

Vulnerability assessments

Vulnerability assessments are the basic tool for designing and implementing effective preventive and corrective measure to protect water and sanitation systems from natural disasters

Objective:

To identify the systems components exposed to natural hazards and estimate the likelihood of damage

Uncontrolled population growth in urban areas, deficient infrastructure and, above all, the siting of systems components in high risk areas have increased the frequency of disasters and the magnitude of the damage, turning into a very real threat to public health and development

Knowledge of the hazards prevalent in the area makes it possible to determine the physical, operational and administrative deficiencies of water and sanitation systems in order to apply the mitigation and prevention measures needed to reduce possible damage

What is required to carry out a vulnerability assessment ?

Information required:

- ▶ Characteristics of the hazards
- ▶ Location of the various components
- ▶ Physical description of the systems components
- ▶ Information about the utility company, such as organizational structure, standards, and available resources

Best approach:

- ▶ Interdisciplinary team-work
- ▶ Identification of critical components
- ▶ Setting of priorities regarding prevention and mitigation measures
- ▶ Awareness of difficulties in physically reaching certain components

