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## Mitigation and Community Resilience

The ultimate goal of mitigation is to reduce the likelihood of a disaster event and/or hazardous outcomes associated with the event, such as through the use of early warning systems or structural modification, according to our lecture. Mitigation can inform community resiliency through the construction of community shelters, the construction of barriers and retention systems, regulatory measures such as zoning and open space preservation, and the building of community awareness programs. It is through collective action and effective public education that a community can alter the behavior of individuals which may promote risk reduction.<sup>1</sup> Efforts such as strengthening social ties to withstand a hazard's stress, to rationing during droughts, and environmental conservation practices can all lead to positive hazard mitigation outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

Similarly, community resiliency plays a role in mitigation efforts, as the first and primary obstacle to mitigation is the cost involved, as well as low levels of political support.<sup>1</sup> Risk perception is perhaps the largest barrier to mitigation as there must be a belief to the public that the hazard risk is reducible.<sup>1</sup> As such, public support for mitigation efforts through participation throughout the disaster management process is vital especially when passing funding bills and regulatory requirements.

**Reference:**

1. Coppola, D. (2015). Introduction to International Disaster Management (3rd ed.). Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann Ch 4 Mitigation; pay special attention to pp. 224-251