



World Health
Organization

#Ready4Response

Tier 2: Ready4Response

Module 3: Response core skills

Risk management

Unit 3E

Photo: WHO / C. Cardenas

#Ready₄Response



Hello, it's Awa!

INTRODUCTION

Keeping yourself and your colleagues safe is the responsibility of every team member.

Managing risk is particularly important when working in a response.

This unit describes the basic principles of risk management.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- describe common types of risk assessment;
- define a risk, rapid risk assessment and dynamic risk assessment;
- explain what is meant by risk management;
- list the steps to conduct basic risk management;
- describe how risk is measured; and
- list ways of addressing risk.

Common types of risk assessment

There are many types of risk assessment in response. Some common examples are:



National (and sub-national) Risk Assessment or Risk Mapping forms the basis of a National Emergency Response Plan; identifies the hazards, vulnerabilities, capabilities to respond and gaps in capabilities.



Rapid Risk Assessment, used to assign a level of risk to an event.



Dynamic Risk Assessment is used to identify and remove risk where we work.

RISK



“ is the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of the consequences of an adverse event during a specified period. ”

Terms used to describe risk differ between disciplines. For the purpose of this unit, we have used the definition from WHO's Guide to “Rapid Risk Assessment of Acute Public Health Events.”

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rapid-risk-assessment-of-acute-public-health-events>

THERE ARE 3 STEPS TO RISK MANAGEMENT:



1. Identify
the risk

2. Assess
the risk

3. Address
the risk by accepting,
mitigating or removing it.

RISK ASSESSMENT



“ is a systematic process for gathering, assessing and documenting information to assign a level of risk. It provides the basis for taking action to manage and reduce the negative consequences of risks. ”

Rapid risk assessment is the term given to the initial risk assessment for the response.

A dynamic risk assessment is the term given to risk assessments we make in our day-to-day activities.

Risk assessment requires:



**Hazard
assessment**



**Exposure
assessment**



**Context
assessment**

Hazard assessment

is the identification of hazards and the assessment of potential impact by identifying:

- the type of hazard
- the features of exposure to the hazard
- the speed at which an event could unfold
- the location and likely spread
- the population affected and any at risk groups.



Exposure assessment

is the evaluation of exposure of individuals and populations to the hazard, including:

- number of people or groups exposed
- vulnerable groups
- modes and rates of transmission of the hazard.



Context assessment

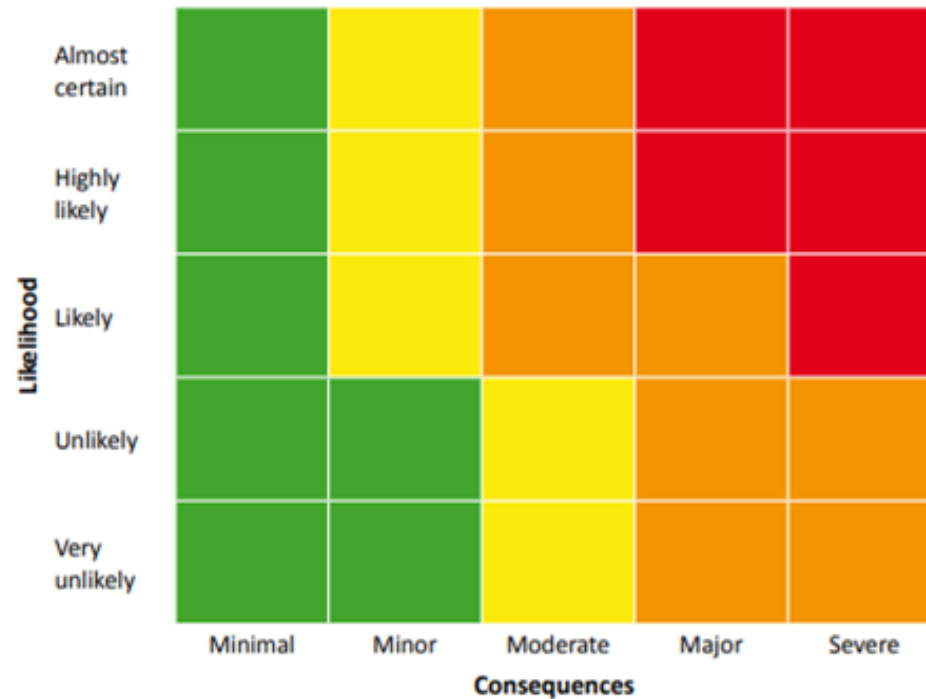
is an evaluation of the environment, including:

- physical and geographical environment
- health of the population
- infrastructure
- consideration of social, technical, environmental, economic, political, cultural, legal and ethical factors.



RISK IS RATED

according to how likely it is that the risk will occur and how severe the consequences will be.



A risk rating matrix with 'Likelihood' on the vertical axis and 'Consequences' on the horizontal axis. The vertical axis has five levels: 'Almost certain', 'Highly likely', 'Likely', 'Unlikely', and 'Very unlikely'. The horizontal axis has five levels: 'Minimal', 'Minor', 'Moderate', 'Major', and 'Severe'. The matrix is a 5x5 grid of colored squares. The colors represent risk levels: green for low risk, yellow for medium risk, orange for high risk, and red for very high risk. The risk increases as both likelihood and consequences increase.

Likelihood	Almost certain	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red
	Highly likely	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red
	Likely	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Red
	Unlikely	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange
	Very unlikely	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange
		Consequences				
		Minimal	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe

An event that is almost certain to happen and has severe consequences is very high risk.

Address the risk

Having identified and assessed the risk, you have 3 options:



1. **accept the risk:** because the likelihood of the event occurring or the potential consequences are low;



2. **mitigate the risk:** take steps to minimize the likelihood and/or impact; or



3. **remove the risk:** by taking action to avoid coming into contact with the risk.



SUMMARY

- Risk management is a key skill for all personnel working in response.
- Risk is the likelihood of a threat occurring and its potential consequence.
- There are 3 steps to risk assessment: identify, assess and manage.

“
When working in emergencies you should conduct dynamic risk assessments to ensure you and your colleagues remain safe.
”



FOLLOW-UP TASK

1. Think about what you are going to do after this training today.
2. Conduct a dynamic risk assessment for that activity.
3. Make notes in your journal.