

Glossary

Term	Definition
"explode" search	Exploding a search term means that the search will retrieve all references indexed to that term, as well as all references indexed to any narrower terms.
7P framework	Framework to help identify relevant stakeholders: (1) patients and the public; (2) providers; (3) purchasers; (4) payers; (5) policy makers; (6) product makers; and (7) principal investigators.
active surveillance	Closely watching a patient or population but without giving any intervention unless their condition worsens.
activities of daily living (ADL)	Things normally done in daily living, including any activity for self-care such as feeding, bathing, dressing, grooming, work, homemaking and leisure.
adaptability	Ability of a person or population to change their actions, course or approach to doing things in order to suit a new situation.
advocacy	Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.
advocacy research	Research that is conducted with the intention of providing evidence and arguments that can be used to support a particular cause or position.
agent-based model	Class of computational model for simulating the actions and interactions of autonomous agents (both individual or collective entities such as organizations or groups) with a view to assessing their effects on the system as a whole.
age-specific mortality rate	Mortality rate for a particular age group (calculated as the number of deaths in the age group divided by the number of persons in that age group).
All Right? campaign	Health-promoting social marketing campaign based in Ōtautahi, Christchurch, New Zealand.
all-hazards approach	An approach to the management of the entire spectrum of emergency risks and events based on the recognition that there are common elements (and common capacities required) in the management of these risks, including in the responses to virtually all emergencies.

Term	Definition
allocation concealment	Technique used to prevent selection bias in randomized trials by concealing information about which group a participant will be assigned to until after the participants have joined the trial.
antigenicity-stability fitness model	Computational model that estimates the fitness (that is expected growth rate) of viral clade.
artificial intelligence (AI)	The use of computer systems to correctly interpret external data, to learn from it, and to use those learnings to achieve specific goals and tasks.
asset lens	A viewpoint which examines a situation, person, group or organization in terms of its (their) positive attributes or assets which could contribute to a solution. The opposite of an asset lens is a deficit-oriented lens which focuses on problems and limitations.
asset literacy	Consists of four components which include: 1) an understanding of what assets are; 2) the potential contribution of different assets; 3) the extent to which people know how to mobilize or access different types of assets; and 4) possessing self-efficacy and motivation to move from awareness to taking action.
asset mapping	Process of identifying resources and assets within a community to understand its strengths and opportunities which can contribute to resilience and community development.
asset-based approach	An orientation toward looking at a situation or issue in terms of potential resources that can contribute to a solution, or existing systems and structures that can be built on to improve a situation or address the problem. The opposite of an asset-oriented approach is a deficit-oriented approach, which looks at situations or issues in term of vulnerabilities, limitations, problems, or liabilities.
attack rate	Percentage of the population that contracts the disease in an at-risk population during a specified time period.
autoethnography	Form of qualitative research in which an author uses self-reflection and writing to explore anecdotal and personal experience and connect this autobiographical story to wider cultural, political, and social meanings and understandings.
axial coding	Technique in qualitative research that involves relating data together in order to reveal codes, categories, and subcategories ground within participants' voices within one's collected data.
Bayesian network	Type of probabilistic graphical model that uses Bayesian inference for probability computations.

Term	Definition
behavioural change theories	Attempts to explain why behaviours change.
benchmarks	Standards or reference values for indicators that serve as signposts to let the researcher, or other interested people such as policy makers, know what has been achieved or how severe a situation is.
bias	Distortion in the data that can lead to conclusions that are systematically incorrect.
big data	Extremely large datasets that may be analysed to reveal patterns, trends, and associations (for example, in relation to human behaviour and interactions).
blinding	Process of keeping a person's study-group assignment hidden after allocation to minimize bias.
blocked randomization	Method used in randomized trials to ensure that participants with specific characteristics are assigned to different interventions with equal probability.
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Person's weight in kilograms divided by their height in meters squared.
bracketing	Method used in qualitative research to mitigate the potentially deleterious effects of preconceptions that may lead to bias.
burden of disease	Impact of a health problem on, for instance, financial cost, mortality, morbidity, or other indicators.
caliper matching	Technique in which comparison units within a certain width of the propensity score of the intervention units get matched (the width is generally a fraction of the standard deviation of the propensity score)
Call Data Records (CDR)	A call data record – also known as a call detail record – (CDR) provides information about calls made over a phone service. A CDR report contains information related to a telephone call, such as the origin, destination, duration and network.
case fatality rate	A measure of the severity of a disease and defined as the proportion of cases of a specified disease or condition which are fatal within a specified time.
case series	Study that tracks people with a known exposure to determine their outcomes.
case study	Process or record of research for a particular person, population or situation.

Term	Definition
case-control study	Study in which the effect of an exposure is measured by comparing the history of exposure between cases (for example, individuals who have – or die of – the disease) and controls (individuals without – or who do not die of– the disease).
categorical data	Data that can take one of a limited number of values.
cause-specific mortality rate	Mortality rate from a particular cause of death (calculated as the number of deaths from a particular cause divided by the number of persons in the population).
chi-square test	Statistical test that measures how expected data compares to observed data.
circumstantial data	Data on aspects of the circumstances of a person or population that may affect the wider determinants of health, including socio-economic, lifestyle and environmental data.
citizen science	Scientific research conducted, either in whole or in part, by amateur (that is nonprofessional) scientists.
clade	Group of organisms that can be evolutionarily traced back to a common ancestor.
cluster randomized trial	Randomized trial in which the unit of allocation is a group of people, rather than an individual.
cluster sampling	Technique in which potential participants in a study are first assigned to groups (clusters) and the participants are then randomly chosen from within those groups.
coarsened exact matching	Statistical matching technique which temporarily coarsens the data according to the researcher's ideas (for example, the use of coarse age groups rather than exact birth dates).
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)	Online journal/database published by Cochrane (formerly the Cochrane Collaboration) containing Cochrane Reviews and the protocols for these.
Cochrane Review	Systematic review published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.
coding grid	Otherwise known as a coding scheme, this is an organization system for grouping coding labels or categories that will be used to code qualitative data.
cognitive bias	Systematic deviation from norm or rationality in judgment when individuals create their own "subjective reality" from their own perceptions.

Term	Definition
cohort study	Study of a group (cohort) defined by exposure characteristics or a process of recruitment. Outcomes are ascertained and compared in all members of the cohort.
cold-chain	Temperature-controlled supply chain
collective action model	A socio-ecological approach that takes account of the interrelationship between the individual and the environment. The collective action model is based on the view that health is determined largely by factors that operate outside the control of individuals.
collective case	An approach to case study research in which the researcher compares multiple cases (bounded systems) to explore an issue.
collective intelligence	Shared or group intelligence that emerges from the collaboration, collective efforts, and competition of many individuals.
community level assessment	Assessment of disaster risks at the level of the community.
community-based participatory research (CBPR)	A participatory approach to research that focuses on creating social change with a community through collaborative partnerships and shared decision-making.
community-led research (CLR)	Often used interchangeably with community-based participatory research (CBPR).
complexity theory	Study of complexity and of complex systems.
composite index	Index extracting common trends across many variables, which is useful to illustrate complex and elusive issues.
conceptual framework	Analytical tool with several variations and contexts, which can be applied in different categories of work where an overall picture is needed.
confidence interval	Statistical measure of precision for an estimate of a population parameter. Various levels of confidence in the point estimate can be defined, but the 95% confidence interval is commonly used. The interval shows the range of values in which the true value of a parameter should occur 95 times out of 100 if the population of interest is sampled repeatedly.
confounder	Source of error in interpretation, which occurs when the effect of an exposure on an outcome is affected by another exposure, which is correlated with the first exposure.
CONSORT	Guideline for the reporting of randomized trials.

Term	Definition
contact tracing	The identification and follow-up of persons who may have come into contact with an infected person or infectious materials.
continuous data	Data that can take any value within a range.
control chart	Graph used to study how a process changes over time.
controlled before-after study	Study in which outcomes are measured before and after an intervention in a group that receives it and in another group that does not receive the intervention.
convenience sampling	Type of non-probability sampling method where the sample is taken from a group of people who are easy to contact or reach.
core outcome set	Agreed standardized set of outcomes that should be measured and reported, as a minimum, in research in a specific topic area.
cost-benefit analysis	Technique used to calculate a cost-benefit ratio or measure of net-benefit (benefits minus costs).
cost-benefit ratio	Indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed intervention or project.
cost-consequence analysis	Technique used to compare costs and outcomes by placing them in discrete categories.
cost-effectiveness analysis	Technique used to compares costs measured in monetary terms with outcomes measured in natural units.
cost-minimization analysis	Technique used to compare interventions based on costs measured in monetary terms.
cost-utility analysis	Technique used to compare costs measured in monetary terms with consequences measured via a measure of health gain or utility.
counterfactual	Hypothesis about what outcomes would have happened without the action being studied.
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters is a research unit of the University of Louvain, Belgium.
critical appraisal	Process for carefully and systematically examining research to judge its trustworthiness, value and relevance.
critical ethnography	An approach to ethnography (the study of social behaviours of a culture-sharing group) that includes advocacy for marginalized populations, studying issues of inequality, power, and repression.

Term	Definition
cross-sectional study	Observational study that analyses data from a population or a subset at a specific point in time.
crowd creation	A form of crowdsourcing that uses large numbers of people to co-create (such as Threadless).
crowd processing	A form of crowdsourcing that uses large numbers of people to process information independently, which become partially aggregated for quality assurance (such as ReCAPTCHA).
crowd rating	A form of crowdsourcing that uses large numbers of people to vote or provide their opinion (for example, TripAdvisor or Hollywood Stock Exchange).
crowd solving	A form of crowdsourcing that uses a large numbers of people to solve a problem, where the best submission is the 'winner' (such as FoldIt).
crowdsourcing	A method to harness the knowledge, creativity, or sheer manpower of a large number of people at once and can achieve this through crowd creation, crowd processing, crowd rating, or crowd solving.
crude birth rate	Rate of births in a population, calculated as the number of live births multiplied by 1000, divided by the number of people in the mid-interval population.
crude growth rate	Growth in a population, calculated as the crude birth rate minus the crude mortality rate.
crude mortality rate (CMR)	Rate of deaths in a population, calculated as the number of deaths multiplied by 1000, divided by the number of people in the mid-interval population.
curse of dimensionality	Modelling tasks get exponentially harder as the dataset contains too many variables.
Data and Safety Monitoring Board	Independent group of experts who monitor patient safety and treatment effects while a clinical trial is ongoing.
data dictionary	Set of information describing the contents, format, and structure of a database and the relationship between its elements.
data mining	Practice of generating new information by examining large pre-existing databases.
data revolution	The large increase in the volume and types of data that are currently collected by governments, private companies, NGOs, researchers and citizens.
deductive research	Technique for testing a hypothesis based on existing theory.

Term	Definition
deficit-based approach	An orientation toward looking at a situation or issue in terms of vulnerabilities, limitations, problems, or liabilities. The opposite of a deficit-oriented approach is an asset-oriented approach which looks at situations or issues in terms of potential resources that can contribute to a solution or existing systems and structures that can be built on to improve a situation or address the problem.
Delphi study	Technique using a panel of experts to reach a consensus.
demographic data	Data to describe the characteristics of a population (such as age, gender and socio-economic status).
dependent variable	Variable whose value depends on that of another variable.
Desinventar	Tool for generating National Disaster Inventories and constructing databases of damage, losses and effects of disasters.
dialogic/performance analysis	An analytic strategy in narrative research that views narratives as co-constructed. Analysis involves interpreting the story, the context of the story, who is telling the story, and who is the intended audience for the story.
dichotomous data	Data that can take one of two values.
Difference-in-differences	Statistical technique that analyses the differential effect of an intervention and a comparator.
Digital Elevation Model (DEM)	3D representation of terrain.
dimension reduction method	Explain a multivariate dataset using a smaller number of dimensions than the original one.
direct costs	Price that can be directly tied to the production of a specific item or service.
directly affected	People who have suffered injury, illness or other health effects; who were evacuated, displaced or relocated or have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets (United Nations General Assembly 2017).
disability-adjusted life year (DALY)	Population metric of life years lost to disease due to both morbidity and mortality.

Term	Definition
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.
Disaster Health Emergencies Assistance Team (DHEAT)	Team that assist with management of the public health sector in local municipalities affected by a disaster, through information collection, integration, analysis and sharing with fieldworkers.
Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)	Specially trained medical professional teams comprising up to five members, including medical doctors, nurses and logisticians, who are able to work together using a single car.
disaster medical coordinator	Person officially assigned by a prefecture to coordinate the activities of external and internal medical assistance teams.
Disaster Psychiatry Assistance Team (DPAT)	Team to assist psychiatric hospitals and support surge mental health needs in areas affected by a disaster by assessing local psychiatric needs, and collaborating with DMAT and other assistance teams and local psychiatric facilities to provide high quality psychiatric medicine.
disaster risk	The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.
disaster risk reduction	Activities aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.
discount rate	Rate by which a given estimate is "discounted" over time to account for the tendency of individuals to place a lower value on a cost or consequence that occurs in the future, compared to one that occurs immediately—such as receiving a health or financial benefit now versus one of similar value five years in the future.
discounting	Technique in economic analysis in which a lower value is placed on a future cost or consequence compared to an immediate one.
disruption	A disturbance or interruption to social order.

Term	Definition
Distributed Lagged Non-linear Model (DLNM)	A modelling framework that can simultaneously represent non-linear exposure–response dependencies and delayed effects.
dynamic context	An everchanging environment in which complex adaptive systems operate.
dynamic social contact network	Mathematical model that can be used to explain and predict the spread of infectious diseases with the consideration of social contact patterns.
Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS)	The organized mechanism to detect as early as possible any abnormal occurrence or any divergence from the usual or normally observed frequency of phenomena.
ecological fallacy	Misinterpretation of statistical data that occurs when inferences about the nature of individuals are deduced from inferences about the group to which they belong.
ecological study	Study of the effects of risk-modifying factors on outcomes based on populations that are defined geographically or by time period.
economic evaluation	Structured way to evaluate costs and consequences of a programme or policy compared with an alternative course of action.
economic impact study	Study that quantifies the costs and consequences of past or potential events.
effectiveness trial	Study to determine the effects of an intervention when used in routine practice.
efficacy trial	Study to determine the effects of an intervention under ideal circumstances.
electronic bibliographic databases	Online sources of scientific literature.
EM-DAT	Emergency Events Database, which is a free, searchable database of data on disasters, produced by CRED.
Emergency Medical Information System (EMIS)	System used to share real-time information among fieldworkers, headquarters and central government during a disaster.
emergency medical team	Groups of health professionals (doctors, nurses, paramedics, and so on) that treat patients affected by an emergency or disaster.
Emergency Preparedness Resource Inventory	Online tool that can assess the regional supply of critical resources, prepare for incident response, identify deficiencies in services, and support resource acquisition decisions.
emic perspective	A person's own perspective of reality.

Term	Definition
empowerment	A process to make decision-making accessible to populations that are oppressed. This also involves processes that support individuals to see themselves as able and entitled to contribute to decision-making.
endogeneity problem	Problem that arises when something is related to both the dependent and the independent variable.
endogenous switching regression	Technique which allows tests of assumptions about the exogeneity of intervention effects.
epistemological	Relating to the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, and the distinction between justified belief and opinion.
Epitope	Part of an antigen that is recognized by the immune system.
equifinality	Property of allowing or having the same effect or result from different events.
ethical review committee	An independent group that oversees the ethical aspects of a research study.
ethnography	Scientific description of peoples and cultures with their customs, habits, and mutual differences.
ethnomethodology	Sociological analysis that examines how individuals use everyday conversation to construct a common-sense view of the world.
etic scientific perspective	An external, social scientific perspective on reality.
Euclidean distances	Measure of dissimilarity, which is a straight-line distance in the Euclidean space.
evidence gap map	Thematic evidence collection for a particular topic which can be used to identify key gaps in the evidence base which might require new research.
excludability	In an experiment setting, such as a randomized trial or natural experiment, the excludability assumption means that the effects of an exposure or intervention on the outcome depend only on the exposure or intervention itself and not on other features of the experiment. For example, the excludability assumption can be violated if there are asymmetries in intervention group measurements, for instance because of a faulty or miscalibrated instrument being used more frequently in one group than another.
experimental research	Research in which the researcher intervenes to change something and to study the effects of that change.
explanatory trial	Study to determine the effects of an intervention under ideal circumstances.

Term	Definition
exposome	Measure of all the exposures of an individual during their life and how these relate to their health.
ex-post single difference	Comparison in the outcome for an intervention group after the intervention to its baseline value.
exposure	1. The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible assets located in hazard-prone areas; 2. contact of a chemical, physical or biological agent with the outer boundary of an organism (for example, through inhalation, ingestion or dermal [skin] contact).
external validity	Extent to which a study can be generalized to other situations.
facilities and administrative costs	Costs needed to implement daily activities which are not directly a part of the project's primary outcome, such as accounting and information technology. Also referred to as overhead costs.
factor analysis	To explain the covariances or correlations of the observed variables by means of a few common factors.
FAIR principles of data sharing	Principles that state all data should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Resuable.
farmer field school	Group-based learning process that has been used by a number of governments, NGOs, and international agencies to promote integrated pest management.
feasibility	How easy it is to implement the intervention and its related research.
feedback loop	Interconnected loops within a complex adaptive system that provide regulatory information to other components of the system; feedback can be positive or negative.
feng shui	A Chinese system of laws considered to govern spatial arrangement and orientation in relation to the flow of energy (chi), which are taken into account when siting and designing buildings.
field notes	Notes taken by a researcher while conducting their research.
fixed effects model	Statistical model in which the model parameters are fixed or non-random quantities.
flexible spline functions	Functions that are defined piecewise by polynomials.
focus group	Group of people assembled to discuss a particular topic.
forest plot	Graphical display of estimated results from a series of studies along with an overall estimate.

Term	Definition
formative evaluation	Evaluation conducted while a programme is in progress, mainly for improving implementational details.
Fourier terms	Set of orthogonal trigonometric functions (sine and cosine) used to approximate data.
Gantt chart	Bar chart that illustrates a project schedule.
gatekeeper	Person controlling access to a population.
gatekeeper bias	A prejudice that may occur when recruitment is affected by those who connect researchers with potential respondents.
genealogical tree	Record of ancestry and descent.
generalizability	Extent to which the findings of a study can be applied in other situations.
generalized linear model	Flexible generalization of ordinary linear regression that allows for response variables that have error distribution models other than a normal distribution.
geographic information systems	A computer system that incorporates hardware, software, and infrastructure for capturing, manipulating, integrating, interrogating, modelling, analysing, and visualizing all forms of geographically referenced information.
Glaserian grounded theory	A less structured approach to grounded theory (qualitative research methodology that generates theory grounded in data) that uses active coding in data analysis.
Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study	Regional and global research programme of disease burden that assesses mortality and disability from major diseases, injuries and risk factors.
Grading of Recommendations, Development and Evaluation (GRADE)	Methodology to grade the quality of evidence and strength of recommendations in guidelines.
grey literature	Documents produced by organizations outside of the traditional commercial or academic publishing and distribution channels.
grounded theory	Methodology used to construct theories through methodical gathering and analysis of data, using inductive reasoning.
guided discovery	A teaching and learning environment allowing active participation in the discovery of knowledge.

Term	Definition
haemagglutinin	Glycoproteins that cause red blood cells to clump together.
hard-to-reach group	Group of people that is typically under-represented in the planning process or has limited capacity for involvement.
Harvard style	Citation style used in documents, in which partial citations (Smith 2010, for example) are enclosed in parentheses and embedded in the text and the citations are listed in alphabetic order by surname of the first author.
hazard	1. 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; 2. Source of potential harm.
hazmat suit	Personal protective equipment that consists of an impermeable whole-body garment worn as protection against hazardous materials.
Health Belief Model (HBM)	Social psychological health behaviour change model for explaining and predicting health-related behaviours, particularly in relation to the uptake of healthcare services.
Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health-EDRM)	The systematic analysis and management of health risks, posed by actual or potential hazardous events, including emergencies and disasters, through a combination of hazard, exposure and vulnerability reduction to prevent and mitigate risks, preparedness, response, and recovery.
health event data	Data such as the registration of births and deaths, diseases, self-reported health and health activity.
Health Vulnerability Index	Index to indicate the health vulnerability of the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, including three latent factors, namely population status, disease prevention and coping capacity.
Heat Vulnerability Index	Index to indicate the heat vulnerability of areas in London, including nine variables, which are households in rented tenure, households in a flat, population density (persons/hectare), households without central heating, population above 65 years old, population with self-reported health status, receiving any kind of social benefit, single pensioner households and ethnic group.
Heckman sample selection model	Method for estimating regression models which suffer from sample selection bias.

Term	Definition
impact factor	Scientometric value that shows the yearly average number of citations for articles published in a journal in the last two years.
incidence	The number of instances (rate of occurrence) of illness commencing, or of persons falling ill during a given period in a specified population, thus conveying information about the risk of contracting a disease.
incidence rate ratio	Ratio of two incidence rates.
incidence-based YLD	Population metric of life years lost due to morbidity, calculated by multiplying the incidences by their mean duration and cause disability weight
incremental cost-effectiveness ratio	Statistic used in cost-effectiveness analysis to summarize the cost-effectiveness of an intervention, calculated as the difference in cost between two possible interventions, divided by the difference in their effect.
independent variable	Variable whose variation does not depend on that of another variable.
indirect (overhead) costs	Costs that are not directly accountable to a cost object (for example, in research these may be costs for the institution).
indirectly affected	People who have suffered consequences other than, or in addition to, direct effects, over time. These may be due to disruption or changes in economy, critical infrastructure, basic services, commerce or work, and include social, health and psychological consequences.
inductive research	A 'bottom-up' approach to inquiry that involves building theories based on observation and analysis of data gathered in the field.
infant mortality rate	Rate of deaths of children under 1 year of age in a population, calculated as the number of these deaths multiplied by 1000, divided by the number of live births during the same period.
influenza clade	Group of virus strains that are believed to comprise of evolutionary descendants of a common virus ancestor.
information bias	Bias arising from measurement error.
informed consent	Process by which a person agrees to join a study having been informed about, and understood, its purpose.
institutional review board (IRB)	Administrative body that protects the rights and welfare of participants in research activities conducted under the auspices of the institution.

Term	Definition
Instrumental Activities for Daily Living (IADL)	Activities that allow a person to live independently in a community.
instrumental variable	A third variable used in regression analysis when the dependent and independent variables are influenced by each other.
intercept dummy	A binary variable that can take values of either 0 or 1 to split the sample into two distinct groups for the absence (=0) or presence (=1) of a dichotomous characteristic (such as Female/Male), allowing the fitted value of the dependent variable to differ by a constant amount.
interconnectivity	An attribute of complex adaptive systems where the component parts are loosely or tightly coupled with one another, adding to the complexity of the system.
internal validity	Extent to which an individual study can answer the research question.
Internally Displaced Person (IDP)	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to, avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.
International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)	Globally used tool to categorize diseases.
Internet of Things (IoT)	System of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.
interpretivist paradigm	A worldview that sees knowledge, meaning and truth as subjective and multiple. It is a qualitative research paradigm applied to the exploration of social phenomenon and human experience.
interquartile range	Measure of statistical dispersion, being equal to the difference between 75th and 25th percentiles.
interrupted time series	Research design that collects observations at multiple time points before and after an intervention or exposure, which attempts to detect whether it has had an effect significantly greater than the underlying trend.
intersectionality	Interconnected nature of social categorizations (such as race, class, and gender) as they apply to a person or population.

Term	Definition
interval data	Data measured on a scale in which the points are equal distances apart.
intra-cluster correlation coefficient	Measure of the relatedness, or similarity, of clustered data.
intrinsic	An “intrinsic case study” is an approach to case study research in which the researcher intends to look at the case itself because the subject is unusual or unique.
iterative logic model	Logic models that are adapted at any point in the research or evaluation study to reflect findings or new knowledge.
Japan Disaster Rehabilitation Assistance Team (JRAT)	Team to assist, in particular, older people and people with disability from the very early phase of evacuation.
judgemental sampling	Sampling based on the opinion of an expert.
kernel matching	A non-parametric matching estimator that uses weighted averages of all units in the comparison group to identify the closest match to each treated unit creating the nearest comparison in terms of propensity score.
key informant interview	Qualitative in-depth interviews with people with relevant knowledge or expertise.
life-years gained	Additional number of years of life that a person lives as a result of receiving a treatment.
Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)	Method for measuring distances by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the reflection with a sensor.
Likert scale	Rating scale used to measure attitudes or opinions on a linear scale with respondents asked to choose one from a number of values.
line list	Table that summarizes information about persons who may be associated with a disease outbreak.
local area treatment effect (LATE)	Average effect of an intervention among a specific subset of people.
Local Tree Shape	Genealogical tree-based model, estimated recent clade growth from information stored in the local shape of a haemagglutinin genealogical tree.
logframe (logical framework)	Array of different approaches to mapping a process.
logic model	Hypothesized description of the chain of causes and effects.
logical framework (logframe)	Array of different approaches to mapping a process.

Term	Definition
logistic (logit) regression	Statistical model that uses a logistic function to model a binary dependent variable.
logit (logistic) regression	Statistical model that uses a logistic function to model a binary dependent variable.
longitudinal study	Study that follows participants over time.
machine learning algorithm	The act of building a mathematical model based on sample data in order to make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed to do so. This can also be described as predictive analytics.
machine science	The use of advanced computational techniques to generate data analytics, hypotheses and develop models.
machine-readable format	Structured data in a format that can be processed by a computer.
macroeconomic impacts	Impact on the economy as a whole.
market resources	Commodities that are traded for money and have a defined price.
masking	Process of keeping a person's study-group assignment hidden after allocation to minimize bias.
mean	Most common measure of central tendency, calculated by the dividing the sum total of all observations by the number of records.
measure of net benefit	Benefits minus costs.
median	Middle value in a distribution of values.
member-checking	Technique used in qualitative research in which the participants check the findings.
MeSH	Controlled vocabulary for the purpose of indexing journal articles and books in the life sciences.
meta-analysis	Statistical combination of data from a series of studies (usually in a systematic review) to obtain a summary effect estimate.
methodological search filters	Search strategies designed to help people search the literature for studies of a particular design.
middle-range theory	Theory connecting high-level sociological theories with empirical knowledge.
mid-interval population	Estimate of the size of a population, calculated by adding together the number of people in the population at the start of the period of observation and the number at the end, and dividing this by 2.

Term	Definition
minimization	Technique used to allocate participants to their intervention group in a randomized trial which seeks to balance participant characteristics across groups.
mixed method matrix	A technique using a table to summarize and display the qualitative and quantitative data for a given case for integration during analysis; it enables researchers to view more information about the case during analysis.
mixed methods research	Research that uses both qualitative and quantitative methods.
mode	Observation or value that appears most frequently in a set of data.
Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)	Process designed to identify strategic humanitarian priorities during the first weeks following an emergency.
multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA)	Analysis that combines findings from economic studies with additional decision-making factors.
munted	Before the 2010-2011 earthquakes in Canterbury, New Zealand, munted referred to an intoxicated person or something that was broken, but the word came to symbolize the way in which individuals interpreted and expressed their experiences of the post-disaster city.
mutation	Change in the genetic sequence (DNA/RNA).
narrative exposure therapy	Short-term psychological treatment strategy focusing on the management of trauma-spectrum disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) using a narrative approach.
narrative research	A type of qualitative research methodology that explores people's experiences as told in the form of stories from one or more individuals of interest.
narrative systematic review	Systematic review in which each included study is discussed, but without a synthesis of their overall results.
National Disaster Inventory (or Registry)	National system for understanding disaster risk that would act as the central repository of all publicly available risk information.
natural hazard	Hazards that are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena.
natural language processing	Subfield of linguistics, computer science, information engineering and artificial intelligence concerned with the interactions between computers and human languages.
nearest neighbour matching	Matching that pairs a given point with another, closest point.

Term	Definition
nearest-neighbour algorithm	Non-parametric method used for classification and regression.
Nelder-Mead simplex method	Statistical technique used to find the minimum or maximum of an objective function in a multidimensional space.
net benefit	Measure of the benefits minus the costs (including negative consequences) of an action or event.
Neyman–Rubin potential outcomes model	Statistical analysis of cause and effect based on the framework of potential outcomes.
non-interference assumption	The independence of the effects of an exposure or intervention across participants in an experiment setting. The non-interference assumption is met when the outcome of one participant only depends on whether they received the exposure or intervention or not, and not on the assignment to the exposure or intervention or factors related to other participants in the study.
non-linearity	An attribute of complex adaptive systems where the interconnected components of systems have asymmetrical relationships; when a fluctuation happens in one component of the system, it results in unpredictable fluctuations in other parts of the system which are connected.
non-market resources	Commodities that are not traded for money and do not have a defined price.
non-probability sampling	Use of a subset of the population to represent the whole population.
non-response bias	Bias when respondents differ from non-respondents.
observational study	Study to measure the effect of an intervention or exposure by observing the participants in their natural setting.
odds ratio	Ratio of the odds that an event occurred in one group (usually the intervention or exposure group) to the odds of the event occurring in a second group (usually the control group).
open coding	An analysis process in Straussian Grounded Theory in which the researcher labels and categorizes information in the data, before attempting to relate categories to each other via axial coding.
open data	Data that anyone can access, use and share.
open-sourcing	The development of data or materials that will become freely available, where there is often no clear 'call' to work (for example, open sourced software programmes).

Term	Definition
ordinal data	Categorical data where the variables have natural, ordered categories.
ordinary least squares (OLS) approach	Statistical method for estimating the unknown parameters in a linear regression model.
outcome	The disease, condition or other endpoint being measured.
outsourcing	The act of a company hiring a party outside the company in order to perform services and create goods.
overhead (indirect) costs	Costs that are not directly accountable to a cost object (in research these may be costs for the institution, for example).
paradigm	Set of beliefs or worldviews.
participant narrative	Data generated by talking directly to participants through interviews and focus groups.
participant observer	A method of data collection in which the researcher becomes immersed in the day-to-day lives of the group they are researching, both observing and participating in the world around them.
participation equation	A probit or logit regression in which the dependent variable is dichotomous, taking the value of 1 for those who took part in the intervention and 0 for those who did not.
participatory action research	An action-oriented approach to inquiry that is a collaboration between researchers and participants to challenge inequality and bring about social change.
payer perspective	Focus on the health and non-health economic outcomes borne by the payer of health care.
peer production	Development of data or materials that will become freely available, where there is often no clear 'call' to work (for example, through the collaboration of many).
peer review	Evaluation by others working in the same field.
period prevalence	Existing and new cases that happen over a set period of time.
periodic function	Mathematical function that repeats its values in regular intervals or periods.
phenomenology	A qualitative research methodology that seeks to understand the universal 'essence' of the experience of a phenomenon. This approach goes beyond the individual experience to describe the common meaning for several individuals.

Term	Definition
phenotypic property	Observable characteristics of an organism.
pilot study	Small, preliminary study usually done before a definitive study.
placebo	A substance that has no therapeutic effect and is used as a control in some experimental research to minimize bias.
placebo effect	Effect produced by a placebo or intervention which cannot be attributed to the properties of the placebo or intervention itself and is due to the person's belief in the effects of the intervention.
point prevalence	Existing case at a particular point in time.
polytomous	Data that can take one of more than two values.
population	Group of people being studied.
positivist paradigm	A worldview that sees truth as objective and seeks to explain and predict knowledge using the scientific method.
postpositivism	A worldview based on the assumption that findings cannot be proven beyond doubt, but that confidence is improved through robust measures of reliability and validity.
pragmatic paradigm	A common epistemological worldview for mixed method research which focuses on the research problem and selecting the best method to address the problem, which may draw on qualitative or quantitative methods.
pragmatic trial	Study to determine the effects of an intervention when used in routine practice.
Precaution Adoption Process Model (PAPM)	Model to explain how a person makes decisions to take action and how they translate that decision into action.
PRECEDE-PROCEED model	Structure used to assess health needs for designing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion and other public health programmes.
prevalence	The number of cases in a defined population at a specific point in time.
prevalence-based YLD	Population metric of life years lost due to morbidity, calculated by multiplying the number of prevalent cases during a given period by their cause disability weight.
primary data	Data collected by a researcher from first-hand sources (for example through surveys, interviews or experiments).
primary prevention	Strategies to prevent a disease from occurring.

Term	Definition
principal component	Linear combinations of the original variables, which can be used as surrogates for the original variables.
principal components analysis (PCA)	Transforming the high-dimensional data into a lower-dimensional form, without losing too much information.
principal investigator	Lead person for a research project.
PRISMA	Reporting guideline for systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
probability sampling	Sampling based on some form of random sampling.
probit regression	Statistical technique where the dependent variable can take only two values.
process-based logic model	Hypothesized description that focuses on theorizing aspects of complexity between the processes occurring as part of an intervention and its multiple outcomes.
programme theory	Hypothesis explaining how an intervention is expected to lead to a change in the outcome.
PROGRESS PLUS	Acronym used to identify characteristics that stratify health opportunities and outcomes. PROGRESS stands for: Place of residence; Race/ethnicity/culture/language; Occupation; Gender/sex; Religion; Education; Socioeconomic status; Social capital. PLUS refers to: Personal characteristics associated with discrimination; Features of relationships; Time-dependent relationships.
proofs	Document showing what an article will look like when it is published.
propensity score matching	Statistical matching technique that estimates the effect of an intervention or exposure by accounting for covariates that predict that someone will receive it.
prospective study	Study that follows participants over time into future.
proximity searching	A technique that searches for terms that appear close together in the text, but not necessarily directly next to each other. For example, primary care might also be referred to as primary health care, so by using one of the operators available within the databases, it is possible to search for one concept that might be expressed in several different ways. Each database uses a different set of operators, so it is necessary to refer to the online help for guidance on the use of proximity operators.
proxy consent	Process by which people give consent on behalf of someone else.
proxy measure	Variable that is easy to measure and can act as a substitute for the variable that is of particular interest.

Term	Definition
public health emergency preparedness (PHEP)	Health department readiness to respond to different types of public health threats (such as infectious diseases, nuclear events, chemical spill or radiation, natural disasters).
publication bias	Bias in which the publication of a study is influenced by its results.
purposive sampling	Technique used to select certain members of a population to participate in a study.
qualitative research	Scientific method of observation to gather non-numerical data (for example, to assess perceptions and beliefs).
Quality-Adjusted Life-Year (QALY)	Measure of additional life expectancy combined with the health-related quality of life.
quantitative research	Scientific method of observation to gather numerical data.
quasi-experimental design	Study used to estimate the causal impact of an intervention on target population without random assignment.
random-digit dialling	Technique used to select people for involvement in a telephone survey by generating telephone numbers at random.
randomized trial	Study in which patients are allocated randomly to one of the groups being compared.
range	Distance between the highest and the lowest values in a distribution.
rapid needs assessment	Process conducted immediately after the onset of a disaster to assess the disaster-affected areas and needs of disaster victims.
raster	Grid of cells and pixels which can be stored as images.
ratio data	Form of continuous data, which have the same properties as interval data and an absolute zero point.
Read codes	Clinical terminology system that was widely used in general practice in the United Kingdom.
realist ethnography	A traditional approach to ethnography (the study of social behaviours of a culture-sharing group) in which the researcher objectively observes and reports the information learned.
realist evaluation	A theory-driven evaluation method which emphasizes the interaction of the context and mechanism to produce an outcome.

Term	Definition
Reasoned Action Approach (RAA)	Framework for predicting human social behaviour based on how attitudes towards the behaviour, perceived norms, and perceived behavioural control determine people's intentions, while people's intentions predict their behaviours.
record review	Technique used to obtain retrospective data from a series of records.
reflexivity	A continuous process undertaken by qualitative researchers that involves contemplating how their choices, feelings, assumptions, and experiences contribute to the creation of knowledge in research.
refugee	A person who cannot return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of persecution or serious and indiscriminate threats to life, physical integrity or freedom.
region of common support	The area of overlap in the range of propensity scores between treatment and comparison groups. Impact estimates are best calculated after discarding observations which fall outside the range of common support.
regression analysis	Statistical technique to estimate the relationships between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables.
regression discontinuity design	Evaluation design in which the intervention or exposure and comparison groups are identified as being those just either side of some threshold value of a variable. This variable may be a score or observed characteristic (for example, age or land holding) used in determining the eligible population for the study, or it may be a variable found to distinguish participants from non-participants through data analysis.
relative risk / risk ratio	The ratio of the incidence of a disease among exposed people to the incidence of the disease among unexposed people.
reporting guideline	Document providing guidance on how to report a particular type of study.
REporting of studies Conducted using Observational Routinely collected health Data (RECORD) statement	Reporting guideline for studies that use routinely collected health data.
REPRISE	Reporting guideline for priority setting of health research.
research ethics committee	An independent group that oversees the ethical aspects of a research study.

Term	Definition
research paradigm	System of beliefs and practices that influence how researchers select both the questions they study and the methods they use to study them.
research protocol	Document describing the background, rationale, objectives, design, methodology, statistical considerations, and organization of a research study.
resilience	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.
retrospective study	A type of study design that identifies an outcome and examines information that already occurred, it does not follow study participants into the future. Also known as a “historic cohort”.
return on investment analysis	Analysis that calculates the size of the difference between positive consequences and costs, calculated by subtracting costs from benefits and expressing this figure as a proportion of overall costs.
ring vaccination	Strategy to inhibit the spread of an infectious disease by vaccinating only those who are most likely to be infected because they are (or have been) in close contact with an infected individual.
risk factor	Any attribute, characteristic or exposure of an individual that increases the likelihood of developing a disease or injury.
salutogenesis	Medical approach focusing on factors that support human health and well-being, rather than on risk factors for disease.
sample size	Number of participants in the study. The intended sample size is the number of participants planned to be included in the study, which is usually determined through a statistical calculation before the study begins.
sampling frame	List of people forming a population from which a sample is taken.
scoping review	Research synthesis that maps the existing literature on a particular topic or research area.
secondary data	Data collected by someone other than the user.
secondary prevention	Strategies to prevent a disease from worsening or recurring.
seed money	Funding allocated to start a project.

Term	Definition
selection bias	Bias in choosing the individuals or groups to take part in a study, which might make them systematically different from those who do not take part.
selective coding	The analytical process in Straussian grounded theory in which the researcher selects the central concept in the data to be the core category (theory) to which all other categories relate.
selective reporting bias	Bias in which the publication of part of a study is influenced by the associated results.
self-efficacy	A person's belief in their capacity to do a given task or achieve a specific level of performance. Self-efficacy consists of both confidence and perceived control; it is linked to motivation and behavioural perseverance in the face of obstacles.
self-empowerment approach	A self-empowerment approach focuses on empowering an individual to make positive choices and exercise control over their physical, social and external environments.
self-organization	An emergent property of complex adaptive systems where actors within the system make adjustments to adapt to changing context; in social systems it is often behavioural adjustments made by people within a system.
semi-structured interview	A method of research in which the interviewer uses a framework but allows new topics to be discussed depending on what is said by the interviewee.
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	Voluntary, non-binding agreement covering the period 2015-2030 which recognizes that the State has the primary role of reducing disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders, including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.
Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM)	Management tool to help countries to develop disaster risk reduction strategies, make risk-informed policy decisions and allocate resources to prevent new disaster risks.
sensitive search	In searching, a sensitive search is one with high recall and low precision. This means that more of the relevant articles are retrieved but at the expense of picking up more unwanted articles.

Term	Definition
sensitivity analysis	Analysis that determines how the results are affected by decisions made in conducting the analysis.
setting approach	An approach that considers the interaction of multiple components which form an entire system. Interventions integrating these components are established to reduce the risk factors contributing to diseases
shelter in place	Remain or take immediate refuge in a protected location relevant to the risk.
simple random sampling	Sampling technique that selects people from a sample at random.
simple randomization	Technique used to allocate participants to their intervention group in a randomized trial which uses a chance process with no attempt to balance the characteristics of the groups.
simulation optimization (SIMOP)	Process of finding the best input variable values from among all possibilities without explicitly evaluating each possibility.
SNOMED-CT	Collection of medical terms providing codes, terms, synonyms and definitions used in clinical documentation and reporting.
snowball sampling	Technique in which study participants suggest additional participants from among others that they know.
social cognitive theory	An interpersonal theory, which proposes that learning happens in a context that is dynamic and with reciprocal interaction of the person, environment and behaviour.
social constructionism	A worldview in qualitative research that recognizes that public knowledge and meaning are constructed and sustained through social interaction. It acknowledges that multiple realities co-exist (that is, there is no one universal truth).
social constructivism	A worldview in qualitative research with many similarities to social constructionism, but distinguished from it by its focus on how individuals learn through social interaction within their peer group.
social determinants of health	Economic and social conditions that influence individual and group differences in health status.
social media	Websites and other applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking online.
social network analysis	Process for investigating social structures through the use of networks and graph theory.

Term	Definition
social norms	Collective representations of acceptable group conduct as well as individual perceptions of particular group conduct.
societal perspective	Focus on the health and non-health economic outcomes borne by a society.
socio-ecological approach	Technique used to understand the interrelations among various personal and environmental factors.
somatic symptom	Health-related symptoms that cause significant distress or disruption in daily living.
Source-Pathway-Receptor approach	Technique used to describe the flow of a contaminant from a source, through a conducting pathway to a receptor.
specific search	In searching, a specific search is one with lower recall and higher precision. This means that more of the articles retrieved will be relevant, but there is a risk of missing some significant papers.
SPICE Framework	Framework for specifying research questions, which includes Setting, Perspective, Intervention, Comparison and Evaluation.
staged logic model	Logic model that is adapted or changed on the basis of interim findings or new knowledge, at planned stages of the study.
Staging Care Unit (SCU)	Unit used to select patients who will be transported to areas that have not been affected by a disaster.
standard deviation	A measure of how spread out numbers are, calculated by squaring and summing the difference between each observation and the arithmetic mean.
standard error	Measures the amount of variance in a sample mean, calculated by dividing the standard deviation by the square root of the number of observations in the sample.
standard operating procedure	Document describing how to perform a procedure.
static logic model	Logic model that is specified before the research or evaluation study, and remains in place without iteration throughout the study.
stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial	Design in which observations are collected from cluster during a baseline period in which no clusters are exposed to the intervention, followed by, at regular intervals (steps) when a cluster (or group of clusters) is randomized to receive the intervention and all participants are measured again.

Term	Definition
stochastic modelling	Tool for estimating probability distributions of potential outcomes by allowing for random variation in one or more inputs over time.
Straussian grounded theory	A structured approach to grounded theory (qualitative research methodology that generates theory grounded in data) that uses open coding, axial coding, and selective coding as steps in data analysis.
strengths-based approach	A collaborative approach that identifies and builds on existing capabilities of individuals, groups, organizations, or systems within the community to address a problem (see also asset-based approach).
STROBE	Guideline for strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology.
structural analysis	An analytic strategy in narrative research that focuses on exploring how a story was told (that is to say structured) by the research participant.
Structured Interview Matrix	Technique used for conducting large focus groups and promoting consultation with a variety of stakeholders.
subject headings	Controlled vocabulary for the purpose of indexing journal articles and books in the life sciences.
summative evaluation	Evaluations conducted after the conclusion of a programme, or examining the impact of the programme.
Surveillance in Post Extreme Emergency and Disaster (SPEED)	Surveillance system developed by WHO and the Ministry of Health of the Philippines to collect data following a disaster.
susceptible-infected-removed (SIR) model	Mathematical model that can be used to predict the number of people infected by an infectious disease in a population over time.
syndromic surveillance	A method of surveillance that uses health-related data based on clinical observations rather than laboratory confirmation of diagnoses.
systematic review	Method for knowledge synthesis that collects and critically analyses multiple research studies on a specific topic.
systematic sampling	Sampling of people from an ordered sampling frame.
systems lens	Similar to systems thinking, a way of looking at a problem or situation in terms of the relationships between interconnected components of a complex system.

Term	Definition
systems thinking	An approach to research which views the dynamic and complex context surrounding a problem, including multi-level influences on different interrelated components.
systems-based logic models	Logic model that aims to theorize aspects of complexity around the relationship between an intervention and the broader context and how these interact.
targeted sampling	Technique used to recruit adequate numbers of people from within a specific population.
tertiary prevention	Strategies to reduce the complications of a disease.
thematic analysis	Technique used to identify, analyse and interpret patterns of meaning in qualitative data.
theory of change	Model used to illustrate how and why a desired change is expected to occur, and how they affect the outcome in a particular context, often used in complex interventions.
Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)	Theory linking a person's beliefs and behaviour, stating that intention toward attitude, person's norms and perceived behavioural control shape their behavioural intentions and behaviours.
Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)	Theory to explain the relationship between attitudes and behaviours, which is used to predict how individuals will behave based on their pre-existing attitudes and behavioural intentions.
time series analysis	Statistical technique for analysing data that is spaced out over time.
time series design	Experimental design that observes people or populations over a defined time period.
time stratified model	Statistical model that splits data into different time intervals.
time variance	Variance in the value of an estimate over time, as a result of one or more factors (including discount rates and inflation).
Tobler's First Law of Geography	"Everything is related to everything else. But near things are more related than distant things"
Transtheoretical Model (The Stages of Change Model)	Model of behaviour change that assesses a person's readiness to act on a new healthier behaviour, and provides strategies, or processes of change to guide the person.
triangulation	Using different methods to provide a more complete answer for a research question.

Term	Definition
triple billion goals	WHO goals to ensure 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage, 1 billion more people are protected from health emergencies and 1 billion people improve their overall health over 5 years.
t-test	Statistical test used to determine if there is a significant difference between the means of two groups.
type 1 error	Rejection of a true null hypothesis, which is also known as a "false positive" finding.
type 2 error	Non-rejection of a false null hypothesis, which is also known as a false negative.
uncertainty principle	Approach used to include people in research where they and others making a decision about their inclusion have sufficient uncertainty about their likely outcomes to justify including them in the study.
univariate analysis	Statistical analysis that uses only one variable.
universal health coverage (UHC)	Process by which all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.
validation	Confirmation of the accuracy of a measure or design.
Vancouver style	Citation style used in documents, in which numbers are embedded in the text and the citations are listed in numerical order.
vector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An insect or other animal that normally transports an infectious agent that constitutes a public health risk; 2. An insect or any living carrier that transports an infectious agent from an infected individual to a susceptible individual or its food or immediate surroundings.
venue-based time-location sampling	Technique used to recruit people based on where or when they gather.
vicious cycle	Sequence of reciprocal cause and effect leading to a worsening of the situation.
virtuous circle	Sequence of reciprocal cause and effect leading to an improvement in the situation.
visualization	Spatial analysis method, resulting in maps that describe spatial patterns.
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.

Term	Definition
vulnerable groups	Individuals who share one or several characteristics that are the basis of discrimination or adverse social, economic, cultural, political or health circumstances and that cause them to lack the means to achieve their rights or otherwise enjoy equal opportunities.
Web 2.0 technologies	A website or application that enables enhanced user engagement through creation or sharing of online user-developed content, and allows users to create, share, collaborate, and communicate.
Wisdom of the crowd	A theory that says a group of people will provide a better answer than any individual. This type of crowdsourcing uses a crowd to conduct activities that require intelligence