



## Introduction

This note presents a selection of key terminologies for natural hazards and the linkage to the notion of risk. The terminologies are derived from the basic definitions of the [UNISDR Terminologies on disaster risk reduction](#) and contextualized to the Rohingya camps.

### Disaster

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

### Hazard

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socionatural in origin. **Natural hazards** are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena. Hazards may be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects.

Note:

Main natural hazards affecting the camps include geophysical and hydrometeorological processes such as landslides, floods (in particular flash floods and waterlogging), wind and storm surges (the two latter ones in particular in relation with tropical cyclones). Other natural hazards such as earthquakes, biological and environmental hazards are currently not specifically addressed by the NatHaz TF.

### Exposure

The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.

Note:

Measures of exposure can include the number of people or types of assets in an area. These can be combined with the specific vulnerability and capacity of the exposed elements to any particular hazard to estimate the quantitative risks associated with that hazard in the area of interest.

### Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

### Capacity

The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.

## Risk

The potential loss of life, injury, destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time. Risk is determined **probabilistically** as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

### Note:

The easiest expression of risk is function of hazard and exposure; e.g. number or percentage of people and assets associated to a particular hazard or multiple hazards in the area of interest. However, this simplification implies that vulnerability and capacity are invariables for the selected people and assets.

## Acceptable risk

The extent to which a risk is deemed acceptable or tolerable depending on existing social, economic, political, cultural, technical and environmental conditions.

## Residual risk

The risk that remains even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.