

Global Trends: Climate Change

Climate change is widely considered the most important future global trend. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)¹, the increase in natural disasters over the past 50 years can be attributed to climate change and extreme weather events. These natural disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. As such, it is imperative that organizations and communities are prepared to respond to these disasters and minimize the impact.

One of the most important ways to prepare for and respond to disasters caused by global climate change is through training and capacity building. It is important to make a disaster risk assessment to understand the needs and resources of the community and to identify risks and vulnerabilities. Using the assessment results to prepare for emergencies and disasters by developing separate emergency and evacuation plans depending on the types of disasters. This plan should outline specific actions to be taken by everyone before, during and after an emergency or disaster and regular training should be conducted.²

There are some possibilities for implementing training and capacity building, including working with government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. Collaboration between these stakeholders can ensure that training and capacity building programs are accessible and effective. For example, FEMA released Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Course materials, which provides an overview of the different types of emergencies and offers a comprehensive CERT training course and training resources.³

Reference

Preparedness community.

https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-trainings?language=en_US.

Before, during and after an emergency. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/before-during-after.html>. Published September 1, 2020.

Climate and weather related disasters surge five-fold over 50 years, but early warnings save lives - WMO report | UN news. United Nations.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1098662>.