

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

- Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context. Recovery should:
- appreciate the risks faced by communities;
- acknowledge existing strengths and capacity, including past experiences;
- be culturally sensitive and free from discrimination;
- recognise and respect differences; and
- support those who may be more vulnerable; such as people with disabilities, the elderly, children and those directly affected.

RECOGNISING COMPLEXITY

- Successful recovery acknowledges the complex and dynamic nature of emergencies and communities. Recovery should recognise that:
- information on impacts is limited at first and changes over time;
- affected individuals and communities have diverse needs, wants and expectations, which are immediate and evolve rapidly;
- support those who may be more vulnerable; such as people with disabilities, the elderly, children and those directly affected.

USING COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES

- Successful recovery is responsive and flexible, engaging communities and empowering them to move forward. Recovery should:
 - centre on the community, to enable those affected by a disaster to actively participate in their own recovery;
 - seek to address the needs of all affected communities;
 - allow individuals, families and communities to choose different paths to recovery;
 - ensure that the specific and changing needs of affected communities are met with flexible and adaptable policies, plans, and services; and
 - build strong partnerships between communities and those involved in the recovery process.
- Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs. Recovery should:
 - be guided by those with experience and expertise, using skilled and trusted leadership;
 - reflect well-developed planning and information gathering;
 - demonstrate an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and authority of other organisations and coordinate across agencies to ensure minimal service disruption;
 - be part of an emergency management approach that integrates with response and contributes to future prevention and preparedness;
 - be inclusive, using relationships created before and after the emergency;
 - have clearly articulated and shared goals based on desired outcomes;
 - have clear decision-making and reporting structures;
 - be flexible, take into account changes in community needs or stakeholder expectations;
 - incorporate the planned introduction to and transition from recovery-specific actions and services; and
 - focus on all dimensions; seeking to collaborate and reconcile different interests and time frames.

ENSURING COORDINATION OF ALL ACTIVITIES

- Successful recovery is built on effective communication recognises, supports and builds on community, individual and organisational capacity. Recovery should:
- ensure that all communication is relevant, timely, clear, accurate, targeted, credible and consistent;
- recognise that a community should be two-way, and that input and feedback should be sought and considered over an extended time;
- ensure that information is accessible to audiences in diverse situations, addresses a variety of communication needs, and is provided through a range of media and channels;
- establish mechanisms for coordinated and consistent communication with all organisations and individuals; and
- repeat key recovery messages because information is more likely to reach community members when they are receptive.

EMPLOYING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

ACKNOWLEDGING AND BUILDING CAPACITY

- Successful recovery recognises that resources can be provided by a range of stakeholders; understand that additional resources may be needed; and that sustainability may need to be addressed;
- provide opportunities to share, transfer and develop knowledge, skills and training;
- understand when and how to disengage; and
- develop networks and partnerships to strengthen capacity.

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Disaster recovery is part of emergency management, which includes the broader components of prevention, preparedness and response. Planning for recovery is integral to emergency preparation and mitigation actions may often be initiated as part of recovery.

Disaster recovery includes built, environmental and economic elements, as well as social wellbeing.



SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY RELIES ON:

- understanding the **context**.
- recognising **complexity**.
 - using **community-led** approaches.
 - ensuring **coordination** of all activities.
- employing effective **communication**.
- acknowledging and building **capacity**.

PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY