

# **Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief DEFINITIONS**



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# ***Adverse event***

- **Intense disruption to persons, economy, social systems and environment caused by natural phenomena and/or human activity that demands immediate response.**
  - **Emergency or disaster**
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# Hazard and Vulnerability



- **External risk factor, potentially harmful natural or human made event of a given intensitate, duration and place.**
  - **Internal risk factor, degree of susceptibility of a subject/system to be damaged by a hazard**
  - **High susceptibility=high vulnerability**
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# Risk



- **Probability of social, environmental and economic damage resulting from interaction between hazard and vulnerability in a specific place, at a given time**
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# Disasters are not natural

**Risk**  $f$  **hazard . Vulnerability**

Simplified is

$$R = H \times V.$$



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# Disaster risk reduction



- **Set of measures aimed at minimizing the probability of damage caused by adverse events at such level that the needs can be covered by the affected community with its own available resources**
  - **This is achieved through prevention, mitigation and preparedness.**
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# Emergency vs. disaster



- **Emergency: disruption to systems but does not exceed response capacity of affected community**
  - **Disaster: Intense disruption to economy, persons, environment exceeding local response capacity**
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# Prevention



- **Set of actions aimed to avoid the occurrence of damage as a consequence of adverse events**
  - **It can be achieved only by eliminating the hazard and/or the vulnerability**
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# Mitigation

- Set of actions aimed at reducing damage resulting from interaction between hazard and vulnerability



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# Preparedness

**Pre-disaster activities aimed at strengthening the capacity to deal with damage produce by an adverse event**



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# Response and the gray areas

- **Response:** Actions taken in an adverse event for the purpose of saving lives, reduce suffering, limit losses. Is achieved through humanitarian assistance covering essential needs of the affected population.
  - **Rehabilitation:** Actions taken to temporarily restore community essential services at the pre-event conditions.( early recovery)
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# Reconstruction



- **Actions to permanently restore the physical damage, social disruption and economic losses incorporating prevention and 7or mitigation measures.( improving living conditions and implementing disaster risk reduction measures.**
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