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*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## **VolFilm: films to increase resilience to risks from volcanic hazards**

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Many volcanoes erupt infrequently, and several recent eruptions have occurred at volcanoes with no eruptions in living memory. Communities near such volcanoes can have increased vulnerability due to their inexperience of volcanic hazards. Such communities and their emergency managers and decision makers would benefit from easily accessible educational tools providing information about the behaviour of volcanoes, their hazards and risk, as well as possible management and mitigation steps. Film is a very effective tool for communicating knowledge, and the IAVCEI volcanic hazard and risk films have been excellent resources for the past 20+ years, undoubtedly helping to save many lives. Technology has now progressed and lessons have been learned, thus there is a need for updated film media with consideration of new, popular and widely used communication platforms. VolFilm is addressing this need. VolFilm is a collaborative international project in which we are producing short, modular films on a selection of the major hazards. Each hazard type has a 'hazards' film and separately an 'impacts' film, both of 2-3 minutes each. Each can be viewed independently, but the modular approach allows the combination of films into longer, bespoke films appropriate for different volcanoes, situations and needs. Each film contains relevant video footage chosen for clarity and impact, animations to convey complex concepts, and clear messages are given on what to do in the event of a hazard occurring. Additional 'experience' films are in development providing case studies and focusing on the experiences of communities in volcanic emergencies. The films are being made freely available online through video hosting sites and social media, and are also being distributed via volcano observatories and project partners. The films are available in a selection of languages and their efficacy is being evaluated in a number of volcanic and societal settings.