

Disaster Management and Response



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When disaster strikes, whether it is a hurricane, a drought or war, the people most severely affected are the poor. The poor are most vulnerable and usually have the least resources to cope and recover without help. Children are at the centre of these disasters and are the most vulnerable in any community.

This is why World Vision is committed to strengthening the local community's ability to prepare for, lessen the effects of, respond to and recover from disasters. World Vision trains communities to assess and minimize their vulnerability to disasters, encouraging them towards front-line participation in regional and national efforts to manage known risks for disaster, both natural

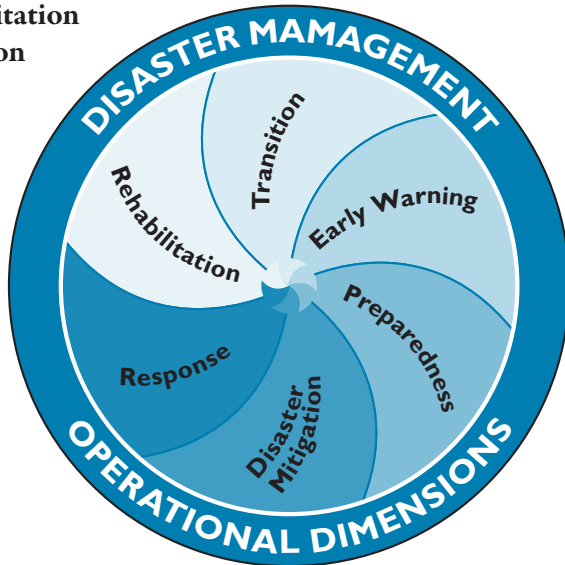
and human-made. Communities can then plan ahead to reduce risks and build resilience among those likely to suffer most in emergencies.

When local people have the ability to rise to the challenges they face, even in the midst of the worst storms of life, they will find they have the foundation necessary to improve their lives and protect their children no matter what may come.

Alongside its work in communities, World Vision Canada also engages with the Canadian public and government on disaster-related issues. This includes raising awareness about neglected disasters, advocacy to government to change policies that will improve Canada's response to disasters, and encouraging the public, corporations and government to provide additional resources where needed to support disaster management work.

World Vision's disaster management cycle includes six phases:

- Early warning
- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Rehabilitation
- Transition



Early Warning



Early warning systems help communities prevent disasters when possible, reduce potential damage, and prepare for response before disasters strike. Early warning activities are based on thorough analysis of political, economic, social, geographic and climate factors affecting a community or country. Effective early warning can prevent communities from becoming increasingly vulnerable, and enhance communities' resilience.

World Vision Canada has helped communities in Mali, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Mexico to implement early warning systems to help protect against and respond effectively to droughts, floods, earthquakes and other disasters.

Mitigation

World Vision has put great emphasis on disaster mitigation and prevention, making these a key component of all relief and development programming. Done well, mitigation can significantly reduce a disaster's impact on a community. Mitigation activities use community capacities to promote positive coping strategies and enhance social, natural, financial and physical capital.

World Vision Canada is working in Peru to help communities mitigate the risk of cold weather having a negative impact on their agriculture and livestock activities. Already there are fewer livestock deaths during frost and cold weather because of the implementation of best practices that protect Llamas and Alpacas. In Haiti, we are working to help communities manage risks from hurricanes and other disasters through training programs that help them become aware of their specific vulnerabilities and plan how to mitigate those influences.

Preparedness

Preparedness activities include pre-positioning commonly needed relief goods in warehouses around the world, monitoring and evaluation plans, providing for safe shelters, funding, and capacity building for communities and World Vision staff. Since the community itself is the first responder in an emergency, community members need to be empowered to respond appropriately. Effective preparedness can greatly reduce response time, protecting more lives and livelihoods.

Response

World Vision has been committed to responding to emergencies for more than 50 years. Through the provision of emergency supplies and shelters, the creation of child friendly spaces and whatever else the



situation warrants, our response saves lives while protecting and promoting a community's ability to engage in its own development. Effective response also aims to reduce risks of future crises.

In 2008 World Vision Canada responded to a total of 39 disaster and emergency situations in 31 countries helping more than 1.5 million people. These included Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, the crisis in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Hurricanes in Haiti and Nicaragua.



Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation activities fully engage communities in assessment, design, implementation and monitoring, aiming to reduce communities' risk to lower levels



than before crisis. Rehabilitation seeks to rebuild social, physical, financial and natural capital.

In May 2008, an earthquake struck the Sichuan Province of China killing thousands and destroying homes, schools and businesses. World Vision responded with emergency relief including food, shelter, water and child protection measures such as child friendly spaces. Once the aftershocks stopped and the immediate situation began to stabilize, World Vision began setting up temporary schools and helping communities to rebuild. This will take time but World Vision Canada is committed to walking with these communities through this process.

Transition

Transition occurs when a community moves from a relief context to a development context. In this way World Vision helps communities move forward towards sustainable and dynamic development. Alternatively transition can also occur when a community moves from a development context to relief at the onset of an emergency. In this context World Vision continues to walk alongside and support communities until they can transition back towards development.

World Vision Canada responded to the Tsunami of December 26, 2004 in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Myanmar through the provision of emergency relief, the creation of 250 child friendly spaces, building shelters for survivors and finding missing



children. After the immediate needs of an emergency are met many organizations leave but World Vision has stayed, helping to rebuild the lives of the people affected even now, years after the disaster first struck. World Vision has been working in Indonesia since 1957 but

due to civil conflict and government restrictions we had never worked in Aceh Province, one of the areas hardest hit by the Tsunami. Now World Vision Canada remains engaged with the long term Aceh Area Development Programme established in October 2007.

How can you help?

Emergency Preparedness

<https://www.worldvision.ca/give-a-gift/Pages/EmergencyReliefWhereIt%27sNeededMost.aspx>

Crisis Child Partner

<http://www.worldvision.ca/give-a-gift/Crisis-Child-Partner/Pages/Crisis-Child-Partners.aspx>

Maximum Impact Fund

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=2162>

Learn More:

Relief Web

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc100?openForm>

Alertnet

<http://www.alertnet.org/>

Asia Region Planet Prepare report

<http://wvasiapacific.org/latest/the-world-is-changing-planet-prepare.html>



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