

USING THE “CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITY”

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Thank you for your interest in testing the *Characteristics of a Disaster-resilient Community*. We would welcome your views on its usefulness, as well as information about how you have used it.

The *Characteristics* document is a resource, not a manual. It is designed to support processes of community mobilisation and partnerships. Users can select relevant information and ideas from it to support their field work, according to their needs and priorities.

The *Characteristics* can be used for a variety of purposes in field work, training and research. These include pre-project planning and assessment, risk and vulnerability assessments, training courses and orientation, monitoring and evaluation, capacity-building, as a framework for research and as a tool for advocacy. The document gives some ideas on this, but it is up to the user to decide how best to apply the *Characteristics*.

A revised version of the *Characteristics* will be published for the second session of the UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009. In addition to an updated set of resilience tables, it will contain a new section on ways of using the *Characteristics* – we rely on your feedback to help us write this.

All feedback is welcome. Even if you can only send a short response, please do so as this will help to make the *Characteristics* more useful to communities, field workers, teachers and researchers.

To help the feedback process, we have designed a template highlighting the types of information that would be useful to us (see the next page) in giving guidance about applications of the *Characteristics*, and in providing some case studies of different kinds of application. The template is simple: just a few headings with some explanation – and you can write as little or as much as you are able. Please send us copies of any relevant documents, pictures, videos, etc.

If you would like to see some examples of case studies that have already been written, please ask.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR FEEDBACK

This format is designed to provide feedback that will be useful to the *Characteristics* initiative, but it will not work equally well for every type of application and you may use different headings or structures if you prefer.

Even if you do not have time to write much, please write something! Every bit of information will be useful to us in improving the *Characteristics* for future users. Responses in note form or bullet points are fine.

Suggested structure:

1. **Title:** one line, summarising the application.
2. Short **introduction**, including information on date and place of application, and who was involved in the activity.
3. **Purpose** for which the Characteristics were being applied.
4. The **method(s)** you used. Please give as much practical information as you can about the process you went through, as this will help others who want to try a similar approach.
5. **Results** or outcomes of the exercise.
6. **Outputs**, if relevant (e.g. project proposals, evaluation reports) – please attach any outputs.
7. **Lessons** learnt – about the Characteristics themselves, and the way you have used them.
8. **Conclusions** or final thoughts.

Please send your feedback to John Twigg (j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk)

Thank you for your help!