

Pre and Post Disaster Recovery

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### **Three Differences between Pre-Disaster Plans and Post-Disaster Plans**

A pre-disaster plan is a proposal that will be adopted in the event of future occurrence. It is part of the comprehensive disaster management approach that seeks to set a blueprint that will be adopted when disaster strikes. On the other hand, a post-disaster plan is a function of emergency management where actors focus on reconstructing, repairing, and regaining environmental and economic aspects as well as managing non-material aspects such as psychosocial impacts of a disaster (Clarke, Fanany & Kenny, 2010, 192). It seeks to build resilience against the reoccurrence of such events in the future (Schwab, 2006, 32).

Pre-disaster plans are informed by hazard and risk-assessment approaches and evaluation of literature that explores disasters that may have occurred in other places (Schwab, 2006, 29). However, a post-disaster plan is an approach that is informed by needs. Rather than anticipating effects as the case of pre-disaster planning, post-disaster proposals seek to address basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, infrastructural needs, water, sanitation, and infrastructural needs.

Pre-disaster planning is an ongoing process as it focuses on monitoring all events to detect imminent risks that can inform the planning process (Office of Emergency Management, Fairfax, 2012, p. 102). On the other hand, post-disaster planning is a demand-based response that focuses on public information systems, organization and authority, land use, public sector services, psychosocial rehabilitation, structural rehabilitation, and economic recovery aspects.

### **Most Significant Plan**

Pre-disaster recovery plans are the most significant tool of disaster management. Although post-disaster planning is the most informed framework of responding to events, it has disadvantages in that it is guided by demand. The decision-making and implementation phases need coordination and efficiency to assist natural environments, communities, individuals, and economies. However, there is an inadequacy of time. Pre-disaster planning resolves the dilemma by adopting proactive anticipation of recovery aspects, developing scenario-based training programs, as well as building capacity to aid the effective recovery (Coppola, 2007, p.217). Although it relies on assumptions, it utilizes strong evidence from literature and design tools, delegates responsibilities, identifies partners, and sets an inventory. The approach results in a more coordinated response within the limited time of the recovery process.

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