

## DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)/PARTICIPATORY PROJECT MANAGEMENT (PPM) DEFINITIONS<sup>1</sup>

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Summarised below are key definitions which relate to the TorqAid Disaster Risk Management (DRM) online program and workshops<sup>2</sup>, which include strong elements of Participatory Project Management (PPM).

Term	Definition
Acceptable Risk	The level of potential losses that a society or community considers acceptable given existing social, economic, political, cultural, technical and environmental conditions.
Adaptation	The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
Appropriateness <sup>3</sup>	Appropriateness is the tailoring of humanitarian activities to local needs, thereby increasing ownership, accountability, and cost-effectiveness accordingly.
Building Code	A set of ordinances or regulations and associated standards intended to control aspects of the design, construction, materials, alteration and occupancy of structures that are necessary to ensure human safety and welfare, including resistance to collapse and damage.
Built Environment	The human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, these including housing; commercial and industrial sites; public buildings and assets; parks and green spaces; and rural farmland. Usually included is the supporting infrastructure such as water supply and energy networks
Capacity	The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed objectives, this including the facing and managing of adverse conditions, and potential or real disasters. This is based upon a community's resilience (see definition of this below).
Climate Change	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed

<sup>1</sup> This article can be accessed at [www.torgaid.com/humanitarian-development-definitions](http://www.torgaid.com/humanitarian-development-definitions)

<sup>2</sup> See [www.torgaid.com/training](http://www.torgaid.com/training) for more details

<sup>3</sup> This is one of the key OECD/DAC humanitarian criteria as covered in the publication, ALNAP. Beck, T. (2006). *Evaluating Humanitarian Action using the OECD-DAC Criteria. An ALNAP Guide for Humanitarian Agencies*. Retrieved from <https://www.alnap.org/help-library/evaluating-humanitarian-action-using-the-oecd-dac-criteria>

	over comparable time periods”.
Coherence <sup>4</sup>	Refers to policy coherence, and the need to assess security, developmental, trade and military policies, as well as humanitarian ones, to ensure there is consistency in that they all take into account humanitarian and human rights considerations
Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)	Combines a mixture of Poverty Reduction Initiatives (PRIs) and Risk Reduction Initiatives (RRIs). Often carried out by NGOs at sub-district levels.
Complex Emergencies	<p>‘Situations of disrupted livelihoods and threats to life produced by warfare, civil disturbance and large-scale movements of people, in which any emergency response has to be conducted in a difficult political and security environment’ (WHO, 2017)</p> <p>Nation-state internal conflicts in which the capacity to sustain livelihood and life is threatened primarily by political factors, and, in particular, by high levels of violence.<sup>5</sup> (Burkle, FM Jr., 2006)</p> <p>‘A humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict, and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing United Nations country program’. (IASC, Dec.1994)’</p>
Connectedness <sup>6</sup>	The need to ensure that activities of a short-term nature are carried out in a context that takes longer-term and interconnected problems into account
Coordination	The systematic use of policy instruments to deliver humanitarian assistance in a cohesive and effective manner.
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Coverage <sup>7</sup>	The need to reach major population groups facing life-threatening suffering, providing them with assistance and protection proportionate to their need, and devoid of extraneous political agendas
Disaster	A situation or event which overwhelms local capacity necessitating a

<sup>4</sup> Another of the OECD/DAC humanitarian criteria quoted in the 2006 ALNAP publication referenced above

<sup>5</sup> Burkle, FM Jr., 2006 *Complex Humanitarian Emergencies. Handbook of Bioterrorism and Disaster Medicine. Part 1. Pp 31.* Springer US.

<sup>6</sup> Another of the OECD/DAC humanitarian criteria quoted in the 2006 ALNAP publication reference above

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	request to national or international level for external assistance; an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction and human suffering <sup>8</sup> .
Disaster Risk Management (DRM)	The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills across the Normal/Risk Reduction, Emergency Response and Recovery Stages.
Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) – <i>sometimes called Emergency Management Plan (EMP)</i>	A plan designed to protect a community against identified hazards or threats. Includes Risk Reduction, Emergency Response and Recovery initiatives. DRMPs are ideally the responsibility of government, and should be prepared at national, state/provincial and district levels. NGOs sometimes complement these plans with CBDRM work at local levels.
The Disaster Risk Management Planning (DRMP) diagram	Shows the relationships between government DRMPs at national, state/provincial and district levels, complemented by CBDRM work by NGOs at sub-district levels
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	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.
The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) diagram	A combination of risk reduction initiatives in the Normal/Risk Reduction stage of the Disaster Risk Management Cycle (DRMC). These initiatives include Security and Good Governance; Economic and Social Development, with a strong emphasis on Poverty Reduction; Food & Water Security; Environmental Sustainability/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA); and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Initiatives
Early Warning System	The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.
Economic environment	This includes economic activity carried out in both urban and rural areas by individuals, businesses, and governments; and it invariably includes the transport infrastructure linking these initiatives, namely road, rail, air and

<sup>8</sup> This is the definition as used by CRED (the Brussels-based Centre for Research on the Epidemiology). CRED manages the EM-DAT, a world-wide data base on disasters. These statistics are used in the annual Red Cross World Disaster Report (WDR). In order to be entered as a disaster on the EM-DAT, at least one of the following has to be fulfilled: 10 or more people reported killed; 100 people or more reported affected; declaration of state of emergency; call for international assistance

	shipping systems. This takes into account the political environment (eg capitalist/state control) within which this economic environment operates.
Effectiveness <sup>9</sup>	Measures the extent to which the purpose has been achieved, or whether this can be expected to happen on the basis of outputs. Implicit in this are elements of timeliness
Efficiency <sup>10</sup>	This measures the outputs, both qualitative and quantitative, achieved as a result of inputs. This generally requires comparing alternative approaches (eg different use of inputs) to achieve the same outputs – ie seeing whether the most efficient process has been used. This is also referred to as ‘value-for-money’.
El Niño - Southern Oscillation phenomenon	A complex interaction of the tropical Pacific Ocean and the global atmosphere that results in irregularly occurring episodes of changed ocean and weather patterns in many parts of the world, often with significant impacts over many months, such as altered marine habitats, rainfall changes, floods, droughts, and changes in storm patterns.
Environmental Degradation	The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and needs.
Emergency Response	The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.
Emergency Services	The set of specialized agencies that have specific responsibilities and objectives in serving and protecting people and property in emergency situations.
Good Governance	The competent management of a country’s resources and affairs in a manner that is open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to people’s needs ( <i>AusAID definition</i> )
Greenhouse Gases	Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth’s surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds.
Hazard	Can be natural, human-induced or technological in nature. 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. They are not disasters <i>per se</i> , but have the potential to cause them

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Impact <sup>11</sup>	Looks at the wider effects of the project (social, economic, technical, environmental) on individuals, gender, age-groups, communities and institutions. Impacts can be intended and unintended; positive and negative; macro (eg sector) and micro (eg household)
Inclusiveness	The importance of meeting the safety, dignity, rights and needs of all affected people, particularly taking into account age, gender, disability, and other social or ethnic disadvantage.
Instrumentalization	Shorthand for the use of humanitarian action or rhetoric as a tool to pursue political, security, military, development, economic, and other non-humanitarian goals. <i>Instrumentalization</i> is not quite the same as <i>politicization</i> or <i>manipulation</i> , although it contains elements of both
Mitigation	Activities which reduce the likelihood of occurrence, and/or the impact of a hazard or potential disaster.
National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.	A generic term for national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that are multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary in nature; with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities within a country.
Natural Environment	This encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on earth, these including vegetation, soil, rocks, atmosphere and natural phenomena that occur within their boundaries. It also includes physical phenomena that lack clear-cut boundaries, such as air, water and climate.
Poverty Reduction Initiatives (PRIs)	Often carried out by NGOs at sub-district levels. Include initiatives such as health and education improvements; income generation; improved animal husbandry etc. PRIs, complemented by RRI, constitute the key components of CBDRM.
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.
Public Awareness	The extent of common knowledge about disaster risks; the factors that lead to disasters; and the actions that can be taken individually and collectively to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards.
Recovery	A range of programming activities which usually follow on from Emergency Response in dealing with a major disaster. The restoration, and

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	improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors ( <i>EMA definition, 1996</i> )
Relevance	Assessing whether the project purpose and goal are in line with local needs and priorities (as well as with donor policy)
Resilience	Resilience means the ability to “resile from” or “spring back from” a shock. In a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) situation, this ideally means the ability of an individual or community to more effectively prepare for; respond to; and recover from a potential or real disaster situation. There is also a link between resilience and risk, where:  Risk (R) = Hazard x <u>Vulnerability</u> where V/C relates to resilience Capacity (C)
Residual Risk	The risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.
Retrofitting	Reinforcement or upgrading of existing structures to become more resistant and resilient to the damaging effects of hazards.
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives (ISO 31000). The probability of something happening that will have an adverse impact upon people, plant, equipment, financials, property or the environment, and the severity of that impact (AS/NZA 4360 2004). The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences. Risk is also a combination of hazards, vulnerability & capacity
Risk Assessment	A methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.
Risk Management	Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regards to risk
Risk Reduction	A combination of actions including Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and Transfer.
Risk Reduction Initiatives (RRIs)	Often carried out by NGOs at sub-district levels. Include initiatives such as well deepening; provision of food banks; strengthening/ improving house structures from particular hazards etc. RRIs, complemented by PRIs, constitute the key components of CBDRM.
Risk Transfer	The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another, whereby a household,

	community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party.
Social Capital	The invisible glue of relationships that holds business, economy and political life together. This is at the core of any country's development, and at its most elemental level, boils down to a matter of trust (D.Moyo definition).
Social Media	Media that is posed by the user and can take many different forms. Some types of social media are forums, message boards, blogs, wikis and podcasts. Social media applications include Google, Facebook and YouTube.
Social and Political Environment	The immediate social and political settings within which people live, work and communicate with each other. This includes population concentrations and densities; language and ethnicity; knowledge and skills; faith-based systems; health, safety and well-being; family relationships and wider networks; degree to which democracy and a free press operates.
Stakeholders	Any individual, group or institution that has an interest in or which is affected by a project in a positive or negative way.
Structural & non-structural measures	<i>Structural measures:</i> Any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of hazards, or application of engineering techniques to achieve hazard resistance and resilience in structures or systems. <i>Non-structural measures:</i> Any measure not involving physical construction that uses knowledge, practice or agreement to reduce risks and impacts, in particular through policies and laws, public awareness raising, training and education.
Sustainability	The continuation of benefits on end of assistance. The probability of continued long-term benefits and resilience to risk over time, as well as lasting benefits in the economy, institutions, human resource management, etc.
Threat	Factors other than hazards which can negatively affect communities or the environment. This can include pandemics such as HIV/AIDs; lack of security; conflict, or war
Vulnerability	The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerability is a weakened ability to respond positively to hazards or other threats. Some sections or particular members of society are particularly vulnerable, and unfavourable locations/shelter can also enhance vulnerability.

	Vulnerability, defined by the Ministry of Defence (NZ) (p.7. 2005), relates to the characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of disaster.
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