

# **The Fuzzy Boundaries Between Post-disaster Phases: The Case of L'Aquila -Italy**

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## **SUMMARY**

A number of indices have been developed for measuring vulnerability to disasters, but little attention has been paid to recovery indices particularly with respect to earthquakes. Post-disaster periods are usually divided into four phases based on specific time. The name established by the UNDP ("relief", "early recovery", "recovery" and "development") have been used in this paper. This research examines the hypothesis that the time between post-disaster recovery phases is fuzzy and should be defined by the progress achieved in the recovery process, rather than by the amount of time elapsed since the event. The methodology employed involved four steps: (1) fieldwork (2) mapping (3) the selection of indicators, and (4) assessment. The case study area was L'Aquila in Italy, which was struck by an earthquake in 2009. Each phase of the recovery process at L'Aquila was assigned a score according to the progress, with the highest score going to the early recovery phase (14 points), followed by the recovery (10 points), the development (7 points), and the relief phase (2 points). The results have demonstrated the possibility of determining post-disaster recovery phases in an affected area according to its achievements measured through indicators rather than in terms of time.