

DAMAGE, NEEDS OR RIG

methods, and can prioritize different issues as targets of emergency assistance. A common result is disagreement between assessment results, leading to a difficulty in effectively providing appropriate assistance to disaster survivors in a timely manner.

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system can wait while other more critical relief efforts are completed. This outcome is critical to the effective provision of post-disaster assistance.

A needs assessment is more amenable to considering social and psychological
estion not only about their shelter, but also about the physical wellbeing, economic conditions, education and a wide variety of other subjects. Needs assessments are often done by NGOs and, at times, used by donors to justify assistance, i.e., funding to cover a critical unmet need.

The results of a needs assessment can be used to reduce the level of post-disaster assistance provided by reducing assistance levels to those of just the unmet needs. This can seem niggardly, but is often necessary when relief aid is limited and needs to be used most effectively.

However, as most disaster survivors provide most of their own recovery, there is logic needs can also be seen as empowering to the disaster survivor when she is part of the needs definition process.

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