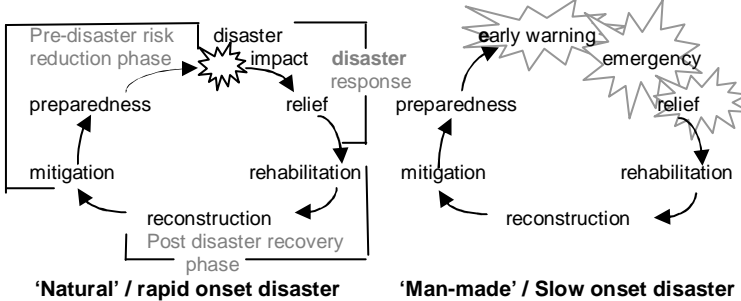


Disaster management

Long term development is undermined by disaster but can be enhanced through well planned disaster recovery and disaster risk reduction measures.



Adapted from UNDTMP Overview of Disaster Management 1992

Phases of disaster management

relief
- stage immediately after a disaster involving search & rescue, tracing survivors and meeting basic food, water, medical and shelter needs.

rehabilitation
- period to restore 'normal' life (social, health, livelihoods, education) - also making changes needed due to the disaster

reconstruction
- period to re-establish & improve infrastructure, housing and pre-disaster services & social conditions

mitigation
- provisions made to reduce the risk of a disaster

preparedness
- activities prior to disaster to minimise damage and loss of life and facilitate rapid rescue, relief, and rehabilitation.

Responsibility for disaster management

- The state has ultimate responsibility for managing disasters. Regular collaboration with local authorities and compliance with local legal and procedural requirements is important in ensuring a coordinated response.
- In situations of conflict, severe crisis or failure to protect and provide for those affected the UN and other NGOs may come in to assist.
- Despite limited recognition of community based disaster management capacity, time and resources can be saved and mistakes and conflict avoided through early community involvement.

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)

Disasters represent a major threat to sustainable development but also an opportunity to 'build back better' i.e. safer houses, effective land use, reconciliation.

Development can contribute to disasters through increasing risks i.e. through environmental degradation, climate change but also offer the opportunity to mitigate risks through strengthening community preparedness and building response capacity.

Essential to effectively linking relief and development are:

- A well planned **exit strategy** and arrangements for **handover of responsibility** for short term relief assignments.
- **Involvement of beneficiaries and host communities** in decision making and implementation at all stages in response and recovery.
- Addressing the **differing and long term needs** of affected groups i.e. livelihood opportunities, land, access to basic services, support for vulnerable groups.
- **Sufficient resources** to meet sustainable development needs
- **Integration of disaster risk reduction** (mitigation and preparedness measures) as an integral part of the recovery process.

All In Diary CD Resources:

- © UN DMTP (1992) An overview of disaster management
- © UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies
- © ADPC (2000) Tools and resources for post disaster relief

Web links for further information

- <http://www.preventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=121#121>
- <http://www.unisdr.org>
- <http://www.redr.org.uk>