Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

About the Project

In response to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change and new legislative requirements for local authorities, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is in the early stages of coordinating a regional Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) project. For this project, the RDOS is partnering with Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, snpink'tn (Penticton) Indian Band, City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Town of Oliver, Town of Osoyoos, Town of Princeton and the Village of Keremeos.

What is an HRVA?

A Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) is a process through which the sources of potential harm and the likelihood of such consequences for a community are identified. This includes an assessment of:

- **Hazards**, the sources of potential harm;
- **Risk**, the likelihood a hazard will occur, and the severity of possible impact; and
- **Vulnerability**, the people, property, infrastructure, industry, resources, or environments that will be most impacted.

An HRVA will be completed for each community, and the results compiled into community-specific reports which will include recommendations to improve resiliency.

Legislative Requirements for Local Authorities

The British Columbia *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* provides requirements of local authorities to prepare and maintain a disaster risk assessment, as outlined below:

> Section 47(2) a local authority must "prepare and maintain a risk assessment with respect to the hazards in the area within the jurisdiction of the local authority".

The HRVA project is also guided by the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

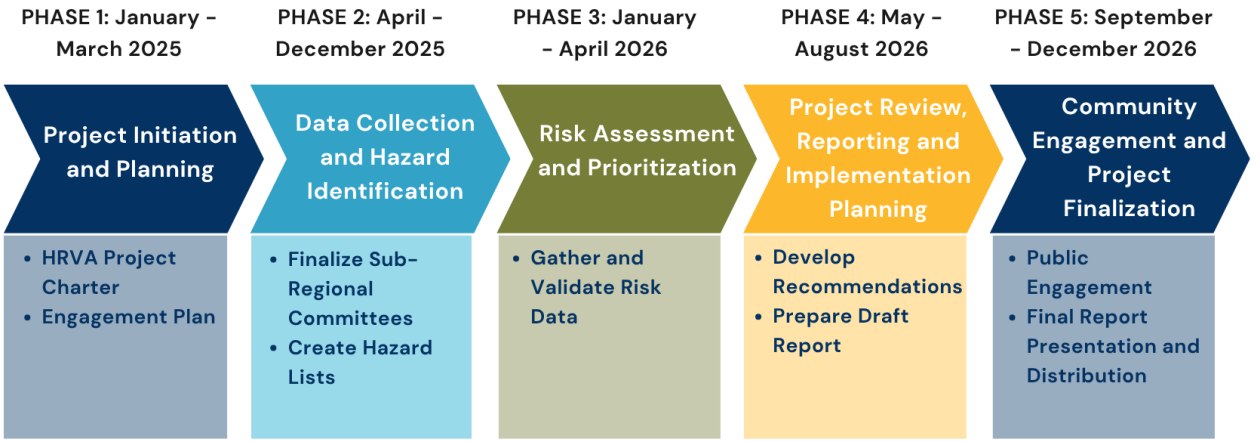
Project Structure

This project will be led and informed by community partners, subject matter experts, residents and other key informants through participation on committees, outlined below.



Project Timeline

The HRVA project will take place over two years, from January 2025 to December 2026, and consists of five phases.



How will the HRVA be used?

The HRVA will inform local and regional emergency response plans, land-use policies, and climate adaptation initiatives across the region. The outcome will act as a guide for the RDOS and community partners to:

- Update emergency plans
- Accurately allocate and implement resources for risk mitigation and preparedness
- Improve community preparedness and education
- Collaborate with relevant agencies to develop recovery and community resilience plans

Additional Resources

For more information, visit the project's webpage on Regional Connections:
https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/hazard-risk-and-vulnerability-analysis-hrva

Additional information on the HRVA process can be found on the Province's website:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/establishing-an-emergency-program/assessment-analysis

Project Contacts

Gillian Seitz
Disaster Risk Planner
Phone: 250-460-1366
Email: gseitz@rdos.bc.ca

Khanh Duong
Disaster Risk Planner
Phone: 250-460-1807
Email: kduong@rdos.bc.ca