

Ten Strategies for Reciprocity in Hazards and Disaster Research

1. Build cultural competence for working in the local context before starting research as well as throughout the project.
2. Partner equitably with local researchers and practitioners, accounting for the multi-faceted demands that locally-affected people may face after disasters.
3. Make time to form and sustain relationships of mutuality and respect with the people involved with or affected by your research.
4. Ensure that your reciprocal gifts and/or actions reflect local priorities. Consider reciprocating through acts of service in addition to offering monetary compensation or material gifts.
5. Be honest with partners and participants about what you can—and cannot—provide.
6. Reflect on and remain aware of the power differential between yourself and research participants, particularly given the dynamic and shifting forms of vulnerability that may unfold in post-disaster settings.
7. Seek out and respond to regular feedback on the research process from collaborators, participants, and other local stakeholders.
8. Be flexible and listen to participants' changing needs and desires. Disaster response and recovery are often characterized by uncertainty and rapidly evolving situations.
9. Plan to share quality research findings and data as soon as possible with those who are affected by disasters and with those who can use the research results. Ask which formats for data and communication would be most useful.
10. Try to anticipate the potential short- and long-term consequences of your giving-back strategy, and adjust as necessary.

Add another strategy that you might use to strengthen reciprocity in your own research:
