

Disaster Mitigation and Sustainability

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Problem / Question

How can disaster mitigation be achieved sustainably?



Definitions

Mitigation: The effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters

Sustainability: an ability or capacity of something to be maintained or to sustain itself

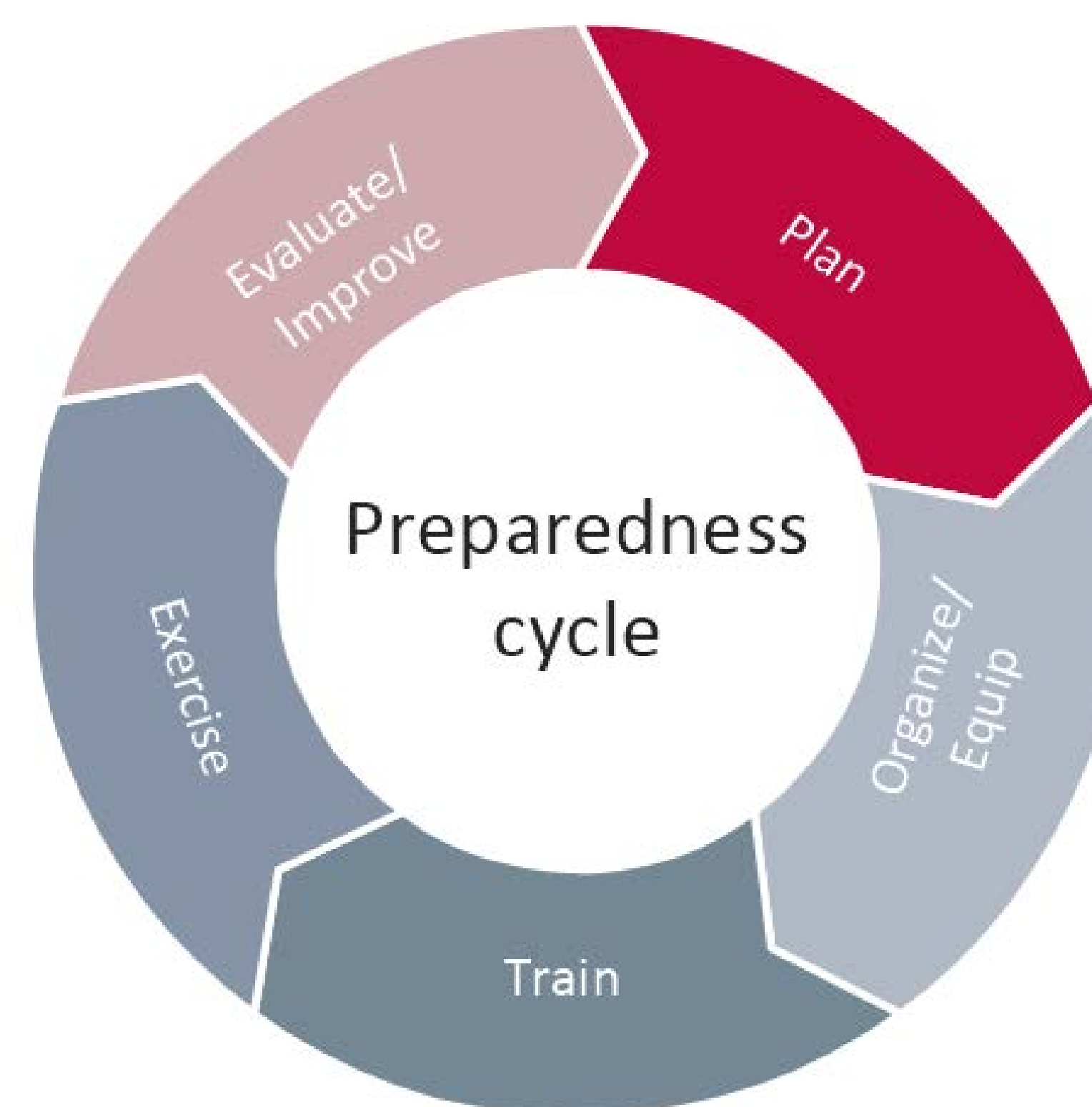
Disaster: A sudden event such as an accident or natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.

Disaster Mitigation: measures are those that eliminate or reduce the impacts and risks of hazards through proactive measures taken before an emergency or disaster occurs

Vulnerability: The extent to which a community, structure, services or geographic area is likely to be damaged or disrupted by the impact of a particular hazard

Steps in a Risk Assessment

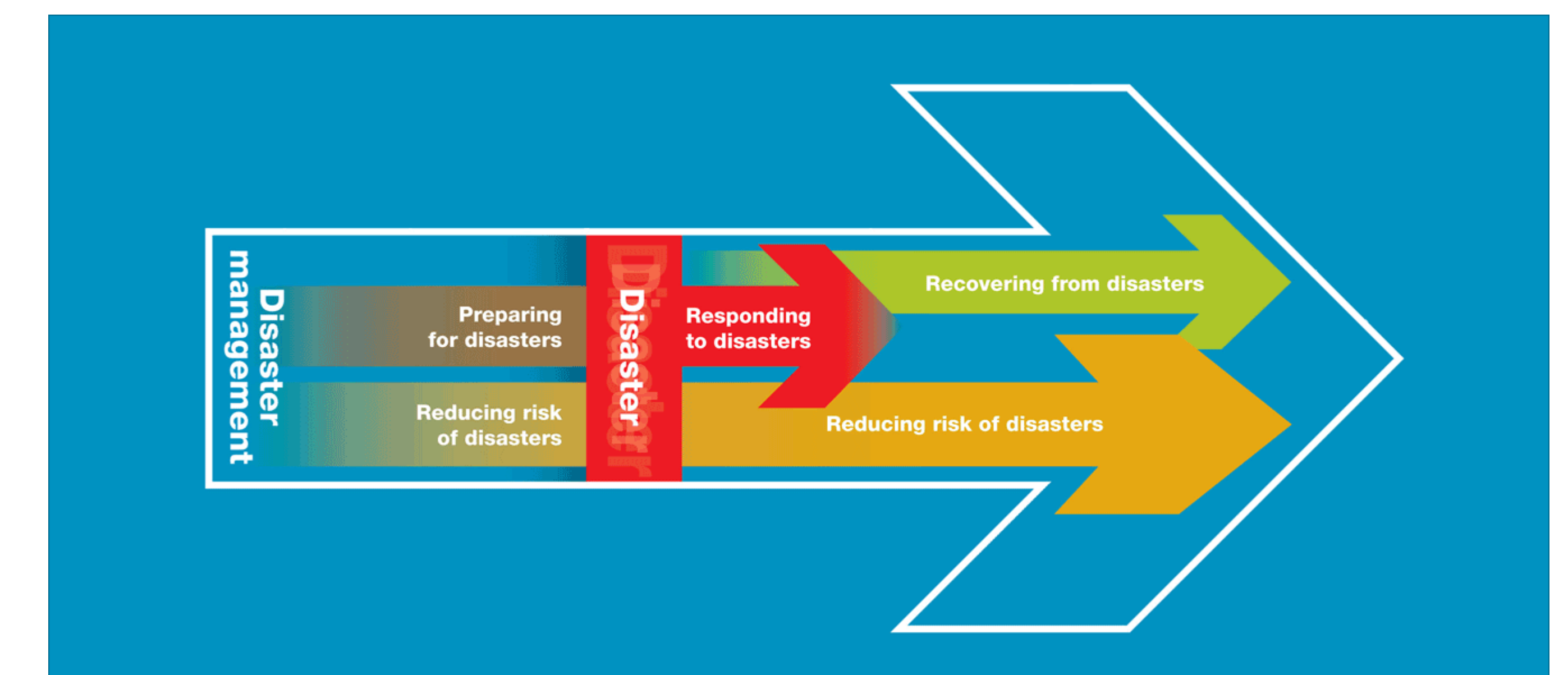
1. Understand the current situation. Know the communities needs and the gaps that exist.
2. Hazard Assessment. Identify the nature, location, intensity, and likelihood of particular disasters
3. Exposure Assessment. Identify populations at risk
4. Vulnerability Analysis. Determine the capacity of elements to withstand given disaster scenarios
5. Loss/Impact Analysis estimate the potential losses of exposed population, property, services
6. Risk Profiling and evaluation. Identify cost-effective risk reduction
7. Formulation or revision of Disaster Relief Strategies and action plans



Disaster Relief and Sustainability

- Qualitative concepts- what kind of development rather than the quantitative aspect
- Encourages high standards to reduce fatalities
- Advocate for the safe accommodations of future populations
- Concerned with the ethics of conservation and preservation
- Speaks in terms of needs not desires.

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Conclusion

Sustainability and disaster mitigation are ever evolving concepts. The ideas and strategies behind both go hand in hand and will continue to change as the needs of communities and populations do as well. There is a need to consider the individuality of cultures around the world and their individual risks based on where they live, and how it is best for them to formulate disaster plans.

Works Cited

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