

SURVIVORS



The Restless Earth

How do aid agencies help after a disaster?



Starter: Disaster planning

You have just been involved in a major disaster and have lost everything you own. Put these needs into your own order of importance.

The need for shelter

The need for information

The need for clean water

The need for food

The need for medical care

The need for money

Arrange them in this way.

Most important



Least important



What is aid?

Aid is what is given to people who are in need of support.

Short-term aid is what people need immediately after a disaster to survive. It is a short term measure, often what is needed until some form of organisation or central control can be established.



Long-term aid is what is given to allow people to rebuild their lives and their communities. This may include rebuilding homes, schools, roads, hospitals and effective government.



Emergency Response Planning



Emergency Response

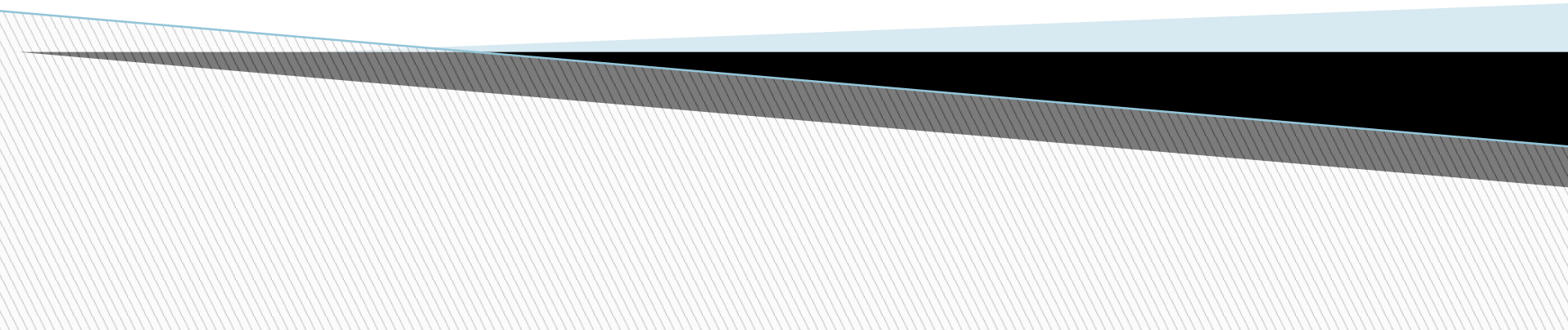
The level of impact depends on the type of hazard, its location and the capacity of people, communities and countries to respond.

Introduction to Disasters and Emergency Response



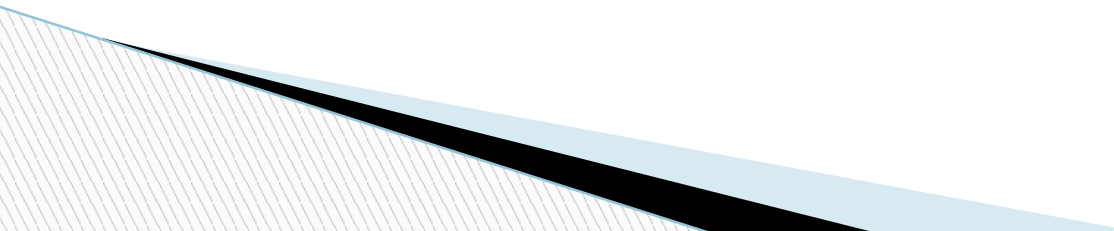
Disaster

Disaster can be defined as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.



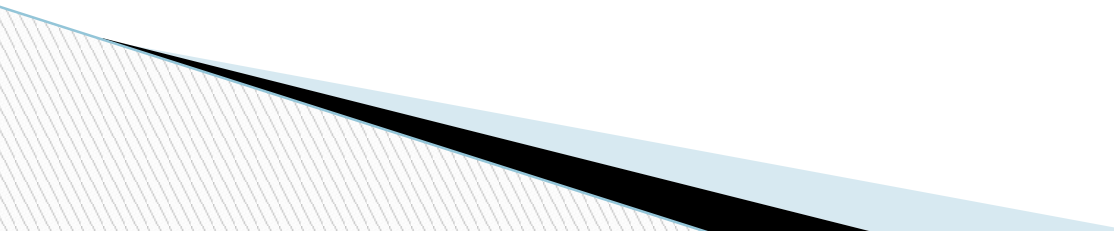
Natural disaster

Occurs when a natural calamity affects humans and/or the built environment.

- Earthquake
 - Volcanic eruptions
 - Floods
 - Cyclonic storms
 - Drought
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Man-made disaster

Occurs when human activities have a negative effect on other humans and /or the environment.

- War / Conflict
 - Civil disorder
 - Terrorism
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The impact of a disaster depends on...

- The **vulnerability** of people living in a disaster area
- The **resilience** of the people affected by a disaster
- Whether governments, people and other organisations are **prepared** for a disaster
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- Disasters can happen almost everywhere, but their impact can vary greatly.
- Christchurch (New Zealand) earthquake, February 2011. Magnitude 6.3. The earthquake caused widespread damage across the city. In total, 181 people were killed in the earthquake. In the immediate moments following the quake, rescue and response was offered by ordinary citizens and those emergency services on duty. A full [emergency management](#) structure was in place within two hours
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- Compare this with the Haiti earthquake of 2010. An earthquake of slightly higher magnitude 7.0 left 230,000 dead. 280,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged.
- Lack of capacity of government and local authorities to deal with magnitude of the disaster. Many countries responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel.
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Vulnerability



Resilience



One way of helping people to overcome their vulnerability to disasters is to work with them to build their resilience or strength.

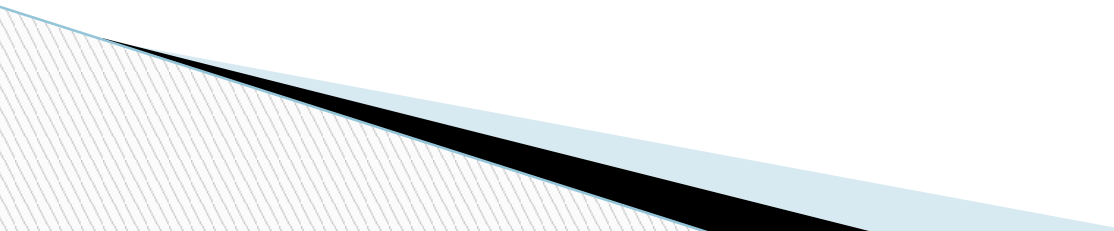
This is a new grain store in Niger built with RI and DFID support. It permits the community to store enough grain to last through the dry months of the year when crops don't grow.

People here have always lived with drought and have always had to be resilient. But in recent years the droughts have become longer and more severe. New strategies, like the grain store, are required to help people survive the disasters they face.

Emergency

An **emergency** is a situation that poses an *immediate risk* to health, life, property or environment. Most emergencies require urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation, although in some situations, mitigation may not be possible and agencies may only be able to offer palliative care for the aftermath.

There are three types of emergency:



Rapid onset emergencies



Rapid-onset emergencies

Caused by hazards that arise suddenly, or whose occurrence cannot be predicted far in advance.

The warning time ranges from **seconds** or at best a **few minutes** in some cases, to **several days** in other cases.

Because of their unpredictability the consequences of these situations can be disastrous.

Photos:

Earthquake in Haiti (2010)

Flood Pakistan 2010

Tsunami in Indonesia (2004)

Hurricane Gustav US (2005)

Slow onset emergencies



Slow –onset emergencies

Can take **months** or sometimes **years** for the situation to become disastrous.

It commonly results from a **combination of natural hazards and human activities** that degrade the environment or affect the population (war, displacement).

Their **cumulative impact** may not be felt for decades, although the hazards that they make more likely, such as flash-floods and landslides, may be sudden-onset events.

Photos:

Drought in Somalia

Drought in India

Food Insecurity

Complex Emergency



Complex Emergencies

A multifaceted humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict.

It tends to be prolonged in time and requires a multi-sectoral, international response.

Such emergencies have, in particular, a devastating effect on children and women, and call for a complex range of responses.

Photos:

Refugees in Pakistan

Somali refugees in Dadad refugee camp in Kenya

Internally Displaced Person in Darfur, Sudan

Community preparedness

Community response

Emergency medical services

Government agencies

Health department

Humane Society

volunteer organizations

Local Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) groups

New Zealand Emergency Management Assistance Team

