

PHASES OF DISASTER (DISASTER CYCLE)

Introduction and overview

This topic will cover the disaster phases which occur in a cycle that requires different range of response activities. The different phases, however, are often grouped together under three categories namely:

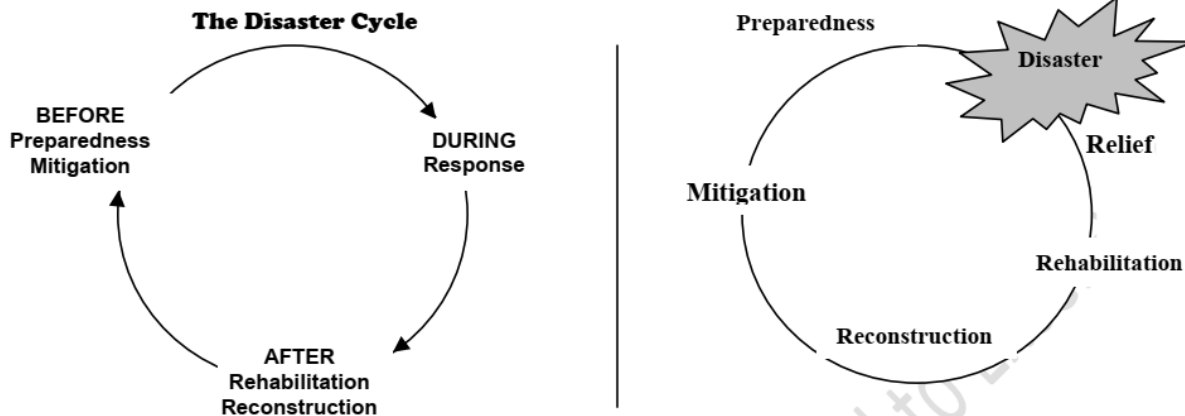
Pre-disaster phase, the disaster phase and the post-disaster phase

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this topic the learner is expected to:

1. Identify the phases of disaster management cycle
2. Explain the activities undertaken in each phase
3. Use relevant examples to explain each phase

THE CYCLE



Pre-disaster Phase

The emphasis in this phase is the reduction of the vulnerability of communities to the impact of natural phenomena. Activities in this phase include:

- Risk-mapping,
- Application of building codes
- Land zoning
- Structural measures such as the construction of dams against flooding

Note: They comprise mitigation and preparedness phases.

Disaster Phase

This is the phase during which the event of the disaster takes place. This phase is characterized by profound damage to the human and society. This damage / loss may be that of: *human life, loss of property, loss of environment, loss of health etc.*

In this phase, the population is taken by profound shock. The phase is normally short-lived and may be over within days or weeks.

Response/Relief Phase

This phase involves measures taken immediately prior to and following the disaster

impact. Response measures are directed towards saving life and protecting property. They deal with the immediate disruption caused by the disaster. The activities include: *search and rescue, and the provision of emergency food, shelter, medical assistance etc.*

Note: The effectiveness of responding to disasters largely depends on the level of preparedness.