

Key Terminology

Disaster – extreme events that normally cause some form of loss of life and/or damage to the built environment and create severe disruption to human activities.

Disaster displacement – residents forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes for a range of reasons such as natural disasters, civil strife or conflict.

Earthquake - a sudden and violent shaking of the ground, sometimes causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust.

Liquefaction – the process by which ground shaking causes water-saturated sediment to temporarily lose strength and act as a fluid. This can lead to subsidence and ground siltation.

Mega-city - a metropolitan area with a total population in excess of 10 million people

Non-Government Organisation (NGO) – any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organised on a local, national or international level and independent of government influence (although they may receive government funding).

Object Elicitation - a qualitative research method based on the use of visual materials, photography, video, artefacts or other objects, which help interviewees to make sense of, or express, experiences and emotions which may be difficult to articulate in a formal / traditional interview.

Post-disaster return migration – the movement of people back to their original dwelling or a new location following displacement due to a natural disaster.

Vulnerability – the potential for losses or other adverse impacts. People, buildings, ecosystems and human activities threatened with a disaster are vulnerable.