

➤ By Failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail
Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father of the United States

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Introduction: what is disaster preparedness?

Many standard risk reduction terms are used loosely and inconsistently.

'Disaster preparedness' is one. Basically, it has three main elements:

1. Forecasting events and issuing warnings.
2. Taking precautionary measures in response to warnings.
3. Improving response by organizing and strengthening capacity to deliver timely and effective rescue, relief and assistance.

- The first objective of preparedness is to reduce the disaster impact through appropriate actions and improve the capacity of those who are likely to be affected most (that is, marginalized, poor and handicapped) to get maximum benefit out of relief.
- The second is to ensure that ongoing development continues to improve the capacities and the capabilities of the system to strengthen preparedness efforts at community level.
- Finally, it guides reconstruction so as to ensure reduction in vulnerability. The best examples of preparedness activities are the development of local warning and community evacuation plans through community education, evolving local response structures such as Community based Disaster Management Teams (DMT) and administrative preparedness by way of stockpiling of supplies; developing emergency plans for rescue and relief.

➤ The aim of preparedness is ***THE REDUCTION OF THE IMPACT OF THE DISASTER***

❖ *By effectively and efficiently responding to the forecast*

❖ *The Framework Is categorized As follows*



1. Vulnerability assessment Starting point for planning and preparation, linked to longer-term mitigation and development interventions as well as disaster preparedness.	2. Planning Disaster preparedness plans agreed and in place, which are achievable and for which commitment and resources are relatively assured.	3. Institutional framework Well co-ordinated disaster preparedness and response system at all levels, with commitment from relevant stakeholders. Roles and responsibilities clearly defined.
4. Information systems Efficient and reliable systems for gathering and sharing information (e.g. forecasts and warnings, information on relevant capacities, role allocation and resources) between stakeholders.	5. Resource base Goods (e.g. stockpiles of food, emergency shelter and other materials), services (e.g. search and rescue, medical, engineering, nutrition specialists) and disaster relief funding (e.g. for items not easily stockpiled or not anticipated) available and accessible.	6. Warning systems Robust communications systems (technologies, infrastructure, people) capable of transmitting warnings effectively to people at risk.
7. Response mechanisms Established and familiar to disaster response agencies and disaster victims (may include: evacuation procedures and shelters, search and rescue teams, needs assessment teams, activation of emergency lifeline facilities, reception centres and shelters for displaced people).	8. Education and training Training courses, workshops and extension programmes for at-risk groups and disaster responders. Knowledge of risk and appropriate response shared through public information and education systems.	9. Rehearsals Evacuation and response procedures practised, evaluated and improved.

Important Components of Preparedness Plan

Generally community preparedness depends upon following four major components

-Population characteristics (number of children, squatter settlement etc)

-Building and critical infrastructure such as road, drinking water, communication

network, health and sanitation

-Physical environment

-Social environment (social groups)

Squatter: a person who is living in an empty building without the owner's permission

Components of Community Preparedness Plan

- 1. Physical Safety:** i.e. how safe community members are in view of the physical danger from these hazards? The parameters essentially tries to measure how effective **structural mitigation measures** are e.g. **resistance of building structures for earthquakes**, availability of safe shelters and its capacity etc.
- 2. Hazard awareness** i.e. awareness level about hazards which have a reasonably higher probability of occurrence
- 3. Organization preparedness** i.e. how far the community is organized to face a disaster
i.e. **existence of committee at community** level, task forces, volunteers of civil defence and other local volunteers , trained disaster management teams and community disaster management plan etc
- 4. Infrastructure and services** which tries to measure current state of these services and how well restoring critical services as and when disruptions occur

The Three A's of Disaster Preparedness

Aim, Action and Accountability

- ❖ *to help people to avoid impending disaster threats*
- ❖ *to put plans, resources and mechanisms in place
to ensure that those who are affected receive adequate assistance*



AIM of Preparedness(Provides a Direction)

- Developing planning processes to ensure readiness
- Formulating disaster plans
- Stockpiling resources necessary for effective response
- Developing skills and competencies to ensure An effective performance of related tasks

AIM OF PREPAREDNESS IS GENERALLY

Entailing activities aimed at improving response activities

Increasing Coping capabilities

Coping: to deal successfully with a difficult matter or situation

**Constitution of
Emergency
response policies
and Standards**

**Creation of Plans
to be followed
before and after
disaster**

**Improvement in the
Efficiency and
Effectiveness of
disaster response
mechanism**

**Education and
Training of
Response Teams**

**Development of a
Cultural
Preparedness**

Action of Preparedness

➤ *Aim consists of Action premeditated to*



Accountability for Preparedness

- ✓ It is explicit nothing to hide, in nature
- ✓ It details expectations and actions
- ✓ Ascertains responsibility
 - It is of immense value as it is the guiding principle on how people make
 - ✓ **Commitments**
 - ✓ **Measure Progress**
 - ✓ **Ownership of responsibility**

Principles of Disaster Preparedness

1. PRINCIPLE OF REALISTIC PLANNING

- A detailed preparedness plan must be articulated with caution
- All important resources needed should be enlisted
- An actionable plan must be made
- People can be trained and educated to tackle panic-stricken victims

2. PRINCIPLE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Plans must be **regularly updated by changing and improving** to meet the changes In environment
- Must continuously seek information for refinement and flexibility of plans

3. PRINCIPLE OF COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

- It needs a coordinated effort from multiple agencies to satisfy the inter-related Steps for achieving goals
- There should be mutual collaboration among diversified stake holders in framing preparedness plans with commitments.
- Creating a strong sense of ownership is required among various parties To actually implement the plans.

4. PRINCIPLE OF MOTIVATION

- As performance is a product of ability and motivation, motivating general Public is important.
- It is essential to know what motivates people and how to motivate them.
- Preparedness efforts should be supported relating to social behavior during the crises

5. PRINCIPLE OF TIME-BOUND IMPLEMENTATION

- Sustainable preparedness gives a sense of security
- Collaboration with the response team is a must
- It has to be both pre- and post-disaster preparedness measures.

6. PRINCIPLE OF ALL-DISASTER INCLUSIVENESS

- Preparedness efforts should take into account all hazards irrespective of Probability of damage
- Rapid urbanization and development have opened up ways for new and severe disasters. Preparedness should have a broad spectrum.
- “Hazard-specific” planning, training and resource allocation should be undertaken