Where to access basic services in the event of a disaster?

12. Has awareness-raising and, where required, have training/simulations been undertaken (national, local and community level)?

**Comments:**

## Protection of Rights Related to Basic Necessities of Life

### Contingency and Response Plans:

1. Do contingency and response plans take into account:
  - Considerations of gender, culture, etc?
  - Special attention to all vulnerable groups?
  - Trauma counseling, if required and appropriate?
  - Health needs of women as well as victims of sexual and other abuses?
2. Do they include appropriate procedures to prevent contagious and infectious diseases, including HIV, amongst an affected population?
3. Do basic services providers (hospitals, clinics, police, schools, etc) have their own contingency plans to ensure continued activity in the event of a disaster?

**Comments:****Protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights****Risk Assessments:**

1. Have the following been integrated into local level disaster risk management policy and programmes:
  - Religious and/or cultural traditions/ considerations?
  - Issues related to informal and/or non-permanent housing?
  - Specific disaster-prone areas (including mountain, coastal flood plain, etc.)?
2. Are disaster risk assessments a part of both urban and rural planning and management?

**Land, Housing and Property:**

3. Are there any outstanding issues regarding land ownership (both traditional and modern)?
4. Is there an independent dispute resolution mechanism in place to deal with any land ownership issues?
5. Are appropriate legal frameworks in place to protect the rights of women and children, including as relates to land and housing?

**Reconstruction:**

6. Do building codes and standards exist and are they effectively enforced or practiced?

7. Does essential infrastructure meet hazard-resistant standards (if they exist)?

**Compensation:**

8. Do policies and processes for issuing compensation (cash, in-kind) exist and are at-risk communities aware of them?
9. Are structures in place to identify compensation criteria and oversee compensation distribution, if needed?
10. Does this include structures for judicial review in cases of dispute?

**Finances:**

11. Do financial controls and systems of accountability exist for relief and reconstruction funds?
12. Are special disaster funds (national/local levels), including clear and transparent financial mechanisms for disbursement and/or sufficient stockpiles in place?

**Comments:**

## Protection of Civil and Political Rights

### Documentation:

1. Are policies and mechanisms in place to rapidly issue temporary or replacement documentation, if needed?

### Tracing:

2. Are mechanisms in place to re-establish contacts between separated family members and/or track locations of missing relatives, if needed?

### Complaints Mechanism:

3. Have effective mechanisms been established for individuals and communities to raise complaints or grievances on response/recovery activities, if needed?

**Comments:**

## **Key Red Flag Issues**

**(as identified through the checklist):**

**Note:** *Identified human rights issues (including topics where more information is required) should be flagged to the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator for further analysis, and possibly, further action*

## **Recommended Next Steps**

**Note:** *This should be discussed with the Disaster Manager/Team Leader/Resident Coordinator prior to any actions taken.*

### **Key Red Flag Issues 1:**

### **Recommended Next Steps 1:**

### **Key Red Flag Issues 2:**

### **Recommended Next Steps 2:**

**Key Red Flag Issues 3:**

**Recommended Next Steps 3:**

**Key Red Flag Issues 4:**

**Recommended Next Steps 4:**

## Companion Note on Vulnerability

In humanitarian situations, vulnerability is often described as the extent to which individuals/groups are susceptible to loss, damage, suffering or death due to the impact of a natural disaster. This can be physical, social, economic, political, legal, technical, cultural, educational, etc. In other words, vulnerability is created by the (potential) exposure to hazards and risks and the degree to which an individual or group can avoid, cope with or protect itself against the harmful impacts of factors that disrupt their lives and that are beyond their immediate control, such as sudden impact disasters (earthquakes, cyclones) or slow on-set disasters (drought).

A rights-based approach to vulnerability focuses on how discrimination and stigma can make individuals, families, groups, communities and/or populations vulnerable to human rights violations (including for example; violence, exclusion, gender discrimination, unequal (or no) access to water, food, housing, health care, education, etc.). Individuals or groups are not inherently vulnerable (or marginalized or disadvantaged), rather their vulnerability is caused by societal factors: discrimination and stigma. Vulnerable groups could include some of the following: children and youths, the disabled, elderly, ethnic or religious groups, host communities, people living with HIV, women and girls, sexual minorities, single parent households, survivors of violence, etc.

Natural disasters may render individuals and groups vulnerable to human rights violations, or may exacerbate vulnerabilities that existed prior to the natural disaster. Vulnerable groups and/or vulnerable individuals often face multiple vulnerabilities. Be mindful that within each vulnerable group, individuals or sub-groups can have different levels and types of vulnerability.

Potentially Vulnerable Group	Contributing Factors	Examples of Possible Preventive/ Protective Measures
<p><b>Children and youths - persons below 18 (including unaccompanied minors)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation (even by extended family).</li> <li>• Can be hidden/invisible population.</li> <li>• May have difficulty accessing services without an adult.</li> <li>• Can be more at risk for malnutrition, health complications, disease outbreaks and physical impacts of disasters (e.g. flooding, heat, cold).</li> <li>• Disruption to education.</li> <li>• Exclusion from participation and decision-making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only where children are unable to be cared for by extended family/ community should special measures be put in place.</li> <li>• Ensure continuity and stability of care.</li> <li>• Ensure mechanisms in place for supplementary feeding, etc. if needed.</li> <li>• Vaccinations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disabled</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited mobility.</li> <li>• Difficulty accessing goods and services.</li> <li>• Social exclusion, stigmatization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure access is assured to basic goods and services including access for disabled children to schooling or home visits.</li> <li>• Consideration for rehabilitation services.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Elderly</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited mobility.</li> <li>• Difficulty accessing goods and services.</li> <li>• Most at risk are those living alone or caring for children.</li> <li>• Can constitute significant proportion of displaced population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider elderly in supplementary feeding programmes if needed.</li> <li>• Consideration of elderly in type of rations and site-layout.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethnic and/or religious groups and/or outcast groups</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May have restricted access or face discrimination even under normal conditions.</li> <li>• Exacerbated if move onto land/cities of other ethnic/religious groups.</li> <li>• These could be exacerbated as traditional coping mechanisms/community structures disrupted and if tensions between these and other IDPs or host communities rise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider whether can integrate into wider displaced population or whether special care/ assistance needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Host Communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance provided to IDPs could create severe differences in standard of living of IDPs vs host communities (i.e. host</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure needs-based assistance also available for host communities.</li> <li>• Ensure participation and consultation</li> </ul>

<b>Potentially Vulnerable Group</b>	<b>Contributing Factors</b>	<b>Examples of Possible Preventive/ Protective Measures</b>
<b>Host Communities (cont'd)</b>	<p>communities may have lower baseline of services than those now provided to displaced community).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could create pull factor from non-affected communities into displaced camps.</li> <li>• Could create tensions between host communities and IDPs.</li> <li>• Added burden of caring for IDPs can stretch household coping mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<p>with both host community and displaced community as early as possible.</p>
<b>Migrant workers and other internally rotating workers and their families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often not citizens in affected country and/or members of affected communities - therefore may have difficulty getting registered and/or accessing assistance through some channels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure registration and/or distribution of assistance covers all affected population without discrimination.</li> </ul>

<p><b>People living with HIV (PLHIV)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At greater risk of physical deterioration, vulnerable to illness. Limited health care services impact more heavily.</li> <li>• Social exclusion, stigmatization.</li> <li>• Difficulty obtaining privacy/confidentiality of condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure access is assured to basic goods and services.</li> <li>• Access to medication (ARV).</li> <li>• Ensure confidential access to health care if required.</li> <li>• May involve special dietary and/or health requirements.</li> <li>• Awareness-raising regarding transmission and against stigmatization.</li> <li>• Condom distribution.</li> <li>• Prevention of mother-child transmission.</li> <li>• Support groups for PLHIV.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural/urban poor</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can live in disaster prone areas (landslide, flood plains, etc.), or overcrowded conditions with poor access to basic services.</li> <li>• Minimal coping capacities prior to disaster.</li> <li>• May have no (recorded) legal entitlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure consideration in disaster management plans and decision-making processes.</li> <li>• Inform about local hazards and adjust means of communication to reach target group.</li> </ul>

Potentially Vulnerable Group	Contributing Factors	Examples of Possible Preventive/Protective Measures
<p><b>Sexual minorities as a factor of vulnerability (for example: Fa'afafine, Fakeleiti, gay, transgender, lesbian)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of discrimination, ostracism, violence.</li> <li>• Changes in traditional roles and respect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider specific measures to ensure safety and security.</li> <li>• Include sexual minorities in decision making.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Single-parent households</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most are female headed.</li> <li>• Vulnerable to harassment and exploitation.</li> <li>• Pressure from extended families.</li> <li>• Complications with inheritances for widows and/or marital breakdowns.</li> <li>• May be exposed to pressure attached to provision of goods and services.</li> <li>• Difficulty taking time from child care to access basic services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include women in decision making structures.</li> <li>• Encourage community structures that assist single parent households.</li> <li>• Set up child care facilities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Survivors of Violence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental and physical health problems.</li> <li>• Social exclusion/ stigmatization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidential services for survivors.</li> <li>• Appropriate legal and medical support and services.</li> <li>• Increased security in camp situations (site lay-out, lighting, committees to collect firewood, water, etc.).</li> <li>• Community sensitization.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Women (including female-headed households, widows, single women, girls)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse, sexual discrimination and restricted access to basic services.</li> <li>• Can face issues of discrimination related to land inheritance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include women in decision making structures (camp management, etc.).</li> <li>• Be aware of adverse impacts if this challenges the status quo.</li> <li>• Encourage community protection structures which protect women against all forms of abuse.</li> <li>• Literacy programmes.</li> <li>• Ensure assessment takes into account needs of women and girls' needs, including health needs of mothers and children.</li> </ul>

## END NOTES

- a Forced displacement occurs when individuals/families/communities are forced to leave their current residence due to the actions, orders or threats of authorities, armed groups, other communities, etc. (i.e. displacement that is not directly due to the natural disaster itself).
- b Trafficking of people is the taking and/or movement of people against their will with the purpose of selling them (or their organs), or placing them into forced employment.
- c Affected population refers to those people directly affected by the current disaster including displaced, non-displaced persons, as well as host communities, where relevant.
- d This could include emergency procedures in case of fire or evacuation, adequate lighting, official guards, security teams organized by the displaced, etc. Safety and security requirements will likely be different for different groups (for example, women and children will likely have specific safety and security requirements). Therefore, specific attention should be paid to the specific safety and security needs of vulnerable groups, including women and children.
- e Vulnerability is the extent to which individuals/groups are susceptible to loss, damage, suffering or death due to the impact of a natural disaster. This can be physical, social, economic, political, legal, technical, cultural, educational, etc. Various groups are not inherently vulnerable. However, groups can become vulnerable due to evolving circumstances. Vulnerability can be exacerbated by disaster and resultant displacement. Vulnerable groups could include some of the following: children, the disabled, elderly, ethnic or religious groups, host communities, people living with HIV, women and girls, sexual minorities, single parent households, survivors of violence, etc. See Companion Note on Vulnerability for further details.
- f Non-discriminatory means that individuals/groups are not treated differently, negatively or adversely because of their race, age, religion, sex, etc.,
- g Those communities living in areas identified as high risk, disaster and/or conflict prone.

<b>Accessibility</b>	Granted without discrimination and can be physically accessed by those in need. Gender and child sensitive.
<b>Affordability</b>	Those in need can afford rent or payment required for shelter.
<b>Habitability</b>	Shelter is of sufficient quality and robustness (including for potential future hazards).
<b>Security of tenure</b>	Includes assurance that populations will not be evicted or repeatedly moved without reason and appropriate notice.
<b>Cultural adequacy</b>	Shelter adheres to cultural requirements (form, structure, location).
<b>Suitability of location</b>	Shelter site does not submit populations to undue health and/or safety risk, including from existing and/or potential future hazards.
<b>Access to essential services</b>	Shelter is located in places which have access to basic services such as water and food, etc. as well as schools, livelihoods, markets, etc. Cultural, child and gender sensitive.

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