



**DRAFT**

BUILDERS APPROACH ON HOW TO INCREASE  
RESILIENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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# REDUCING VULNERABILITY

BuildERS is an EU funded research and innovation project that aims to increase the resilience of European communities against both natural- and human-made disasters. We hope to reduce vulnerabilities through improved social capital and risk awareness of citizens in the face of the increased use of new technologies and media platforms. This document is a sneak peek at some of the policy recommendations that have emerged from our work. As our work is ongoing, these recommendations are subject to change.

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How can we make people less affected by hardship and injury during disasters? BuildERS research shows that most countries' vulnerability assessments rely on static categories, thereby missing parts of the population. We call for a paradigm shift in understanding vulnerability as a changing condition, depending on the individual, their social environment, their physical environment, and the nature of the disaster. All BuildERS recommendations involve the meaningful use of 'intermediaries' (care givers, volunteers, NGO staff) in developing new policies.

## REDUCING VULNERABILITY

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### *Local Recommendation*

## Take a broader view of vulnerability in disaster planning

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Disaster planning should take a **broader view of what constitutes vulnerability**, including individual (e.g. mental health), group (e.g. community cession), and disaster-specific issues (e.g. electrical outages in low-income areas). They should also recognize that **vulnerability is a changing -- not permanent – condition**. The **Vulnerability Assessment Tool** developed by the BuildERS project can be a helpful starting point.



### *National Recommendation*

## Publish national guidelines on vulnerability

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Publish **national guidelines** to assist local authorities in taking a broader view of what constitutes vulnerability, and how vulnerability changes. This includes considering how national policies related to urban-planning, family support, social integration, and other welfare-oriented policies, can reduce or increase vulnerability during disasters. The **BuildERS Vulnerability Assessment Tool** can be a helpful starting point.



### *EU Recommendation*

## Develop a framework of ethical principles for better engagement

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Through its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, the Commission could develop a framework for **ethical principles for involving representatives of vulnerable people** in vulnerability assessments and wider emergency preparedness activities.

For more information, please see our website, where all of our publications are available for download: <https://buildersproject.eu/results>

