



Geographical **I**nformation **P**rocessing for
Environmental **P**ollution-**R**elated **S**ecurity
within **U**rban **S**cale environments

The Role of Health Sector In Emergency Response Planning

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Terminology

- **HAZARD** – Any potential threat to public health and safety
- **RISK** – The probability and the consequences of exposure to a hazard
- **EMERGENCY** – Any actual threat to public health and safety
- **VULNERABILITIES** – Factors which increase the risks arising from a specific hazard in a community
- **DISASTER** – An emergency in which local authorities cannot cope
- **CAPACITIES** – An assessment of ability to manage to an emergency – total capacity is measured as readiness



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Emergency Response Plan

An agreed set of guidelines for responding to and recovering from disasters and emergencies



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Why develop a plan?

- To protect life, property and environment
- To mitigate loss of services
- To create systems and networks for responding to and recovering from emergencies
- To use available resources optimally
- To enhance cooperation between sectors and agencies



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Health Sector Emergency Response Plan


Must deal with

- **Casualty management** (first aid, triage, transport, pre-hospital care, in-patient care, out-patient care)
- **Communicable disease control** (surveillance, tracking, treatment, prophylaxis, isolation and quarantine)
- **Continuity** of delivery of critical services for all emergency patients



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Health Sector Emergency Response Plan

Must deal with

- Management of the **dead and missing**
- Management of **information** (public information, support activities, health info system)
- **Mental health**
- **Environmental health**
- **Reproductive health**
- **Public health** programs (continuity of essential programs)



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Differences between Emergency Response Planning & Routine Planning

- Mobilization and reinforcement of additional resources
- Coordination within sectors and between sectors
- Necessitates designated incident management systems
- Often requires change in responsibilities and authorities
- Often necessitates a need to overcome resistance



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Principles of Emergency Planning

- A continuous process
- Attempts to reduce the unknown
- Focuses on what is likely to happen
- Evokes appropriate actions
- Defines the starting point for response and recovery
- Dynamic learning process



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Key Components of Emergency Response Planning

- Establish line of authority and responsibility of all stakeholders
- Define management structures
- Identify command and coordination mechanisms
- Provide for the management of logistics, resources, communication and information systems
- Designate the infrastructure and equipment
- Define reporting and accounting processes
- Implement training and exercises



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Disaster Management is:

80% generic

to all disasters

15% specific

to the hazard

5% unique

to the event



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Relevant stakeholders in Emergency Response Plans

- First responders (Police, Emergency Medical Services, Fire brigade, Search and rescue units, military units)
- Community members, groups, health providers
- Local municipalities
- Legal authorities
- Communication companies
- Social welfare
- Transportation companies
- Media
- **Ministry of Health**



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The Role of Ministry of Health in Emergency Response Plans

- Risk assessment and risk management framework
- Vulnerability reduction and hazard mitigation
- Development of integrative planning strategies & national policies
- Coordination and cooperation between relevant agencies



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The Role of Ministry of Health in Emergency Response Plans ...

- Deployment of resources
- Allocation of funds to support expansion of surge capacity
- Coordination of international cooperation and assistance
- Evaluation of national and community emergency preparedness
- **Overall responsibility for medical emergency preparedness**



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Overall Strategy of the Ministry of Health

- **Integration strategy (within the MOH)**
- Vulnerability reduction and hazard mitigation
- Community risk management framework
- Inter-sectoral cooperation
- Planning based on existing resources (all types)
- Decentralization of the response capacity
- Community participation (and end-users)
- Institutionalization of an emergency/disaster Unit within the MOH



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National level

- Develop policy, guidelines, standards
- Mobilize reinforcement of resources
- Coordinate national & international assistance
- Evaluate emergency preparedness plans

Provincial level

Community level

- Develop emergency preparedness plan
- Enhance local surge capacity
- Train and exercise medical teams
- Manage information, communication and logistic systems



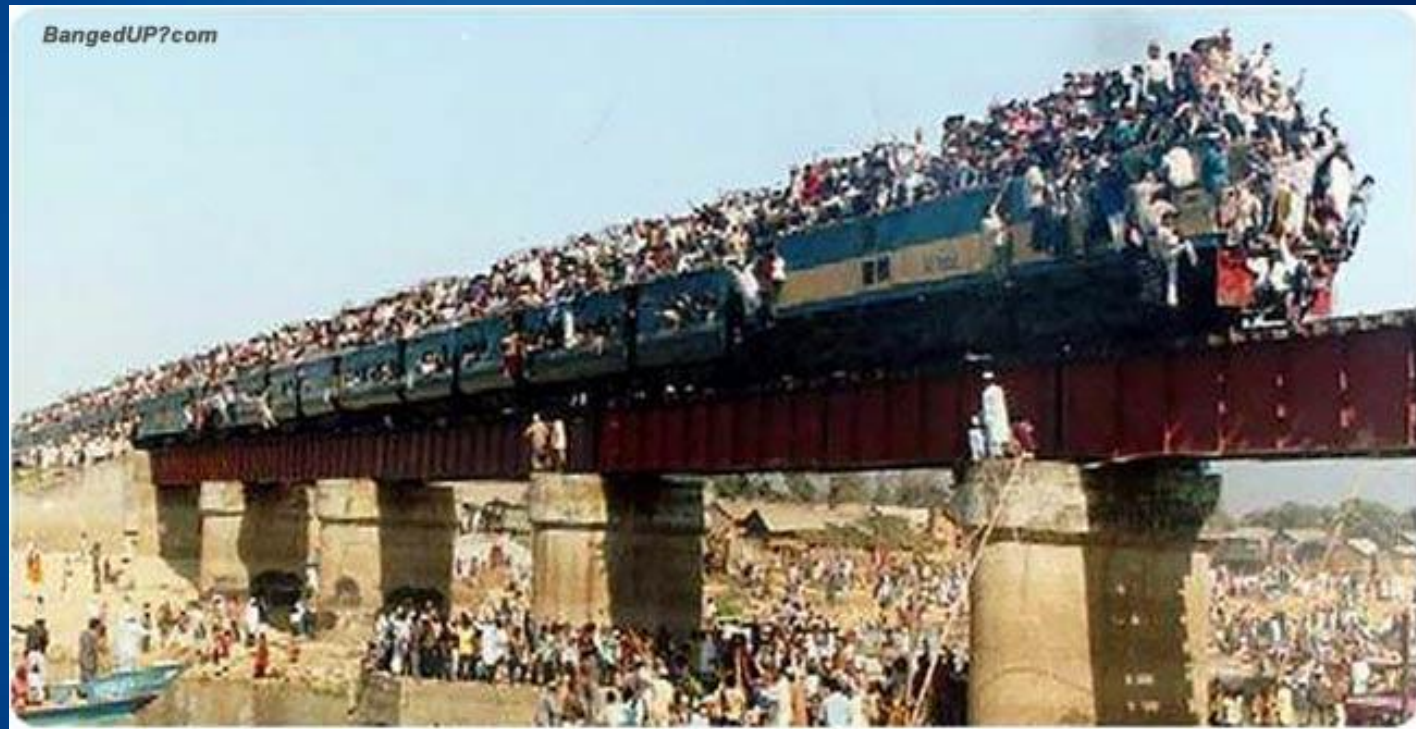
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INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

- Mitigation
- Prevention
- Response
- Recovery



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Thank you

Questions, Suggestions?



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