

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This study investigates the response and recovery measures implemented by the Thulamela Local Municipality, Limpopo, during the 1999/2000 floods in the area. Floods pose a disaster risk to inhabitants of Thulamela.

The researcher adopted a qualitative research method to investigate the municipality's response and recovery measures and assessed its effectiveness, weaknesses and failures. The study took the form of interviews and observations wherein respondents were questioned on the capacity of the municipality's response and recovery. All respondents agreed that the municipality was not capacitated in various ways to respond effectively to the flood disaster.

The researcher analysed the causal factors of the disaster with reference to the Pressure And Release (PAR) model. This was important to identify the community's vulnerabilities and capacities to cope with the floods with the aim of evaluating the response and recovery of the Thulamela Local Municipality.

The analysis revealed that the prevailing vulnerabilities during the floods were rooted in various factors, ranging from poverty, lack of infrastructure, lack of knowledge and other factors as depicted by the stages of the PAR model. These stages are the root causes, dynamic pressures and unsafe conditions. However, these causal factors resulted from individual, municipal and national government's mistakes.

The study led to recommendations that the municipality can consider implementing measures with a view to mitigating the effects of future floods. The recommendations propose an integrated approach, which focuses on disaster risk reduction.