



PACIFIC DISASTER NET

**Glossary
Acronyms**

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Glossary

Topic	Definition	BT (Broader Term)
Agriculture and Hazards	A hazard that can be expected to have its primary impact on crops or livestock. (includes pests, diseases and some environmental and chemical hazards).	Hazards
Air Transportation	The movement of passengers and / or goods by aircraft.	Technology and Hazards
Alert	Message that advises people and organisations when an event is expected to affect a community, area or facility in the near future and that they should take action. A period when resources may require to be brought to a higher level of preparedness.	Early Warning
Building Codes	Ordinances and regulations controlling the design, construction, materials, alteration and occupancy of any structure for safety, welfare and integrity. Building codes include both technical and functional standards.	Mitigation
Chemical Pollution	Pollution of soil, water or air by chemical substances that may have an adverse effect on organic life or the environment.	Pollution
Civil Crisis	An emergency caused by the breakdown of normal law and order or the civil processes.	Hazards
Civil Disorder	A riot, violent protest, demonstration or illegal assembly that may affect public safety.	Civil Crisis
Climate Change	The long-term significant change in the average weather for a region.	Climatology
Climatology	Study of the effect of the elements of climate.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Coastal Erosion	The removal of earth from coasts by meteorological, hydrological or human action.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Complex Emergency	A crisis in a country in which there is a breakdown of authority caused by conflict and where an international response is needed.	Civil Crisis
Counselling	The provision of psychological support and advice to persons who have been affected by an event.	Recovery
Cyclone	A large-scale closed-circulation atmospheric system with low central barometric pressure rotating counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards

Damage Analysis / Assessment	Damage Analysis-Survey of real or potential disasters to assess actual or expected damages and make recommendations relating to prevention, preparedness and response. Damage Assessment-The process of identifying and recording of the impacts of a damaging	Response
Deforestation	The clearing or destruction of a previously forested area.	Environment and Hazards
Dengue	A mosquito-borne disease of tropical and sub-tropical climates that may develop into dengue hemorrhagic fever.	Health and Hazards
Development	The sustainable improvement of national, community and personal quality of life and capacity.	Governance
Diabetes	A group of diseases marked by high levels of blood glucose.	Health and Hazards
Disaster Management	Policy and administrative decisions and operational activities at all levels to ensure preparedness for, response to and recovery from potential disaster events.	Disaster Risk Management
Disaster Risk Management	The systematic management of organisations, resources, skills and abilities to reduce disaster risk and alleviate the impacts of hazards and related disasters.	Subjects
Disaster Risk Reduction	The development and application of measures to reduce the likelihood and possible consequences of potential disasters.	Disaster Risk Management
Drought	The result of a lack of rain over an extended period of time.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Early Warning	The provision of timely and effective information, through identified and authoritative institutions, that allows action to be taken before an event.	Monitoring and Early Warning Systems
Early Warning Systems	Systems that are used to send emergency population warnings	Early Warning
Earthquake	A shaking of the earth caused by a sudden movement of rock beneath the Earth's surface, usually along a geological fault.	Geology and Hazards
Emergency Operations Centre	The supply, handling, transportation and distribution of resources. It includes all aspects of ordering, receiving, packing, moving, storing and delivering.	Response
Environment and Hazards	A natural or other hazard that can be expected to have its primary impact on a part of the environment.	Hazards
Environmental Vulnerability Index	An indicator-based method for estimating the vulnerability of the environment to hazards	Vulnerability
Evacuation	The short term transfer of people from their homes or workplaces because of a threatened or actual hazard impact.	Response
Fire	Burning of all or part of the natural or built environment as a result of natural or human activity.	Hazards
Flood	The overflowing of water beyond its normal confines, or the accumulation of water by drainage over areas that are not normally submerged.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Geology and Hazards	Study of the structure of the earth and the processes acting on it.	Hazards
Governance	The processes and systems by which an organization or society operates.	Subjects
Hazard Analysis / Assessment	Identification, study and monitoring of any hazard to determine its potential, origin, characteristics, behaviour and effects on the community.	Disaster Risk Reduction

Hazard Mapping	The process of establishing geographically where and to what extent hazards are likely to affect an area.	Hazard Analysis / Assessment
Hazards	An event, activity or phenomenon that has the potential to cause harm to life, health or property, damage to the environment or some combination of these.	Subjects
Health and Hazards	A hazard that has the potential to significantly affect the well-being of a community.	Hazards
HIV / AIDS	HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus causes AIDS - Acquired ImmunoDeficiency Syndrome and leads to failure of the human immune system.	Health and Hazards
Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards	Hydrology-Study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the Earth. Meteorology-The study of atmospheric phenomena.	Hazards
Industrial	A hazard resulting from Industries (manufacturing of a good or service)	Technology and Hazards
Land Degradation	Deterioration of land quality or land forms resulting from natural phenomena or human activity.	Environment and Hazards
Land Use Planning	Branch of planning that determines the options for land use, with the effects on the community.	Mitigation
Landslide	Downhill movement of natural soil and rock.	Geology and Hazards
Legislation	Acts and other legal instruments established at various levels of governments	Governance
Logistics	The supply, handling, transportation and distribution of resources. It includes all aspects of ordering, receiving, packing, moving, storing and delivering.	Response
Malaria	A potentially fatal mosquito born disease caused by parasites.	Health and Hazards
Marine Pollution	Pollution of oceans, lakes or rivers resulting from the discharge of hydrocarbons (often petroleum or crude oil), chemicals or other potentially harmful matter from tanks, tankers or pipelines during transportation or storage.	Pollution
Mitigation	Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to eliminate or limit the adverse impact of hazards.	Disaster Risk Reduction
Monitoring	Observation, measurement and valuation of progress in order to identify change.	Monitoring and Early Warning Systems
Monitoring and Early Warning Systems	Monitoring-Observation, measurement and valuation of progress in order to identify change. Early Warning-The provision of timely and effective information, through identified and authoritative institutions, that allows action to be taken before an event.	Subjects
Needs Analysis / Assessment	Needs Analysis-Examination and analysis of information in order to make recommendations about the needs required to improve the situation. Needs Assessment-Collection and organisation of information to identify total needs	Response
Pandemic	Epidemic disease that spreads across a large region or even worldwide.	Health and Hazards
Planning	The process of formulating goals and objectives and determining strategies and activities to achieve them.	Governance
Policy	A general statement or understanding that guides thinking in decision-making.	Governance

Pollution	Degradation of one or more elements or aspects of the environment by noxious industrial, chemical or biological substances as a result of human or mechanical failure or mismanagement of natural and environmental resources.	Environment and Hazards
Preparedness	Activities and measures taken in advance to ensure effective community and national response to the impact of hazards.	Disaster Management
Public Awareness	The process of informing the population, increasing consciousness of risks and spreading knowledge of how people can reduce the effects of hazards.	Preparedness
Recovery	Decisions and actions taken after a disaster to restore the normal living conditions while encouraging and facilitating adjustments to reduce disaster risk.	Disaster Management
Relief	The provision of immediate life support, shelter and other survival needs to persons affected by, or responding to, a disaster.	Response
Response	Actions taken before, during, and immediately after a disaster to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.	Disaster Management
Risk Analysis	A systematic use of information to determine how often specific events may occur and the extent of their likely consequences.	Disaster Risk Reduction
Risk Mapping	The process of establishing geographically the effects a particular hazard may have, and related vulnerability.	Risk Analysis
Road Transportation	The movement of passengers and / or goods on roads	Technology and Hazards
Sea Transportation	The movement of passengers and / or goods at sea, between two ports	Technology and Hazards
Standard Operating Procedures	Procedures showing in detail how tasks are to be performed in specific situations. Commonly known as SOPs.	Preparedness
Stockpiling	Identifying and storing supplies to meet relief needs.	Preparedness
Storm	Atmospheric disturbance involving strong agitation of prevailing pressure and wind fields.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Storm Surge	A sudden rise of sea level as a result of high winds and low atmospheric pressure; sometimes called a storm tide, storm wave, or tidal wave.	Hydro-Meteorology and Hazards
Technology and Hazards	A hazard resulting from the use of technology for manufacturing, mining, processing, transport or storage.	Hazards
Traditional Knowledge	Long-standing traditions and practices of regional, indigenous, or local communities .	Subjects
Training and Tools	Teaching defined skills.	Subjects
Tsunami	A seismic sea wave generated by displacement of the seafloor by a volcano, earthquake and or landslide, which causes the formation of a small group of water waves with a wavelength equal to the water depth at the point of origin that can be devastating wh	Geology and Hazards
Tsunami Awareness Kit	A tailored collection of resources to help Pacific Island countries prepare for the deadly and destructive potential of tsunamis.	Tsunami
Volcano	An opening in the earths crust that allows gas, ash or molten lava to be ejected from the earths surface.	Geology and Hazards
Vulnerability	The degree of sensitivity to the impact of hazards.	Disaster Risk Reduction

Weather Forecasting	Analysing existing atmospheric conditions to forecast weather for a specified area and period.	Monitoring and Early Warning Systems
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Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (countries assisted by the EU)
ACCT	International Organization of the French-speaking World (OIF)
ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (in Bangkok)
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre
AEMC	Australian Emergency Management Committee
AEMEG	Australian Emergency Management Executive Group
AFAC	Australasian Fire Authorities Council
AGCDTF	Australian Government Counter Disaster Task Force (Australia)
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
APCEDI	Australian-Pacific Centre for Emergency and Disaster Information
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
AsDB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AusSAR	Australian Search and Rescue
BPOA	Barbados Plan of Action
C	Commonwealth
CA	Cotonou Agreement
CBDRM	Community-based disaster risk management
CDEM	Civil Defence and Emergency Management (NZ)
CEG	Coordinating Executive Group (NZ)
CHARM	Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management
CLO	Country Liaison Officer
CP	Colombo Plan
CRED	Centre for the Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
CROP	Comparative Research Programme on Poverty
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australia)
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DM	Disaster Management
DPMC	Department of the prime Minister and Cabinet (NZ)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMAI	Emergency Management Australia Institute
EMT	Emergency Management Training
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EQC	Earthquake Commission (NZ)
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FACT	Field Assessment and Coordination Team (Red Cross)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

FSchM	Fiji School of Medicine
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FSPI	Foundation of the People of the South Pacific
G-77	Group of 77
GDACS	Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLIDE	Global Identification Number
GNS	Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences (NZ)
HES	Humanitarian and Emergencies Section (AusAID)
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICCT	International Criminal Court
ICFTU	Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICRM	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
IDA	International Development Association
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
Intelsat	International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium
Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (NZ)
MCDEM	Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (NZ)
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ)
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
MTR	Mid Term Review
NAM	Nonaligned Movement
NAP	National Action Plan
NDC	National Disaster Committee or Council
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDRA	National Disaster Relief Arrangements (Australia)
NEMCC	National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (Australia)
NEMEG	National Emergency Executive Group (Australia)
NGO	Non-Government Organisation

NIWA	National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NZ)
NRCS	National Red Cross Societies
NRIS	National Registration and Inquiry System (Australia)
NZ	New Zealand
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODESC	Officials' Domestic and External Security Committee (NZ)
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (of USAID)
OIF	International Organization of the French-speaking World
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Pacific Plan	Pacific Plan
PACPS	Pacific ACP States
PACREIP	Pacific Regional Economic Integration Programme
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PCRC	Pacific Concerns Resource Centre
PDC	Pacific Disaster Center (Hawaii)
PDRMPN	Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network
PEMTAG	Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
PICs	Pacific Islands Countries
PICTA	Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PPNI	Pacific Partnership Network Initiative
PRNSAs	Pacific Regional Non State Actors
PSRC	Pacific Sub Regional Centre
RM	Road Map
RSMC	Regional Specialized Meteorological Center
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIS	Small Island States
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
Sparteca	South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement
SPC	Pacific Community
SPC	Secretariat to the Pacific Community
SPDRP	South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme (now closed)
SPPO	South Pacific Program Office (of UNDRO) (now closed)
SPREP	Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
TCCSP	Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific (and South East Asia)
TCWC	Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDHA	United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (since replaced by OCHA)
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (since replaced by UNESCAP)
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in the Sudan
UNMISET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	University of the South Pacific
WCO	World Customs Organization
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WP	Work Plan
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WToO	see UNWTO
WWF	World Wildlife Fund