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Predisaster Planning is the name given to the organizing of activities which embody precautions of all kinds which can be taken before the occurrence of a disaster event.

Precautions which can be taken before a disaster event occurs can be divided to relate to the two periods of time of before and after the event.

Those events which occur during the period of time after the disaster has occurred are referred to as "Contingencies" because what happens during that time after a disaster <sup>is determined by the disaster</sup> itself. They cannot be known before except as a range of likely situations (contingencies) for which precautions can be taken up to a point before which details of magnitude, numbers and location of damage and needs become known. The making of arrangements for the carrying out of recognized activities to deal with these contingencies is called "Contingency Planning."

Contingency Planning can itself be further divided to relate to two merging time phases and corresponding sequences of events relating to an "emergency period" and to "rehabilitation". The emergency period is usually referred to as that period immediately following a disaster during which urgent action has to be taken to relieve suffering such as rescue and first aid. The period

of rehabilitation which follows contains those activities necessary to provide shelter, warmth and food to those rendered homeless and hungry.

Those precautions which relate to the period of time before the disaster event can clearly play a part in mitigating the effects of the disaster occurrence whilst contingency planning accepts the likely aftermaths of disaster.

These precautions for mitigation can also be divided into two groups. Those precautions relating to the adequacy of building construction and consideration of the location for building and development purposes are called 'Physical Precautions'. Those further precautions relating to warning, transmission and dissemination of warnings and the preparation of associated advice to accompany warnings to individuals, groups, neighbourhoods and communities are called 'Social Precautions.'

There have now been identified two principle groups of precaution and each group has been divided twice. Each of those four groups can now be divided between those precautionary activities best suited to Government action and those which might be best suited or assigned to civil activity co-ordinated by the Red Cross. The following diagram might be used to summarise the foregoing paragraphs.

	government activity	non-government activity.
Physical Precautions		
Social Precautions		
<del>WARNING</del>		
<del>DISASTER EVENT</del>		
Emergency & Relief.		
Rehabilitation.		

A list of activities suggested as being representative of those belonging to predisaster planning are given in paragraph 6.44 (p.35) of "A Study in Predisaster Planning". They are divided under the four principle headings that have been described but, in addition, contingencies of the emergency period have been divided again because it must be recognized that where a warning has been possible of an imminent disaster event the actual "emergency" begins on receipt of that warning and not at the point of the disaster event itself. So the emergency period has been sub-divided into "emergency" first and "relief" second followed by the "rehabilitation" period.

From those activities indicated as best carried out by Red Cross action a separate listing can be made which can be referred to as paragraph 6.47(p.38) of the "Study in Predisaster Planning". This listing has been arranged in the same way as described above (with the exception of Physical Precautions which are not likely to come within Red Cross responsibility). It is important however to distinguish between the planning of the activity and the action of carrying it out. These two processes belong to separate time periods of before and after the disaster event.

The arrangement of Red Cross activities is therefore as follows:

Precautions

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Appoint disaster co-ordinator

appoint deputy disaster co-ordinator

define roles

obtain equipment and facilities

Identify non-government local resources (refer para 6.52

onwards of the Study)

Negotiate with owners/controllers their availability.

Arrange method of payment

Arrange transportation

Arrange distribution of Supplies

Define means of transmission and receipt of information of

disaster occurrence and subsequent follow up

Define means of conveyance of information after receipt.

SOCIAL PRECAUTIONS

Define procedures for dealing with:

ambulatory casualties

immobile injured

distress cases

Define methods of emergency feeding at temporary shelters

(in case of prolonged emergency)

Define recipients in need of checking on receipt of warnings

Define method of checking on receipt of warnings.

As with the listing in para. 6.44 this list is not seen as necessarily complete or definitive but as sufficient for achieving the principle divisions. Where additional activities are to be included they can be instated in the now existing subdivisions.

By carrying out this process of definition and by analysing the constituent activities of predisaster planning and grouping them under previously defined heads the following advantages emerge. First the total range of preplanning activity can be seen at a glance by either national, regional or local authorities but does not become overwhelming due to it's subdivision.

Second, by approaching the subject from its theory rather than from the resources available the total role for predisaster planning can be seen and not just those parts which are undertaken because either

- a) they have been recognized as a requirement
- b) resources are available
- c) personnel are available

In this way any gap appearing between theory and application will lead to recognition of the need for additional resources and personnel in order to carry out a full predisaster planning programme, and appeals can then be related to specific needs. Thirdly, groups of related activity can be more easily assigned to personnel to

be in charge.

This final facility of relating groups of activity to personnel can be the result of applying the same analysis to action during the emergency period as an extension of contingency planning. It may be appropriate for the action relating to the emergency period to be divided between a "coordinator" and a "logistics officer" for instance, with the coordinator undertaking the broader and overall responsibilities and the logistics officer organizing transportation and involvements, thus:

CO-ORDINATOR

Receipt and transmission of information of disaster occurrence and follow up.

Conveyance of information after receipt.

Action to delineate area(s) involved.

Preparation of requests for assistance

Preparation of requests for supplies

Coordination of offers of local assistance

Preparation of an appeal

Relations with the press

Liason with government disaster coordinator

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Assessment of requirements after receipt of information on immediate (relief) needs

Identification of supplies available

Identification of supplies unavailable

Indentification of means of transportation for other  
relief supplies

Checking on the receipt of warnings by groups and individuals  
in vulnerable situations, or who are aged or incapacitated

Provision of transportation for individuals requiring com-  
munal shelter but who are unable to reach it.

It will be seen that the activities of the foregoing paragraph  
are of Action whereas those in the Activities for planning are  
of making arrangements for carrying out the action.