

Understanding Terminology Evolving Concepts in Disaster Risk Reduction



Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, you should be able to:

01. Define and discuss evolving concepts and definitions in Disaster Risk Reduction

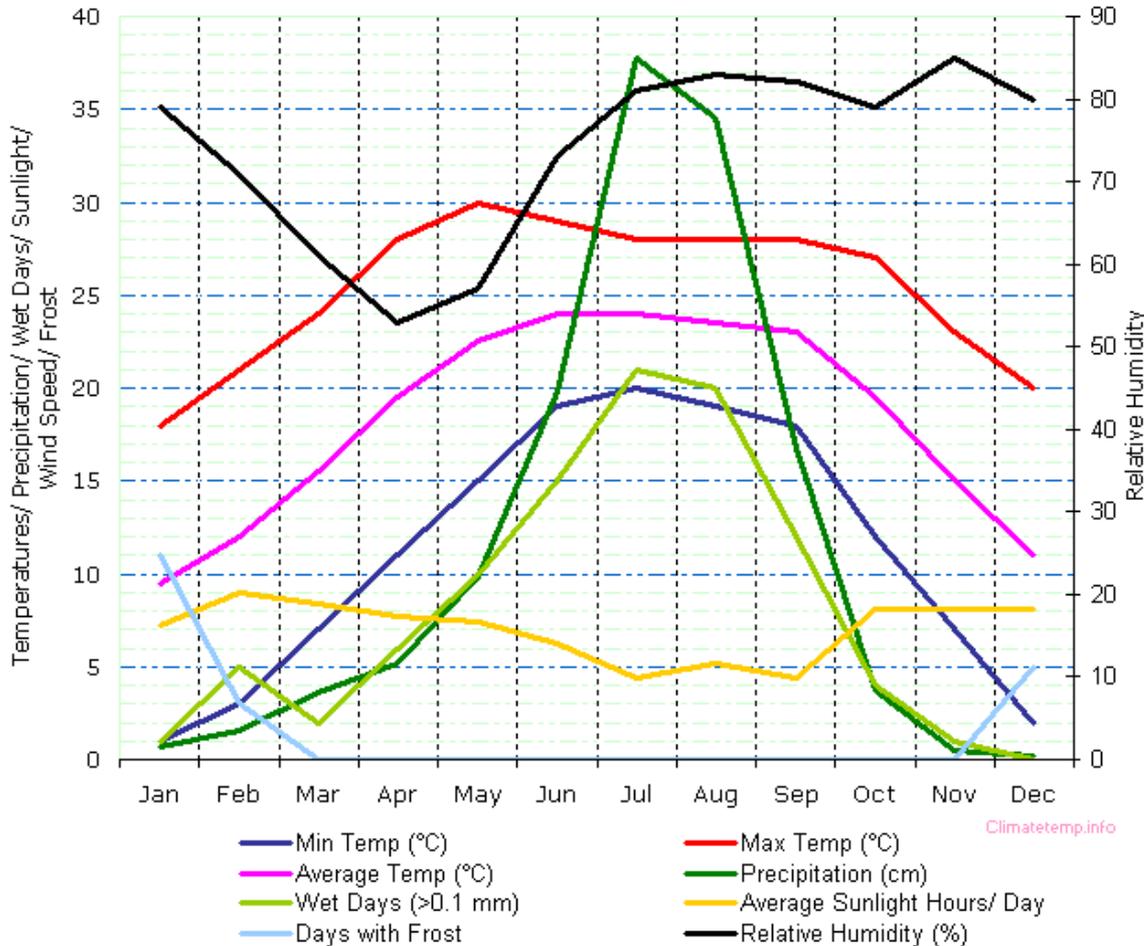
Weather



- is the state of atmosphere at a given time and place measured in terms of variables that include temperature, precipitation, cloudiness, humidity, air pressure and wind. This may change over the course of a day, and from one day to the next; it might be warm and dry today, but cooler and wet tomorrow.

Climate

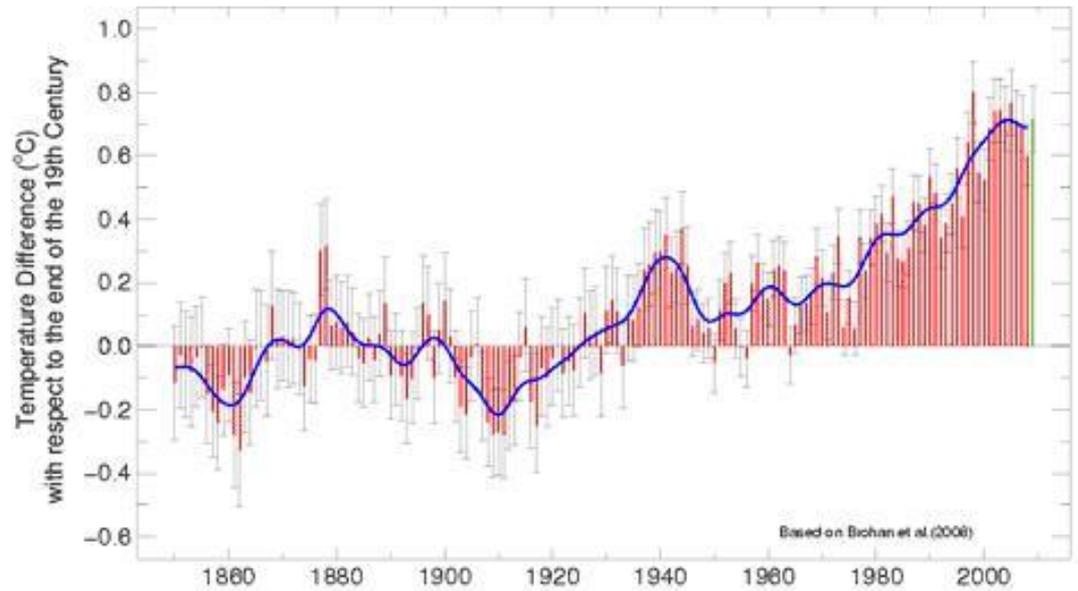
Kathmandu, Nepal Climate Graph (Altitude: 1337 m)



- is the long-term average of conditions in the atmosphere, as described by statistics such as the mean and variability of the elements of atmospheric conditions. This, represents prevailing atmospheric conditions over a long time period (30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization).

Climate Variability

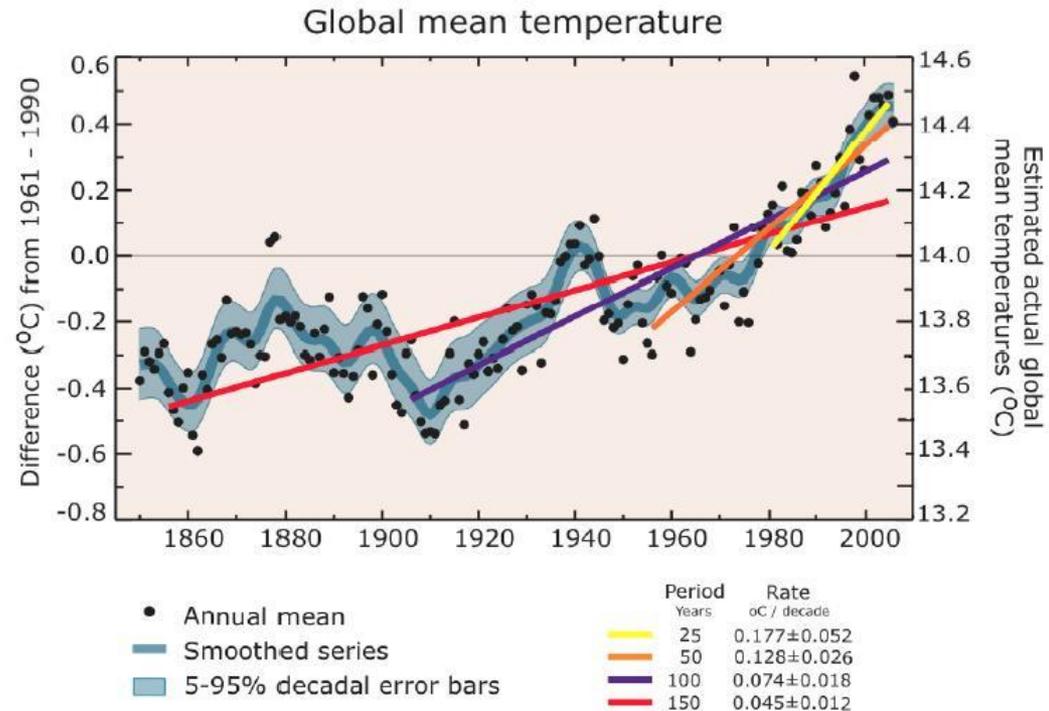
refers to fluctuations from the long-term climate. It refers to natural changes in climate which fall within the normal range for that particular region. For example, over a period of 20 years some years will be wetter than others, some summers will be unusually dry, and some years will be hotter and others colder than the long-term climate.



Source: UK Met Office, 2010

Climate Change

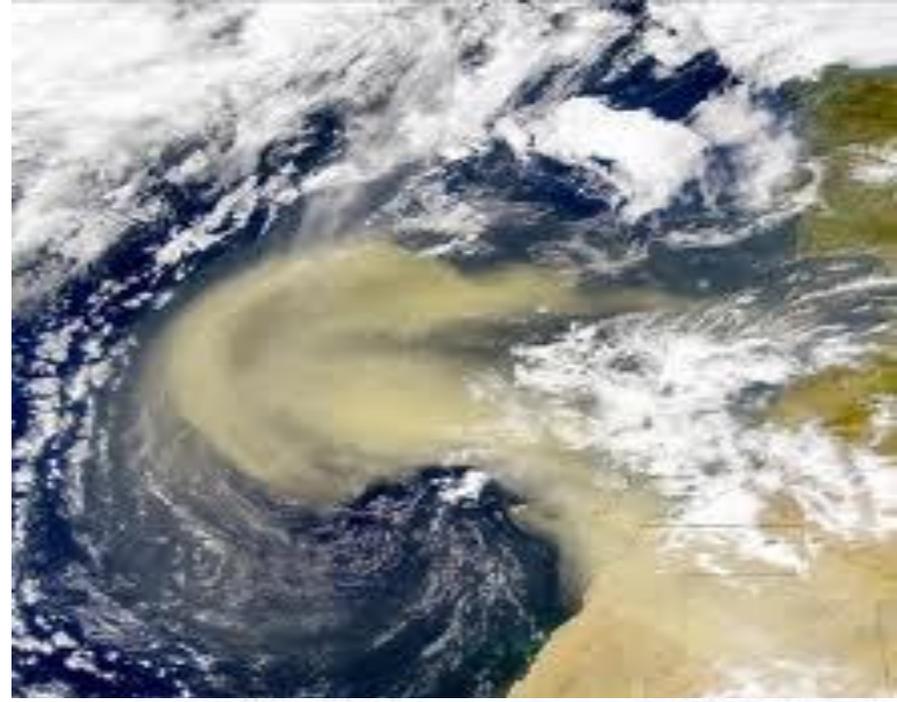
Is a gradual change in the long-term climate over time. This includes changes to temperature, rainfall patterns and characteristics, wind regimes, or ice cover. This change occurs as a natural part of the climate system, and it can also be caused by human activity.



Source: IPCC (2007).

Hazard

A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.



Disaster

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.



Vulnerability

The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.



Some Examples of Vulnerability

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- Location of houses;
- Houses made of light materials;
- Conflict in the community;
- Lack of knowledge & skills on preparedness & prevention measures;
- Attitude of helplessness & dependence.



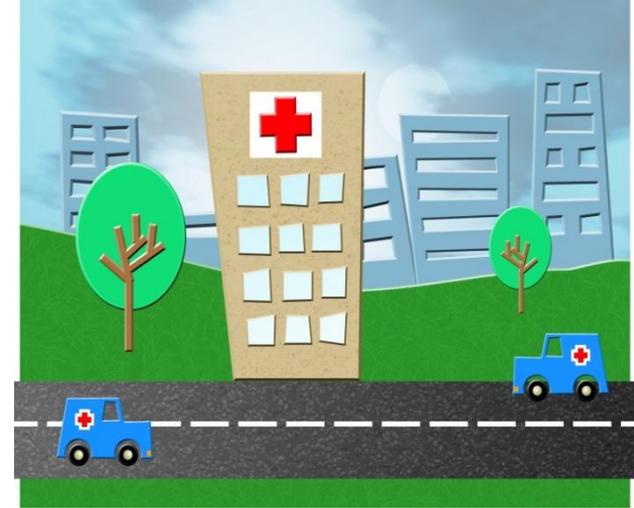
Exposure

People, property, systems, or other elements present in hazard zones that are thereby subject to potential losses.



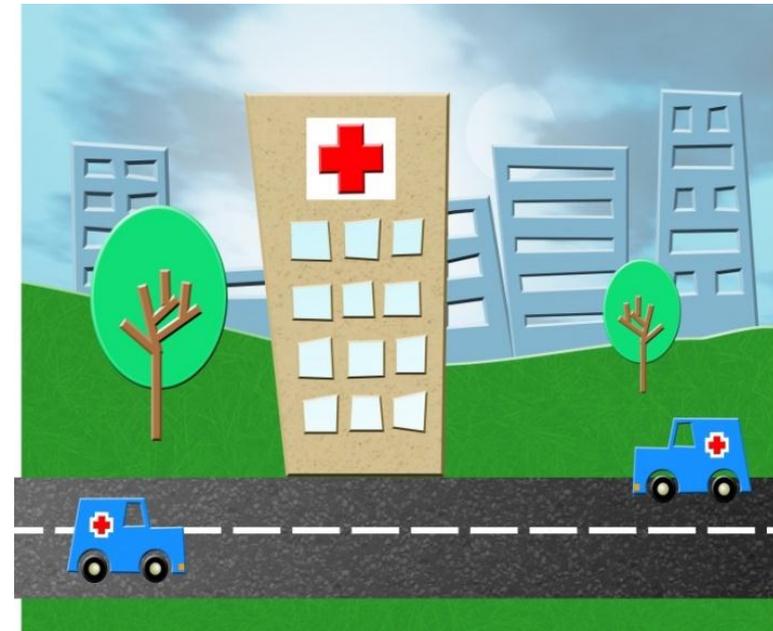
Critical Facilities

The primary physical structures, technical facilities and systems which are socially, economically or operationally essential to the functioning of a society or community, both in routine circumstances and in the extreme circumstances of an emergency.



Capacity

The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.



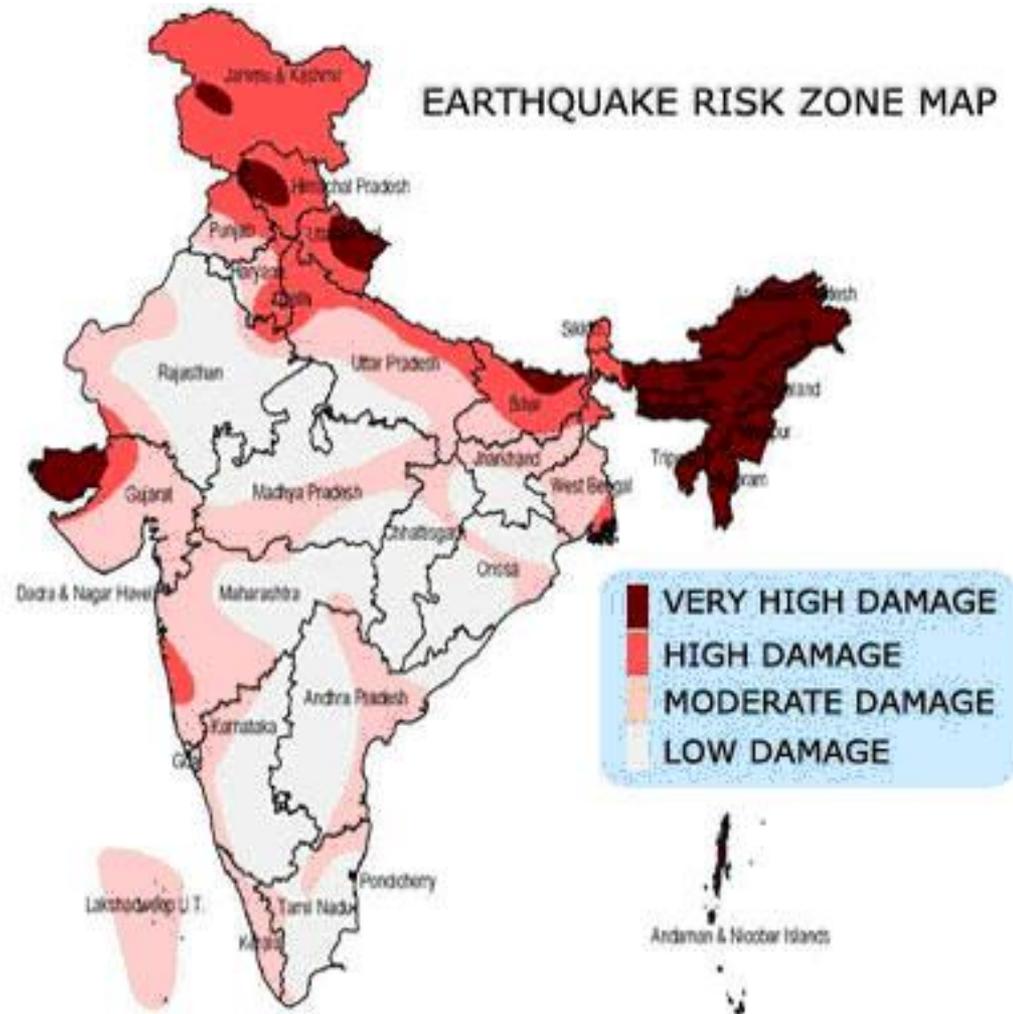
Some Examples of Capacity

- **Critical Infrastructures**
- **Adequate food & income sources**
- **Family & community support in times of crisis;**
- **Local knowledge & practice;**
- **Responsive government;**
- **Strong community organization.**



Disaster risk

The potential disaster losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period.



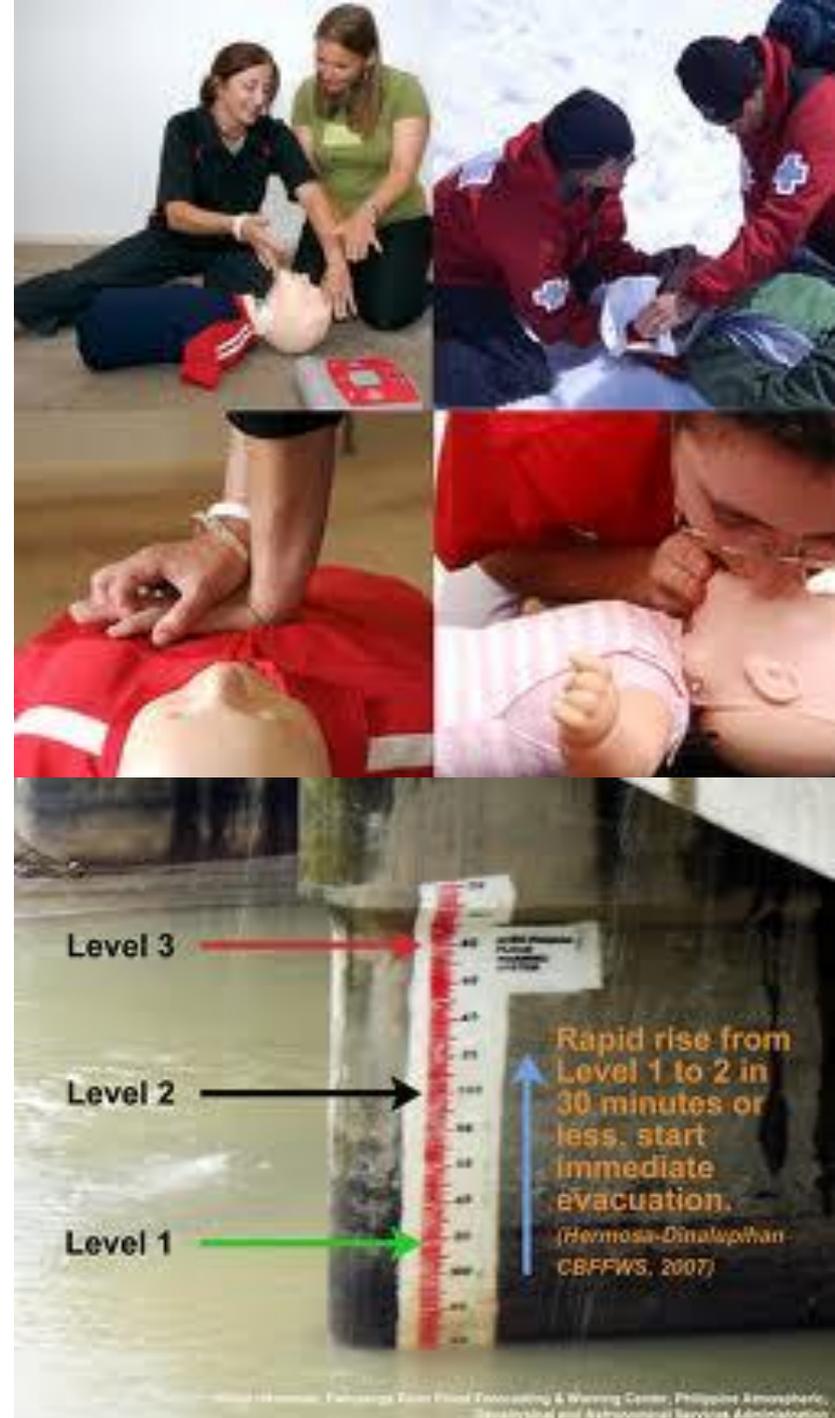
Mitigation

The lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters.



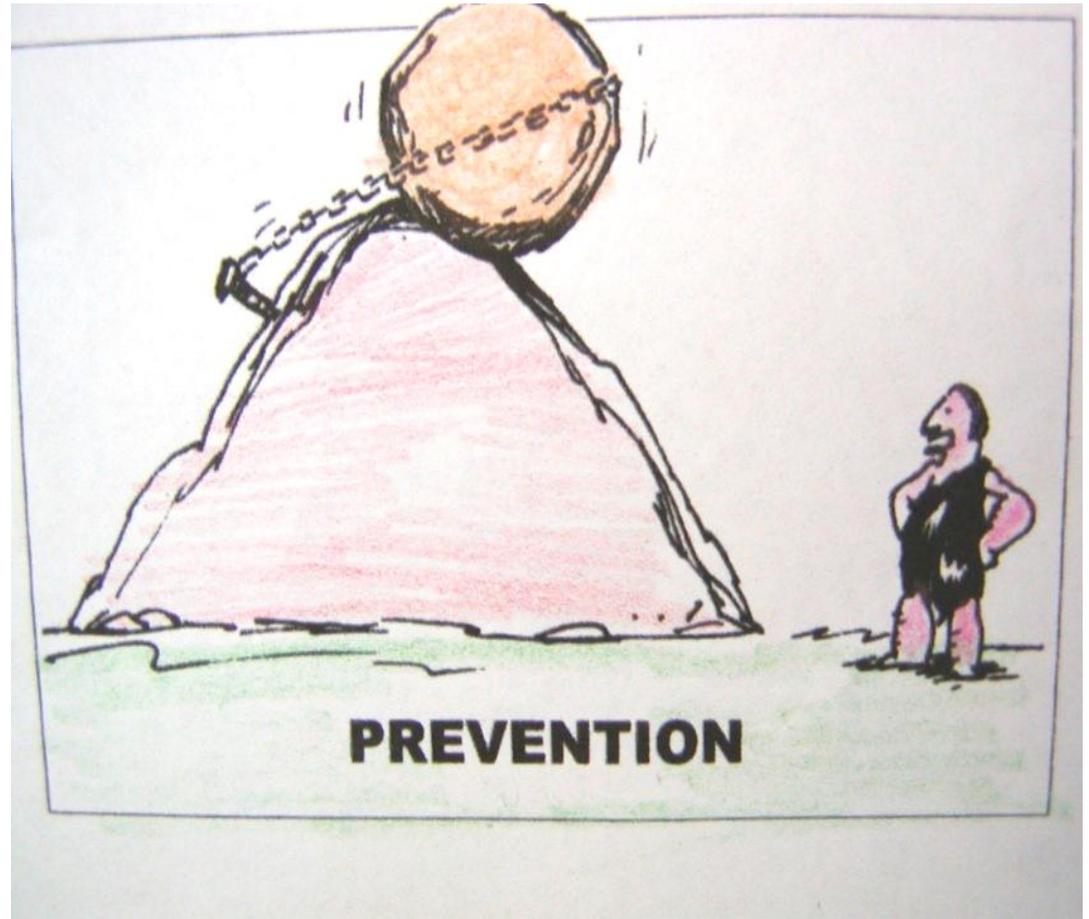
Preparedness

The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.



Prevention

The outright avoidance of adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters.



Recovery

The restoration, and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.



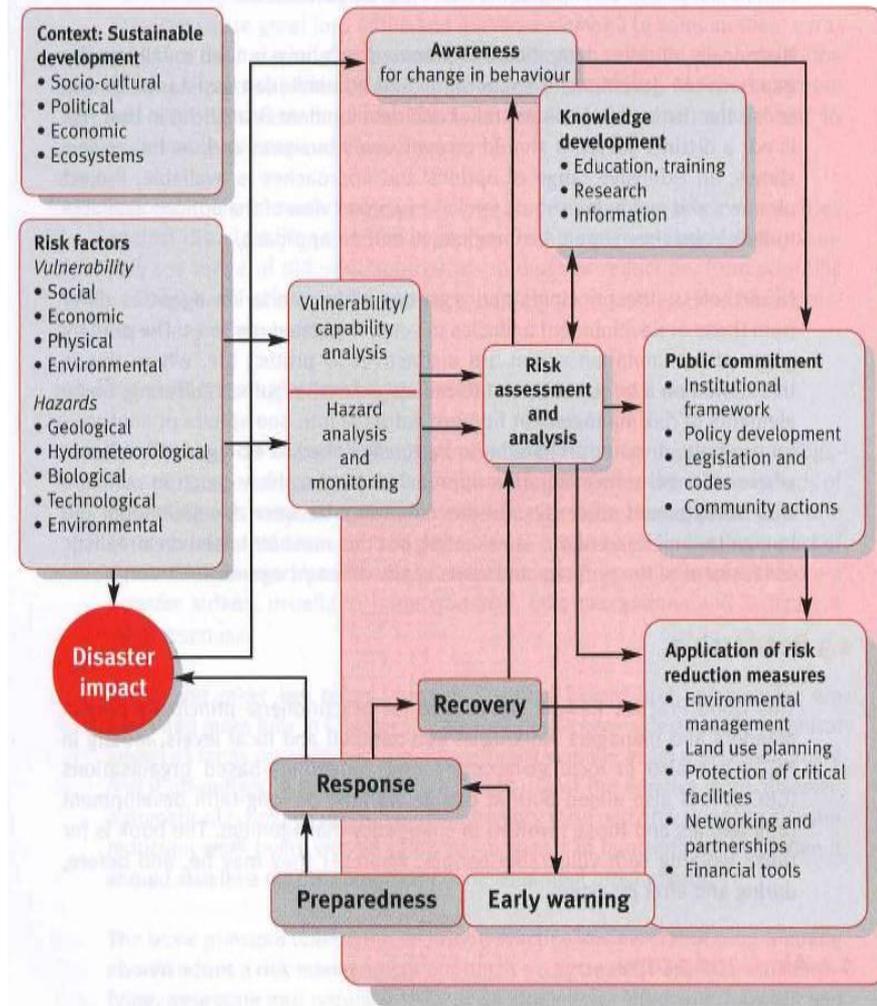
Disaster Risk Management

The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.



Disaster Risk Reduction

The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.



Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction

A process in which at-risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risks in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their capacities.



Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Review of Learning Objectives

01. Define and discuss evolving concepts and definitions in Disaster Risk Reduction

Thank you