



UNIT 3

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Ascertaining Roles and
Responsibilities

OBJECTIVE

After learning this chapter , student should be able to

Explain the roles and responsibilities of agencies.

Discuss the role of state and local bodies and philanthropic organisations

Elucidate the impact and role of media during and after disasters

Discuss the Planning Commission and its role

Explain community-based approach to Disaster Management

Explain the importance of community involvement in disaster management

Disaster management agencies

- Several disaster management agencies exist at national, state, and local levels.
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in India,
- the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the US,
- state-level authorities like the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCBD: United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Major Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies

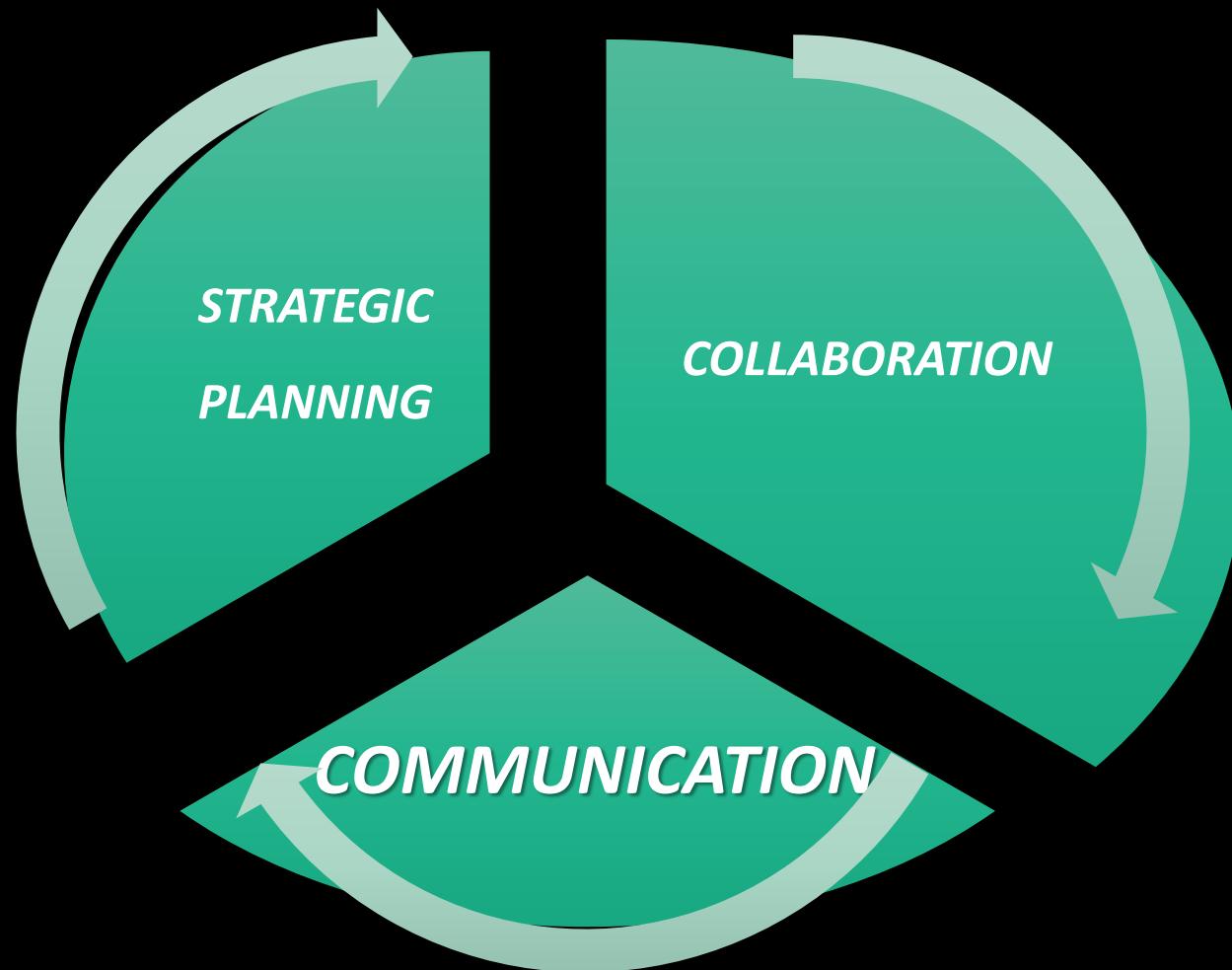
- To coordinate between national , state and local personnel.
- To establish response and recovery operations by defining roles of specific positions during and after disasters.
- To alert, coordinate and direct national agencies to support the state in identifying and meeting disaster needs.
- To establish an effective communications network with state and local agencies.
- To asses disaster needs of local communities.
- To assess the damage and identification and prioritization of needs.

Major Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies

- To identify the full range of programmes and resources required to carry out the immediate response and long-term recovery.
- To coordinate and monitor assistance programmes.
- To advise individuals, families and businesses concerning available assistance.
- To identify staffing and other requirements.
- To establish an environment of compassion, assurance, efficiency and expediency in all disaster-assistance.

- Disaster Management is neither a single man's Job nor a single agency's task.
- Therefore the first step should be to **divide the tasks within the agency and allocate the responsibility.**
- Further the **roles and responsibilities distribution** should be ascertained under the following three fundamental parameters.
 - COLLABORATION
 - COMMUNICATION
 - STRATEGIC PLANNING

ROLES RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES



COLLABORATION

- Collaboration is a working practice where **individuals** work together to achieve a common goal.
- Collaboration can help in Team Building, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Providing Feedback and Mentoring.
- **Structure of effective collaboration** as followed.
- 1. *Identification of Affected Population* and Assessment of Local capacity and needs.
- 2. Prevent ASSESSMENT Fatigue. Prevent **Similar work replication**.
- 3. Standard of assistance and service to be followed.
- 4. Joint resource mobilisation action plan. (**shared goal or program**)

COLLABORATION

- 5. Funds available through grants should be supervised and maintained by one agency in collaboration with others.
- 6. Unified voice for command (a single, consistent message by a group)
- 7. supporting and rebuilding local Institutions
- 8. Execution of emergency response plan
- 9. Gain experience from management configure and develop knowledge and proficiency of people who are trained.
- 10. Joint training session can be organised and managed to equip the participating agencies in the skills required to manage disaster effectively.

COMMUNICATION

- Central and critical activity of Disaster Management.
- It entails **sharing info about:**
 1. Number and capabilities of personnel involved.
 2. Contribution Of Each Organisation
 3. Kind And Quality Of Assistance
 4. Geographical areas of operations
 5. Tools and facilities available
 6. Goals of Agencies, Interests, Strengths, and constraints
 7. Identifying gaps and overlaps in humanitarian assistance.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- For providing humanitarian assistance, organisations should engage in strategic planning.
- To amplify the usefulness of disaster management exercises, all agencies should contribute in planning phases.
- Planning enhances team work, boosts morale and the ability to work with one another in emergency situations.
- Strategic planning allows sharing of talented personnel for common purposes.
- Pooling resources to offset high cost of running agencies. (combining resources from different sources to achieve a common goal)
- Joint implementation of plans.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- INTERNATIONAL AND national agencies play a significant role during disaster. After a disaster **Central Government's assistance is made available only if it is beyond the state government's capacity** to cope with the disaster.
- The National and International agencies provide **3 types of grant:**
- 1. Individual assistance
- 2. Public assistance
- 3. towards disaster mitigation phase wherein the agencies provide fund to increase resilience towards disasters. i.e funds to **reconstruct building or utility systems** to stand future disasters.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- Agencies provide **assistance for relief and rescue** work in phases. i.e. needs like **supply of food, rescue, shelter, communication, first aid for victims** etc.
 - Few **response** activities like mobilizing resources, getting people out of danger, providing medical services , needed equipment's , materials , supplies and personnel to state and local agencies etc.
 - Focus shifts to **rebuilding** after affected people are out of danger which can take years to complete.
 - **Rebuilding** efforts focuses on
 - development of community ,
 - regional and state services and
 - infrastructure: operations,
 - Livelihoods of thousands of people
- Mobilizing resources: bringing together and preparing various assets (like people, money, materials, or technology) for a specific purpose or objective.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- Since recovery cost are beyond the capacity of local agencies , it is essential for the national and international agencies to intervene and provide aid for
 - Building houses
 - Business
 - Public facilities
 - Clearing debris
 - Repairing of road and bridges.
- The national and international agencies are mainly engaged in strategic-level planning and arranging resources to meet the needs of the affected society.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- In INDIA the ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for the management of relief and response and over natural disaster management. ,
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation[nodal Ministry of drought management]
- Other ministry are allocated the responsibilities of providing emergency support in the case of disasters that fall in purview.
- In addition there are decision making and standing bodies which are responsible for disaster management at the national level in India.

Decision Making and Standing Bodies

Standing Bodies	Headed By
Union Cabinet	Prime Minister
Group of Ministers	Deputy Prime Minister or Home Minister
National Crisis Management Committee (NMG)	Cabinet Secretary
Crisis Management Group (CMG)	Central Relief Commissioner

- The CMG reviews contingency plans and measures necessary for dealing with a natural disaster and coordinates the activities of the central ministries and state governments in relation to disaster preparedness response and relief.

Apart from these Nodal Committees at the national level , there are certain organisations having expertise in technical field , which play an active role in disaster mitigation and response . Some of these organisation are

- INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
 - PREDICT CYCLONE AND EARTH QUAKE
- BUILDING AND MATERIAL PROMOTION COUNCIL
 - MAKING N REVIEWING CONSTRUCTION LAWS
- CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION
 - MANAGING FLOODS
- DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL DEFENCE
 - SPECIFIC TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE COORDINATION OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS.

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHOTITY (NDMA)

- National level body specifically made by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** for the purpose of Disaster Management.
- It is a self governing , independent and constitutionally established institute mandate.
- The **NDMA formulates and enforces national disaster policies** at national and regional levels and **collaborates with various government ministries, military forces** and other agencies to jointly coordinate efforts for the effective management of disaster.
- objective is to : **coordinate and widen sustainable operational capacity** and professional competence to undertake its humanitarian operations in its full capacity.
- Is acts as **an implementing coordinating and monitoring body** for disaster management activities.

State and Local Bodies

- It is the prime duty of the state and local bodies to
 - Ensure that the aid reaches the victims.
 - Coordinate and monitor the implementation of national policy
- The operational challenges in the implementation of programmes and plans have to be faced by the state and local governments. i.e. to **cross check**
 - Suitable Plans
 - Strategies
 - Administrative Structures

State and Local Bodies

- The primary task of state and local bodies is to **coordinate and monitor the implementation of the national policy** on Disaster Management.
- The responsibility to handle natural disasters is a fundamental task of state level agencies.
- The role of national agencies is supportive and limited to **provide physical and financial resources**.
- Chief secretary of the state heads a **state level committee** which undertakes the relief operation in state.
- **Relief commissioners** are in charge of the relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural disasters in the states and the local –level agencies have their contingency plan that is updated from time to time.

Local Bodies – Town level , Panchayat

- AT town level town administration takes the lead of all govt. plans and activities relating to DM.
- The person in-charge of district administration is responsible for implementing the plans at local levels.
- His prime job is to co-ordinate and supervise district level level activities relating to Disaster management.
- In India Panchayats are local level institutions which have self governing powers.
- The local bodies can be effective instruments in tackling disasters through
 - Early warning system
 - Relief distribution
 - Provide shelter to the victims
 - Medical assistance etc.
- The local bodies should have a disaster-response capability and have an approved local disaster management plan. It should be ensured that the local agencies are capable of disseminating disaster related information to state and national agencies.

Local agency Group

- Local agencies can have local disaster management groups.
- The role of members of the groups should be clearly defined and should be to **develop, review and assess effective disaster management plan** by providing important inputs.
- They should be responsible for **training the community** in responding to disasters and providing relief operations.
- They should be able to **coordinate with other agencies** and manage disaster resources and operations effectively.
- They should play an **active role in generating awareness and motivating** the population about hazards, risks and impact it may have on the fabric of society.

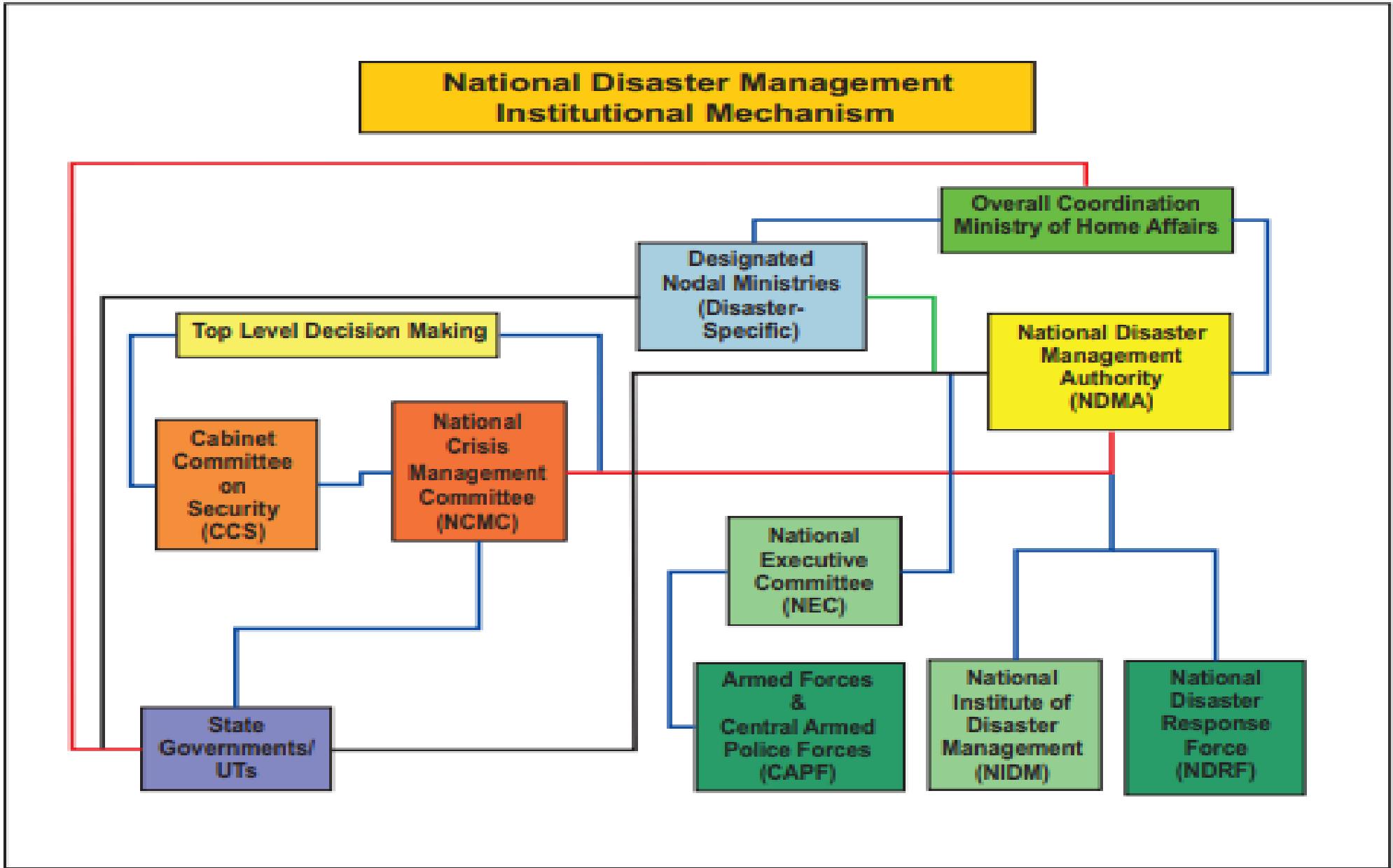
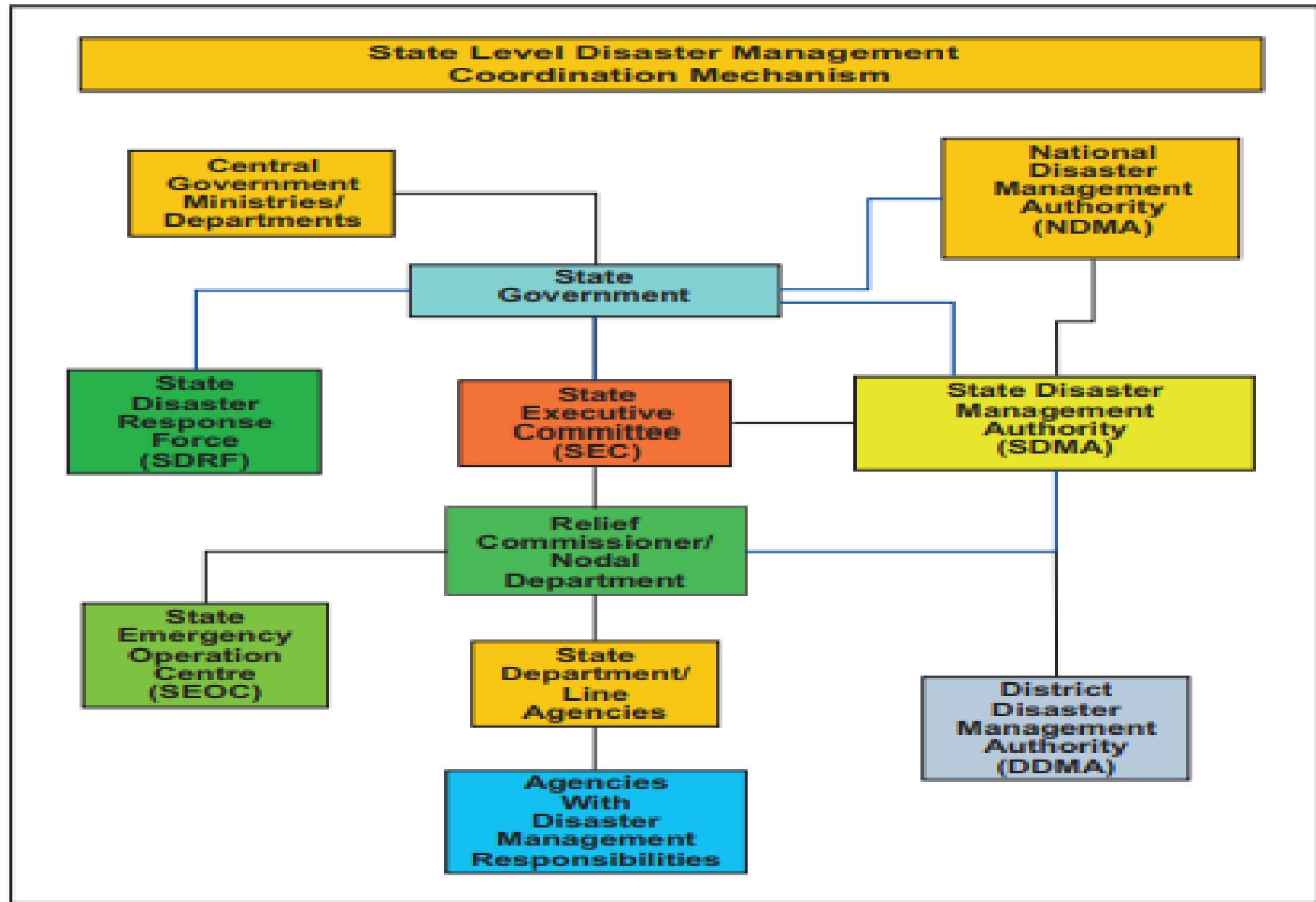


Figure 1-3: National-level disaster management - basic institutional framework



Local Agency Group

- Frequent Occurrence of disasters prone area the local agency should involve planning and mitigating decisions.
- The focus should be on **strengthening the capacities** of local communities to minimise loss and suffering from the aftermath of disasters.
- Effective disaster preparedness plan like installation **of early warning system** and ensuring closely integrated into community-development plans.
- Moreover, local-level agencies should ensure that disaster management should aim at **Reducing risk** and Consolidating **Sustainable human Development**.

Local – Awareness

Disaster awareness should be made priority. The local –level agencies should support ensure **disseminations of disaster-related information on a sustained basis.**

- Proper **training facilities should be arranged** for and training should **be imparted at regular intervals** so that communities are alert and aware.
- Specialised training in disaster response should be imparted by **trained faculty members** and should **focus on building the knowledge, attitude and skills** of a community to cope with the effects of disasters.
- **Proper team should be made** whose primary role would be to ensure effective first response.
- **Periodic drills** should be introduced in **vulnerable areas** to enable prompt and suitable community response in the event of a disaster.

Local Bodies - Objective

- The goal of disaster resilient community capable of satisfying its needs and serve its own development purposes.
- As the local level agencies and communities are the first responders in any crisis situation.
- Community participation helps the agencies working at local levels to identify the vulnerable members of the community and provide special assistance in terms of evacuation, relief, aid and medical attention to them in disastrous situations.
- Effective disaster management should co-ordinate their efforts and work in unison.
- The national agencies play a crucial role in reinforcing state and local disaster response. Similarly , the task of local agency is to implement the plans made by national agencies and ensure sustainable development.

Philanthropic Organisations

The Main aim of philanthropic organisation is (Rich person donate money)

1. To Support Emergency Relief
2. Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness
3. Capacity Building Of The Community And Its Development.

Roles of Stakeholders

- Every individual as the national of a country and also a citizen of the world is an important stakeholder of any disaster management activity.
- The various stakeholder group are
 - Social Groups
 - Economic Groups
 - Political Groups
 - Academicians and Researchers.

IMPACT AND ROLE OF MEDIA

- The media plays a key role in spreading essential information to the public
- Before the disaster, media informs the general public about the impending disaster by giving warnings.
- After disaster: disseminating information about the status of victims to the relatives. They initiate helpline numbers to streamline the rescue efforts.
- The newspapers and news show the real situation of the victims and are instrumental in getting the attention of the authorities towards the difficult situation of victims.
- They also inform about the lapses in government machinery and help address the problems of the affected community.
- Even after disaster, the media play an active role in getting sponsors for carrying on rebuilding of critical infrastructures.

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ITS ROLE

- **Disaster Management Act, 2005.**
- The aim of this Act is to **create necessary institutional system for creating and monitoring the execution of disaster management plans. If working effectively and efficiently.**
- The Act stipulates that a **National Plan** an Disaster Management shall be prepared **in consultation with the state governments and expert bodies and institutes** in the field of disaster management.
- The Act **defines the roles and responsibilities** of different ministries and departments at state and central level.
- Act stipulates **that provisions are made in annual budgets** for the allocation of funds for the purpose of carrying out the activities related to disaster management plan
- The Disaster Management Plan is a blueprint which encompasses disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ITS ROLE

- The developing countries are much more gravely affected loss of lives and property and Gross National Product %(GNP).
- A working Group on Disaster Management was specially constituted in 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012)
- The terms of reference included three aspects,
- **First** is to examine the mode in which the process of mitigation, preparedness and capacity building should be enhanced and incorporated into the develop plans of the Centre and the states;
- **second** is to create guidelines that needs to be followed by the Planning Commission itself while approving programmes and projects in order to ensure assimilation of management principles in planning and plan implementation
- **Third** is to develop guidelines for including into cost estimates the requisite financial provisions for disaster management.
- The main aim of having a disaster management plan is to have proper urban planning and zoning for the reduction of vulnerability and hazards.

COMMUNITY- BASED APPROACH TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- The objective of disaster management can be achieved if the local community is supported by state and central agencies.
- Community involvement in disaster management is achieved by obtaining feedback and support from the members of the community.
- Structured interviews , informal interactions can be conducted.
- Setting up “hazard hotline” telephone service
- Ascertain direct contact with the local public, meetings in school, colleges, community building can be organised.
- A citizen advisory committee can provide timely and accurate information on specific points of disaster planning and can also mobilise strong support within the community.
- Those committees can act as pivot points involving people in the administrative aspects of emergency planning.

HOW FAR WE HAVE LEARNT YET:

The roles and responsibilities of agencies.

Discuss the role of state and local bodies and philanthropic organisations

Elucidate the impact and role of media during and after disasters

Discuss the Planning Commission and its role

Explain community-based approach to Disaster Management

Explain the importance of community involvement in disaster management

Questions for Review

Explain the roles and responsibilities of the following in disaster management:

1.

- (a) National and International agencies
 - (b) State and Local agencies
 - (c) Stakeholders
-
- 2. Explain the impact and role of media in disaster management.
 - 3. Discuss the importance of community-based approach to disaster management.
 - 4. What is philanthropic organisation?
 - 5. What is the role of Planning Commission in disaster management?

THANK YOU