

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new Act on Disaster Management has been introduced in South Africa that have shifted the focus of Disaster Management to a more pro-active approach in many municipalities. The Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, states that all Municipalities should provide for: “An integrated and co-ordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters and post disaster recovery”.

Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) is an approach which aims to reduce local disaster risks through the application of participatory assessment and planning methods. It is a practical bridging strategy to integrate local development efforts on one hand with strategies that reduce the impact of priority disaster risks on the other. It is a process in which at-risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risks in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their capacities. This means that people are at the heart of decision-making and implementation of disaster risk management activities. Community-based disaster risk assessment provides the community and support role-players with disaster risk specific baseline data that can be integrated into CoT Disaster Risk management Plan for development planning purposes. It is important to identify the communities that are at risk of any disasters and to introduce risk reduction programs and strategies to ensure that any foreseeable disasters and their impacts on the community are limited as much as possible. It is thus important that a community-based hazards and vulnerability assessment be conducted with the goal of building a resilient community for the City of Tshwane. The Act thus, gives explicit priority to the application on the principle of co-operative governance for the purpose of disaster risk management and emphasizes the involvement of all stakeholders in strengthening the capabilities of national, provincial and municipal organs of state to reduce the likelihood and severity of disasters. The main objective of the research is to gather all available information on identified hazards and the assessment of the community vulnerability and its capacity to cope or deal with these hazards in Lusaka informal settlement and to use this information to perform a communitybased hazard and vulnerability assessment framework as well as the development of risk profile for Lusaka.

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The purpose of this study is to develop a community-based hazard and vulnerability framework using the progression of vulnerability model to identify the root causes (problems) and the underlying pressures within Lusaka informal settlement's community. The information provided in this study was intended to assist in identifying hazards and vulnerabilities thereby building a disaster resilient community by sharing local hazards and also establishing community structures. Combining the results of the theoretical framework and research findings with the argument constructed in the dissertation about the community-based disaster risk management; it was found that it is possible to reduce hazard risks, and vulnerability to disasters, through the application of the “Progression of Safety” model and the participation of the community in disaster risk management activities.

The Pressure and Release model (PAR model) is introduced in this research as a simple tool to assist in up-rooting the problems underlying the Lusaka community and part of the research project for showing how disasters occur when natural hazards affect vulnerable people. Their vulnerability is rooted in social processes and underlying causes which may ultimately be quite remote from the disaster event itself. This model is successfully utilized to set the parameters for the community-based hazard and vulnerability Framework as proposed. The “Progression of Safety” model provides a much wider scope for the application of risk reduction strategies as what are usually instituted in disaster risk reduction measures and strategies. This research is

not only focusing on measures pertaining to hazard and vulnerability reduction and the provision of safer living conditions, but also analyzed ways in addressing the root cause, reducing the dynamic pressures, namely better service delivery for utilities such as Health, Water and Sanitation, Road & Stormwater and Electricity.

It is evident that the CBDRM involves undertaking precautionary and timely measures to minimize the effects of hazards and vulnerabilities on the community. This approach is therefore people-centred in nature require full co-operation and effective participation of the “At Risk” communities in their planning and implementation of this process. Community-based hazard and vulnerability assessment is therefore important for developmental programs and projects of any municipality in order to realize their developmental agenda in line with the City of Tshwane Disaster Management Framework and the Disaster Management Plan level 1.

The researcher concludes the research thesis by suggesting recommendations for the CoT to implement the CBDRM framework for the sake of the community and also assisting them to
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identify local hazards and vulnerabilities so that the CoT can review and update their Disaster Management Plan level 1. The researcher further more highlighted that community-based disaster risk management theory and its application are relevant for the study, as it emphasizes the conscious and participatory application of integrated measures in order to achieve identified objectives for the betterment of the lives of affected communities.

Recommendations were then made to the City of Tshwane on the application of communitybased disaster risk management approach in hazard and vulnerability assessments, that should provide the municipality with a cost effective and scientific method of addressing Disaster Risk Management related functions.

Disaster risk reduction measures must be enforced within communities and municipalities through the use of excellent community-based hazard and vulnerability assessment and thus mitigations strategies. The successes in the implementation of these measures lie in the communities’ physical, social, economic and political structures. These structures should be carefully analyzed and disaster risk reduction measures should be done in a way that minimizes the constraints found within these structures (relating to disasters), while strengthening local resources with the aim of achieving safe and healthy environments which is also in line with the City of Tshwane ‘safer City policy’.