

# **DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES**

## **DEFINITIONS**

### Training Package

WHO/EHA  
Panafrican Emergency Training Centre, Addis Ababa  
Updated March 2002 by EHA

# **WORLDWIDE**

## Number of People Affected by Disasters



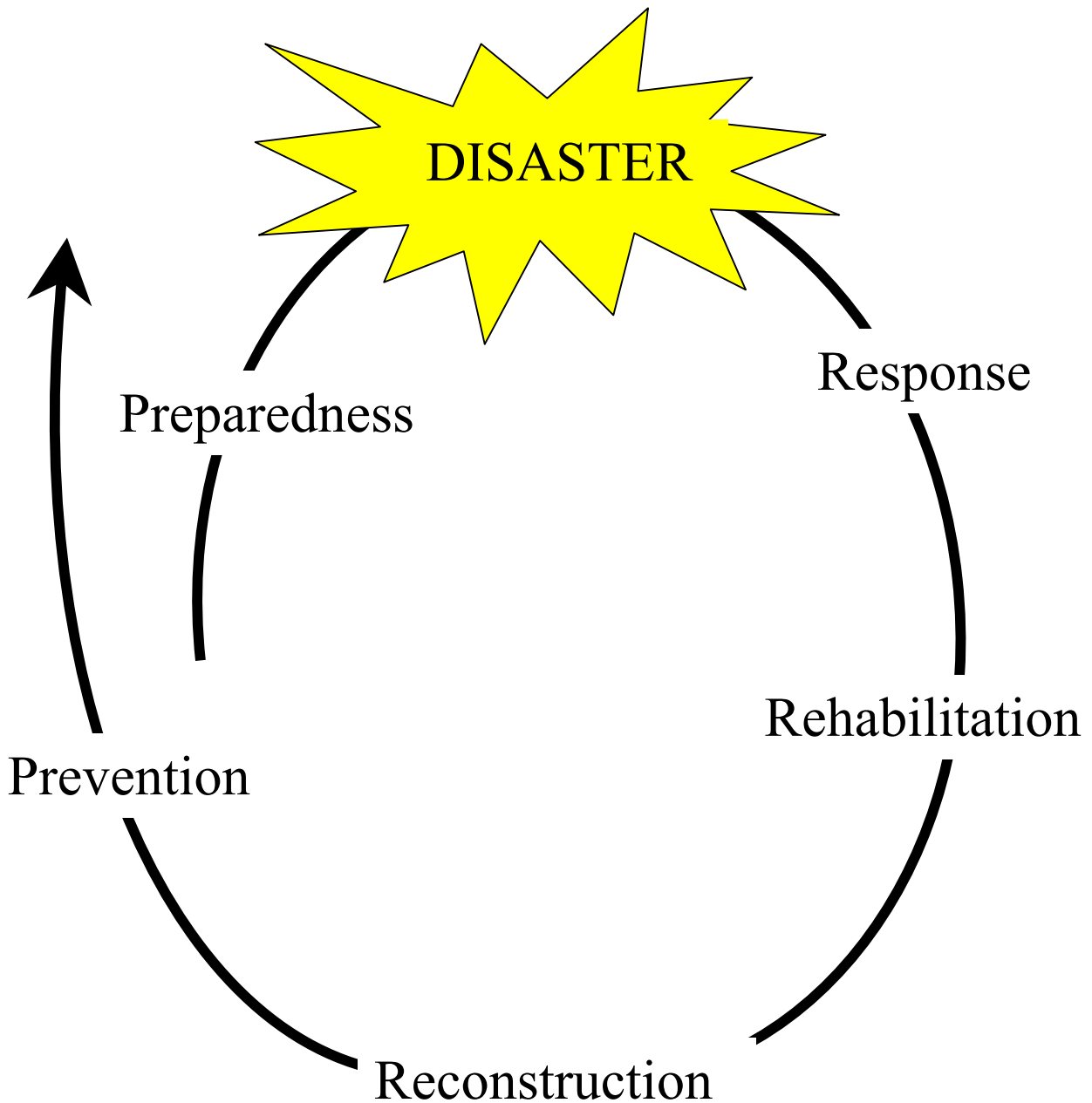
**Definition :**

## **DISASTER :**

A disaster is an occurrence disrupting the normal conditions of existence and causing a level of suffering that exceeds the capacity of adjustment of the affected community.

**It is the people  
who matter most, and  
without the people  
we have no disaster.**

# THE DISASTER -DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM



# RELIEF-DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM

Disaster prevention, mitigation & preparedness safeguard development.

Good response facilitates recovery and development.

Africa's hazards and vulnerabilities have been the targets of 30 years of development: their persistence testifies to as many failures.

Today, ever-increasing resources are spent for disaster relief, at the expense of development.

But only development can reduce vulnerabilities, and the hazards arising from the socio-economic structure.

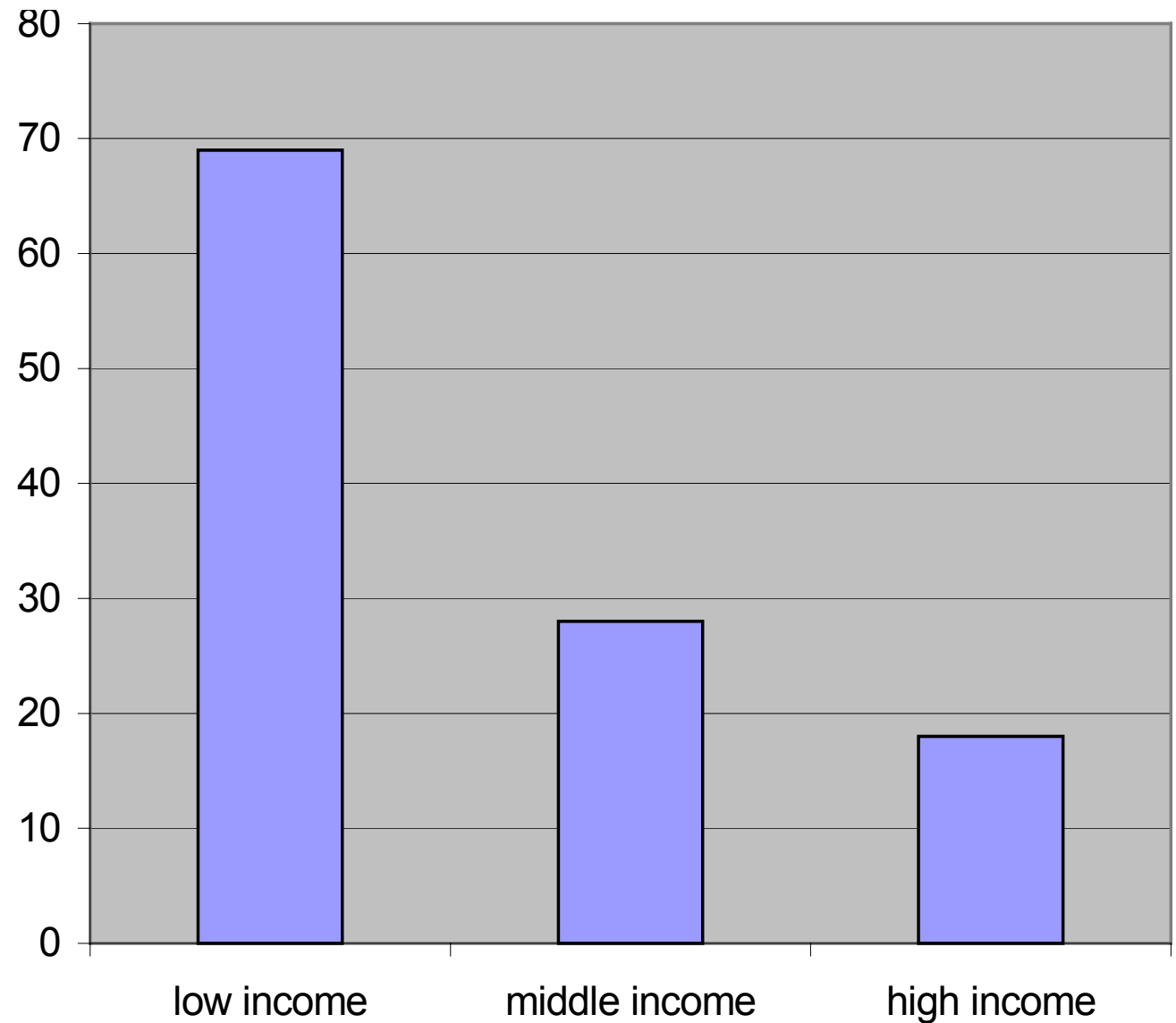
# **THE DISASTER-DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM**

**Disasters and crisis  
("emergencies")  
are not aberrant phenomena.**

**They are reflections of  
the ways societies  
structure themselves  
and allocate their resources.**

# DISASTER MORTALITY IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT STATUS

deaths/1,000 population



Gross Domestic Product per capita



Every year  
Western Governments spend

**USD 100 billion**  
subsidizing power stations  
(i.e. Global Warming)

**USD 300 billion**  
subsidizing agriculture  
(i.e. Deforestation and Overgrazing)

**USD 50 billion**  
subsidizing fisheries  
(i.e. Overfishing)

# **EMERGENCY**

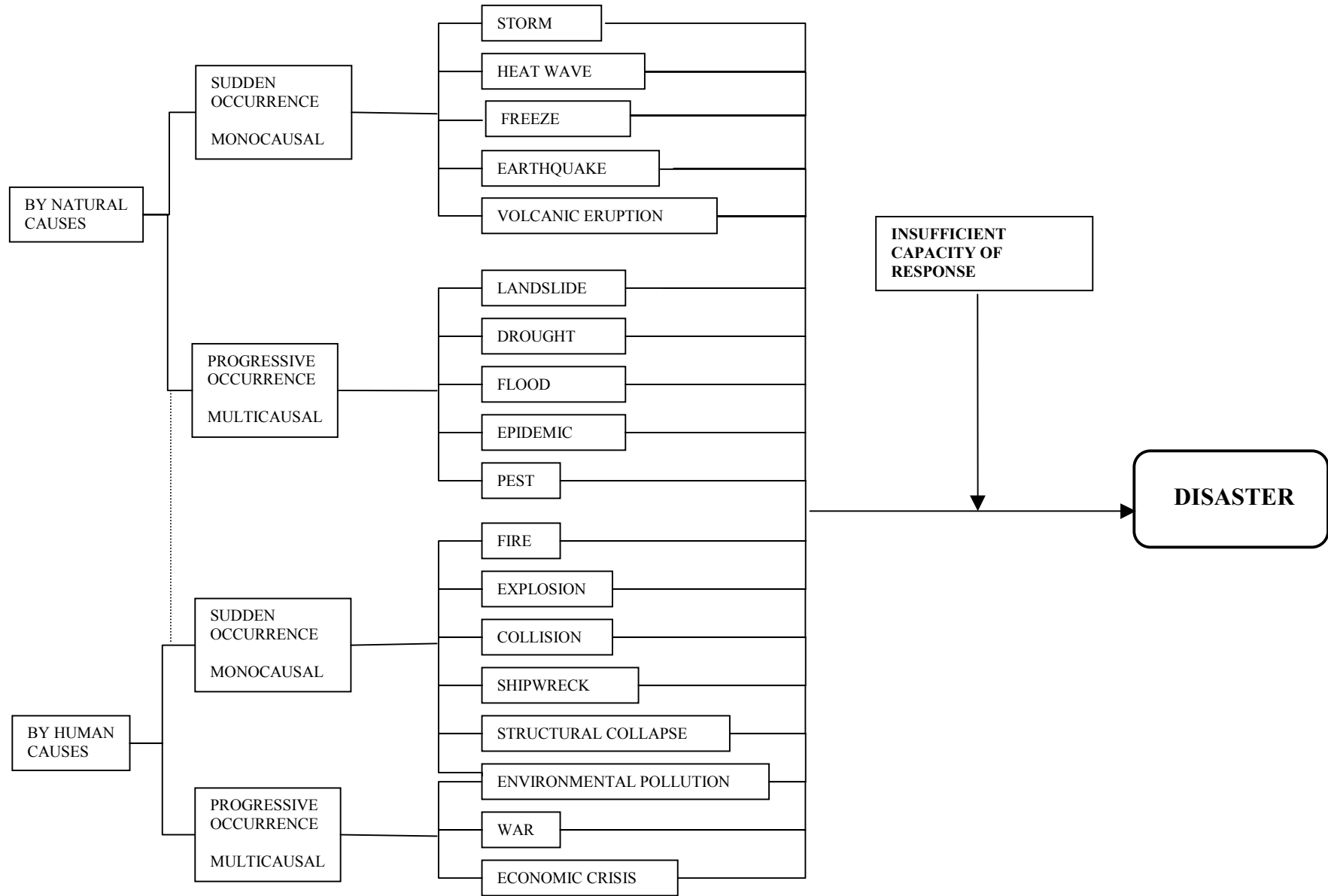
a state in which  
normal procedures  
are suspended  
and  
extra-ordinary measures are taken  
in order to avert a disaster

Definition:

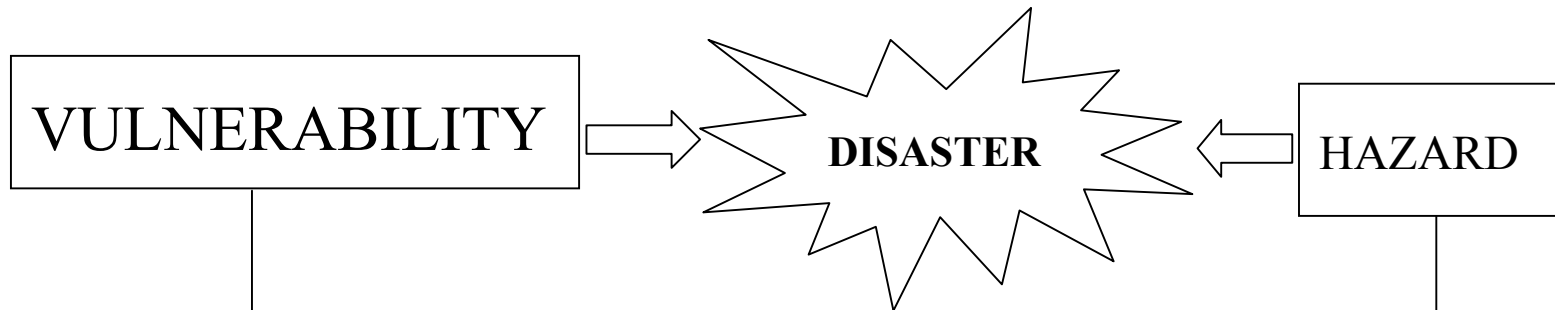
## **HAZARD**

**A natural or human-made event that threatens to adversely affects human life, property or activity to the extent of causing a disaster.**

# HAZARDS AND DISASTERS: CLASSIFICATION



# A disaster occurs when hazards and vulnerability meet



<b>Underlying causes</b>	<b>Dynamic pressures</b>	<b>Unsafe conditions</b>
Poverty Limited access to - power structures - resources Ideologies Economic systems Age Sex Illness and disabilities	Lack of - local institutions - education - training - appropriate skills - local investments - local markets - services - press freedom  Macro-forces - population expansion - urbanization - environment degradation	Fragile physical environment - dangerous locations - dangerous buildings, etc.  Fragile local economy - low levels of income - livelihoods at risk  Public actions

**Vulnerability  
+ Hazard  
=DISASTER**

<b>Trigger event</b>
Earthquake High winds, storm Floods Landslide Volcanic eruption Drought War, civil strife Economic crisis Technological accident

# **VULNERABILITY**

the predisposition  
to suffer damage  
due to external events

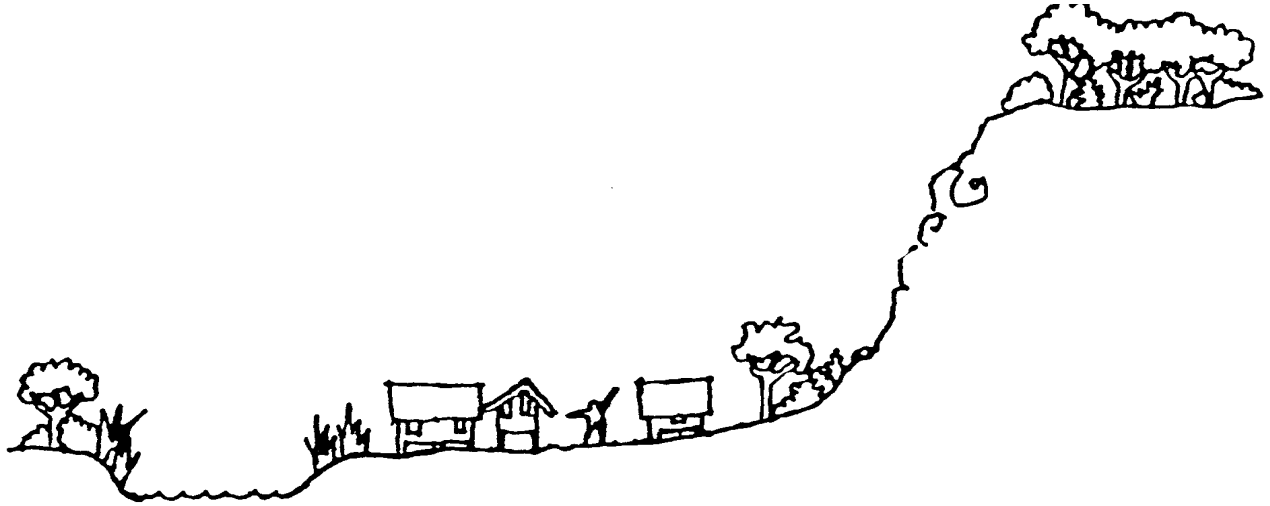
# **SUSCEPTIBILITY**

exposure to danger

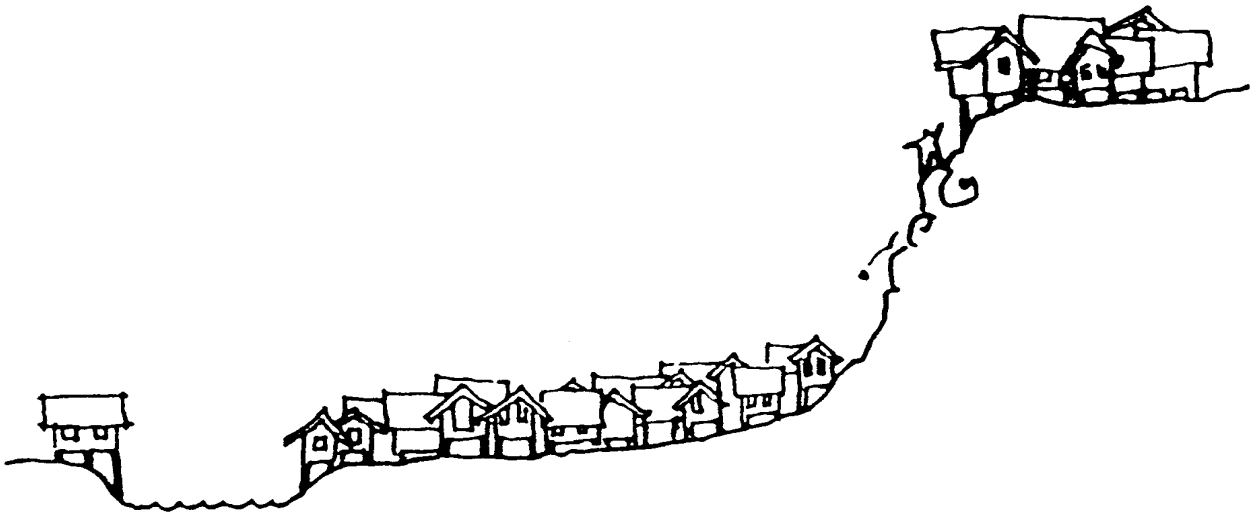
# **RESILIENCE**

adaptability,  
capacity to recover

# Poverty, population growth and urbanization force living in unsafe areas



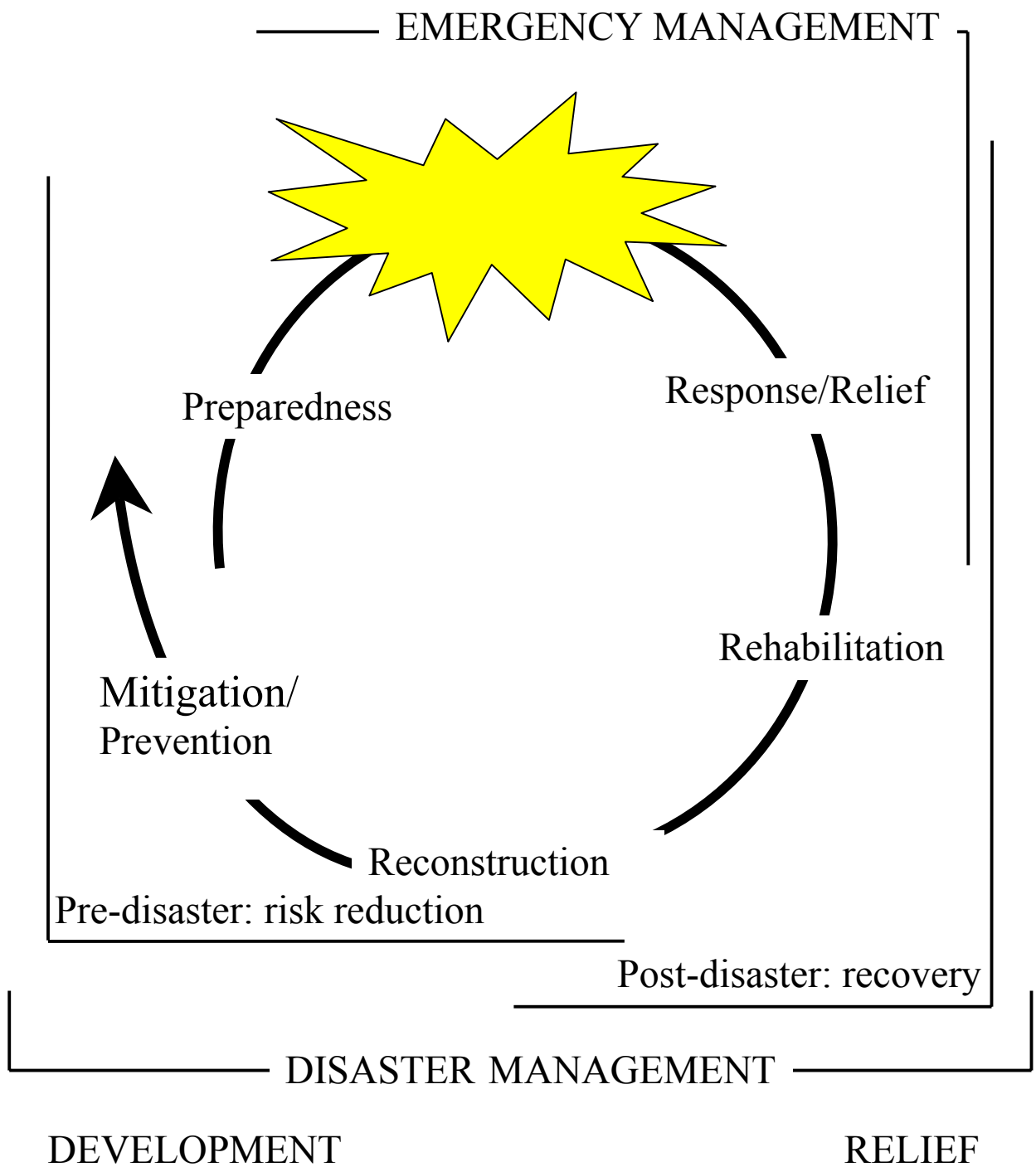
Site



Site after pressures from population growth and urbanization



# Disaster Management and Emergency Management



# **AIMS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- **reduce (avoid, if possible) the potential losses from hazards**
- **assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims when necessary**
- **achieve rapid and durable recovery**

# **CAPACITY**

**ability, ableness to do**

**Capacity for emergency  
management is made of:**

- **INFORMATION**
- **AUTHORITY**
- **INSTITUTIONS**
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
- **PLANS, RESOURCES  
AND PROCEDURES  
TO ACTIVATE THEM**

# **MITIGATION:**

**permanent reduction of the risk of  
disaster**

## **“Primary Mitigation”**

- **reducing the PRESENCE of the Hazard**
- **reducing VULNERABILITY**

## **“Secondary” Mitigation:**

- **reducing the EFFECTS of the Hazard (Preparedness)**

# **PREPAREDNESS**

**the measures that ensure  
the organized mobilization of  
personnel,  
funds,  
equipment and supplies  
within a safe environment  
for effective relief**

# **RESPONSE**

**the set of activities implemented after the impact of a disaster in order to**

- **assess the needs**
- **reduce the suffering**
- **limit the spread and the consequences of the disaster**
- **open the way to rehabilitation**

## **REHABILITATION:**

The restoration of basic social functions.

## **RECONSTRUCTION:**

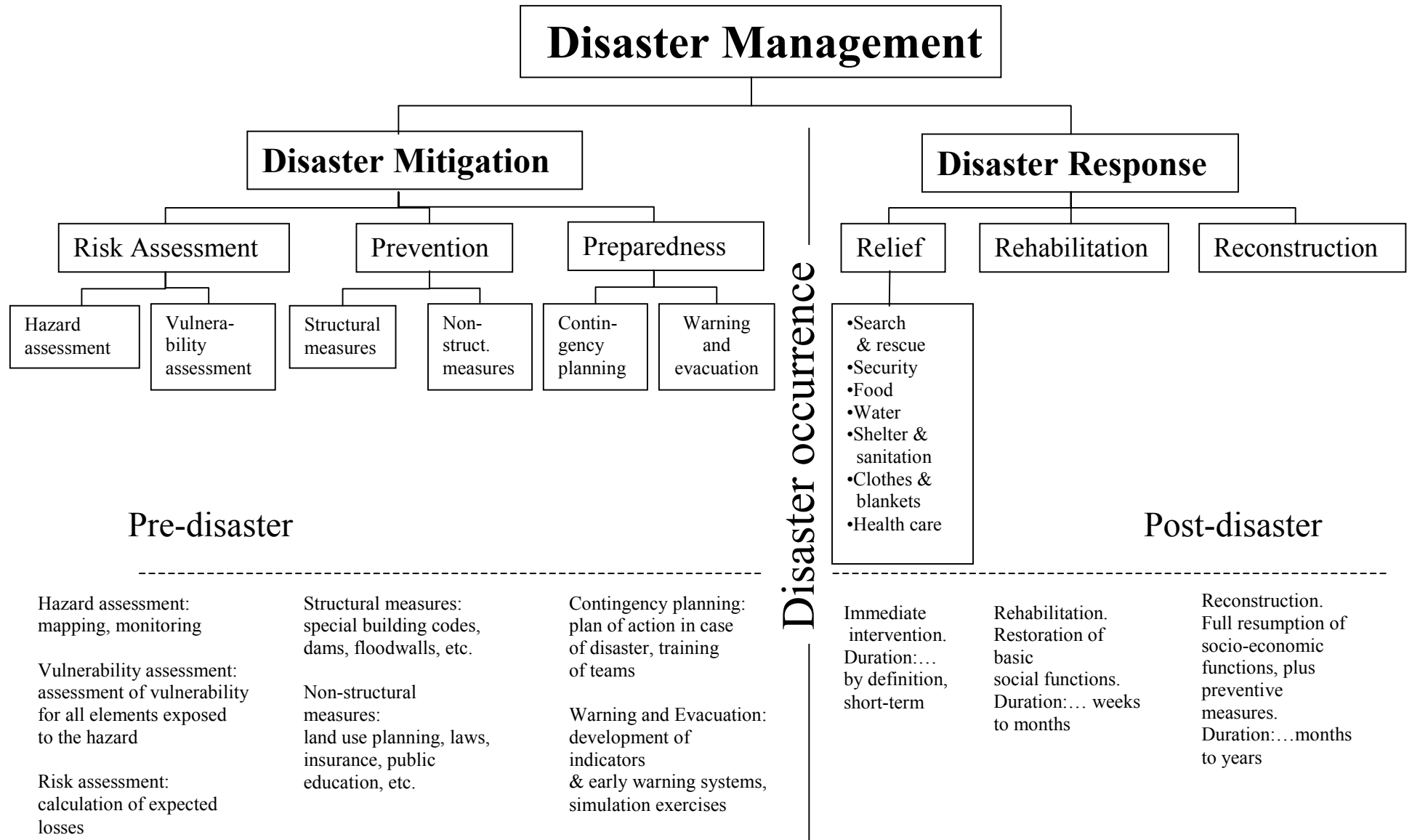
The full resumption of socio-economic activities plus preventive measures.

# **ELEMENTS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- **disaster preparedness planning**
  - \* vulnerability and risk assessment
- **disaster response**
  - \* disaster assessment
- **rehabilitation &  
reconstruction**
- **disaster mitigation**

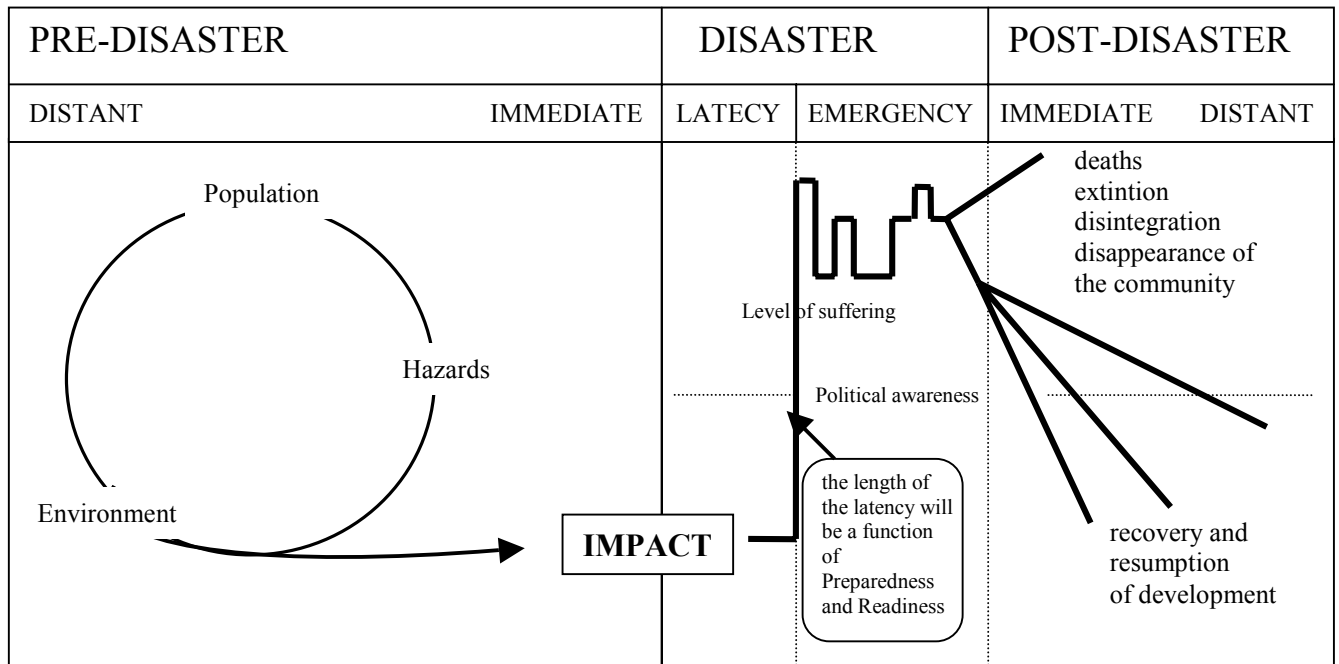


## Disaster management: leading activities and related terms



## Comparing the natural history of disaster with the disaster-development continuum

PRE-PATHOGENIC PERIOD	PATHOGENIC PERIOD
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VULNERABILITY	ALERT	READINESS	R E L I E F	REHABILITATION	RECONSTRUCTION
PREVENTION	PREPAREDNESS		R E S P O N S E		RECOVERY
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b>					
PREVENTION & MITIGATION			RESPONSE & RECOVERY		
<b>DISASTER MANAGEMENT</b>					

(Health Promotion and) PRIMARY PREVENTION	SECONDARY PREVENTION	TERTIARY PREVENTION
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>		