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Security and resilience — Community resilience — Guidelines for supporting vulnerable persons in an emergency

Sécurité et résilience — Résilience des communautés — Lignes directrices pour soutenir la réponse communautaire aux personnes vulnérables

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 292, *Security and resilience*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document gives guidelines for identifying individuals who are the most vulnerable to an emergency and how to include them in the preparation, response and recovery from events, incidents and emergencies. Emergencies have different effects on people; for example, some individuals will become less able to anticipate, cope with, resist or recover from the impacts of an emergency. An individual is not defined as vulnerable by the nature of their vulnerability, but by their personal circumstances at the time of the emergency. A person's vulnerability to an emergency is influenced by many factors and can vary in different environmental, political, cultural and social contexts. It is widely acknowledged that persons who are vulnerable to an emergency require specific kinds of assistance. However, there is less understanding and guidance on how to recognize the individuals who are vulnerable in different emergency situations, and how to support them. This can be because vulnerability changes over time, so persons move in and out of being vulnerable, even to the same event, incident or emergency. Relevant factors include age, economic security, language and health, but also the effects of broader processes such as climate change, international security and national political trends.

In large numbers and in different contexts, vulnerable persons are not always recognized or there are too many and they could overwhelm emergency response teams. Furthermore, other types of support structures exist for vulnerable persons, but these might be fractured in an emergency. It is important to understand and implement best practices for recognizing and including vulnerable persons in all phases of emergency preparedness, response and recovery. In particular, this requires an understanding of what creates vulnerability in order to ensure persons are not overlooked or more negatively impacted through the management of emergencies.

This document emphasizes capacity building and community resilience. It recognizes that vulnerable persons and their representatives are key stakeholders and planning partners. It considers the preparatory measures for involving vulnerable persons in decisions made about providing assistance before, during and after an emergency, the planning required to engage vulnerable persons and their representatives, and the ways in which including vulnerable persons will help to increase understanding about those vulnerabilities and contribute towards their personal well-being during an emergency.

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Security and resilience — Community resilience — Guidelines for supporting vulnerable persons in an emergency

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1 Scope

This document gives guidelines for organizations to identify, involve, communicate with and support individuals who are the most vulnerable to natural and human-induced (both intentional and unintentional) emergencies. It also includes guidelines for continually improving the provision of support to vulnerable persons in an emergency.

It is intended for use by organizations with the responsibility for, or involvement in, part or all of the planning for working with vulnerable persons in an emergency.

It is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations involved in emergency preparation, response and recovery activities, such as local, regional and national governments; statutory bodies; international and non-governmental organizations; businesses; and public and community groups.

The focus of this document is on vulnerable individuals and their needs in relation to an emergency.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22300, *Security and resilience — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 22300 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
carer
individual who provides support to a *vulnerable person* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: Carers can be paid or unpaid providers of care.

3.2
vulnerable person
individual who might be less able to anticipate, cope with, resist or recover from the impacts of an emergency

Note 1 to entry: In this document, a vulnerable person is not defined by the nature of the vulnerability but by their personal circumstances at the time of the emergency.

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