
Professional Certificate in International Disaster Law

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies

****Acclimatization:**** The process of adjusting to a new environment or climate, which can help reduce the negative impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards associated with disasters.

****Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR):**** A strategy that involves local communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of disaster risk reduction activities. CBDRR emphasizes the importance of local knowledge, empowerment, and participation in reducing disaster risks.

****Disaster:**** A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic, and environmental losses and impacts.

****Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):**** A systematic approach to identifying, assessing, and reducing the risks associated with natural and human-induced hazards. DRR aims to prevent new disaster risks, reduce existing risks, and manage residual risks in order to protect people, property, and the environment.

****Early Warning Systems (EWS):**** A system of coordinated activities that allows for the timely production and dissemination of warnings to protect people and property from hazardous events. EWS typically involve the use of technology, such as sensors and communication systems, to detect and monitor hazards and alert authorities and communities.

****Exposure:**** The presence of people, assets, or activities in places that could be affected by hazards. Exposure is a key factor in determining the potential impacts of disasters.

****Hazard:**** A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity, or condition that has the potential to cause harm to people, property, or the environment.

****Hazardous Event:**** A specific occurrence of a hazard, such as an earthquake, flood, or wildfire.

****Impact:**** The consequences of a hazardous event, including the loss of life, injury, damage to property, and disruption of economic and social activities.

****Mitigation:**** A set of actions taken to reduce the risk of a hazardous event occurring or to lessen its impacts. Mitigation measures can include engineering solutions, such as building sea walls or elevating structures, as well as non-structural measures, such as land-use planning and building codes.

****Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):**** The process of tracking and assessing the implementation and effectiveness of disaster risk reduction activities. M&E is essential to ensure that DRR efforts are achieving their intended goals and to identify areas for improvement.

****Resilience:**** The ability of a system, community, or society to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and

recover from hazardous events and other disruptions in a timely and effective manner.

****Risk:**** The combination of the likelihood of a hazardous event occurring and its potential impacts.

****Vulnerability:**** The degree to which a system, community, or society is susceptible to the negative impacts of hazardous events. Vulnerability is determined by a variety of factors, including exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

****Words per Minute (WPM):**** A measure of the speed at which a person can type, typically used to assess the efficiency of disaster response teams in communicating information.

****Whole of Community (WoC):**** An approach to disaster risk reduction that emphasizes the involvement of all sectors of society, including government, civil society, the private sector, and communities. WoC recognizes that disaster risks are shared by all parts of a society and that addressing them requires a collaborative effort.

****Zero Casualty (ZC):**** A disaster risk reduction strategy that aims to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries from hazardous events. ZC requires a comprehensive approach that includes effective early warning systems, community preparedness, and rapid response capabilities.

****Build Back Better (BBB):**** A concept that emphasizes the importance of rebuilding after a disaster in a way that reduces disaster risks and improves the resilience of communities and infrastructure. BBB involves incorporating disaster risk reduction principles into reconstruction and development efforts, such as elevating structures above flood-prone areas or using disaster-resistant materials.

****Capacity Development (CD):**** A process of strengthening the skills, knowledge, and resources of individuals, organizations, and communities to enable them to better manage disaster risks. CD can include training and education programs, as well as the development of policies and institutions to support disaster risk reduction efforts.

****Loss and Damage (L&D):**** A concept that refers to the negative impacts of climate change, including the loss of life, property, and ecosystems, as well as the economic and social costs associated with these impacts. L&D is a key issue in international climate negotiations, with many countries calling for the establishment of a mechanism to address L&D in vulnerable countries.

****Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS):**** A system that provides early warnings for multiple hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. MHEWS typically involve the use of technology, such as sensors and communication systems, to detect and monitor hazards and alert authorities and communities.

****People-Centered Approach (PCA):**** A disaster risk reduction strategy that places people at the center of DRR efforts, recognizing that communities are often the first responders to disasters and that their knowledge and experience are essential to effective DRR. PCA emphasizes the importance of community participation, empowerment, and accountability in DRR.

****Risk Transfer Mechanisms (RTMs):**** Financial instruments, such as insurance, that can help individuals, communities, and governments manage disaster risks by transferring the financial burden of disasters to third parties. RTMs can provide a source of funding for disaster response and recovery efforts, as well as incentives for risk reduction measures.

****Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**** A set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and promoting prosperity for all. SDG 11 focuses specifically on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, with a target of significantly reducing disaster losses.

****Traditional Knowledge (TK):**** Knowledge and practices passed down from generation to generation within communities, often related to natural resource management, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction. TK can be an important resource for DRR efforts, as it is often adapted to local conditions and can complement scientific knowledge.

****Women and Girls (W&G):**** A vulnerable group that is often disproportionately affected by disasters due to social, economic, and cultural factors. Women and girls may have limited access to education, healthcare, and decision-making processes, making them more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters. DRR efforts must take into account the specific needs and experiences of W&G in order to be effective.

****Youth (Y):**** A group that can play an important role in DRR efforts, as they often have the energy, creativity, and enthusiasm to drive change. DRR initiatives can engage Y in a variety of ways, such as through education and training programs, community-based projects, and leadership development opportunities.

****Zoonotic Diseases (ZD):**** Diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans, such as COVID-19. ZD can pose significant risks to human health, particularly in the context of disasters, as they can spread rapidly in crowded or unsanitary conditions. DRR efforts must take into account the risks posed by ZD and incorporate measures to prevent and mitigate their impacts.

****Adaptation (A):**** A process of adjusting to climate change, including the impacts of disasters, in order to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A can involve a range of measures, such as building sea walls, improving irrigation systems, and developing early warning systems.

****Capacity Assessment (CA):**** A process of evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individuals, organizations, and communities in terms of their ability to manage disaster risks. CA can help identify areas for improvement and inform the development of capacity development programs.

****Cascading Disasters (CD):**** A series of disasters that are linked in some way, such as an earthquake triggering a tsunami or a flood causing a landslide. CD can pose significant challenges to disaster response and recovery efforts, as they require coordinated responses across multiple hazards.

****Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**** Non-governmental organizations, such as community-based