

## Disaster Management System:

Disaster management system can be defined as organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in a particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disaster.

**"Disaster risk reduction is not a choice - It is an obligation."** (UN Secretary General)  
- Antonio Guterres

### → Key Objectives of Disaster Management:

- 1) To minimize loss of life and property
- 2) To strengthen community resilience.
- 3) To ensure effective co-ordination among agencies.
- 4) To enable swift response and recovery.
- 5) To integrate risk reduction into development planning.

### → Disaster Management Cycle:

Disaster are not natural - it is the vulnerability that turns hazards into disasters." (UNDRR)

The disaster management cycle illustrates the ongoing process to



reduce impact of disaster, react during and immediately following a disaster, take steps to recover after a disaster has occurred. There are four major phases of disaster management. Often phases of cycle overlap and length of each depends on the severity of disaster. The four phases of disaster management are:

### 1) Mitigation:

Mitigation activities actually eliminate or reduce the probability of disaster occurrence or reduce the effects of unavoidable disasters. Mitigation measures include:

- building codes
- vulnerability analyses update
- zoning and land use management
- building use regulations and safety codes.
- preventive health care
- public awareness education.

Mitigation depends on incorporation of appropriate measures in national and regional development planning. It also depends on the availability of information on hazards, emergency risks, and



and counter measures to be taken. The mitigation phase and indeed whole disaster management cycle, includes the shaping of public policies and plans that either modify the causes of disasters or mitigate their effects on people, property, and infrastructure.

### **Preparedness:**

During preparedness phase, governments, organization, and individuals develop plans to save lives, minimize disaster damage, and enhance disaster response operations. Preparedness measures include:

- preparedness plans
- emergency exercise/training;
- warning systems;
- emergency communication system.
- evacuations plans and training
- resources inventories.
- emergency personnel/contact lists.
- mutual aid agreement
- public information and education.



### Response:

The aim of emergency response is to provide immediate assistance to maintain life, improve health and support the morale of the affected population. Such assistance may range from providing specific but limited aid, such as assisting refugees with transport, temporary shelter, repairs to damaged infrastructure and to establishing semi-permanent settlement in camps and other locations. This phase is focused on meeting the basic needs of the people until more permanent solutions are found. Humanitarian organizations are often strongly present in this phase of the disaster management cycle.

### Recovery:

As emergency is brought under control, the affected population is capable of undertaking a growing number of activities aimed at restoring their lives and infrastructure that support them. There is no distinct point at which immediate relief changes into recovery and then into long



form sustainable development. There will be many opportunities during recovery period to enhance prevention and increase preparedness, thus reduce vulnerability.



## Disaster Management Cycle

### Disaster Management in Pakistan:

Pakistan is disaster prone country due to its geographical location, climatic conditions, fragile infrastructure, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. A devastating earthquake struck in the north in Oct, 2005 which exposed



vulnerability of existing emergency and disaster management apparatus. This led to the creation of National Disaster Management Authority and provincial disaster management authorities afterwards.

## **Framework of Disaster Management in Pakistan:**

### **A) Disaster Management Act:**

Disaster Management Act, 2010 was enacted after the 2005 earthquake. It provided the legal foundation for coordinated disaster management structure.

### **B) National Institutional Structure:**

#### **1) National Disaster Management Authority:**

The National Disaster Management Authority is supposed to serve as the focal point and co-ordinating body to facilitate implementation of disaster management.

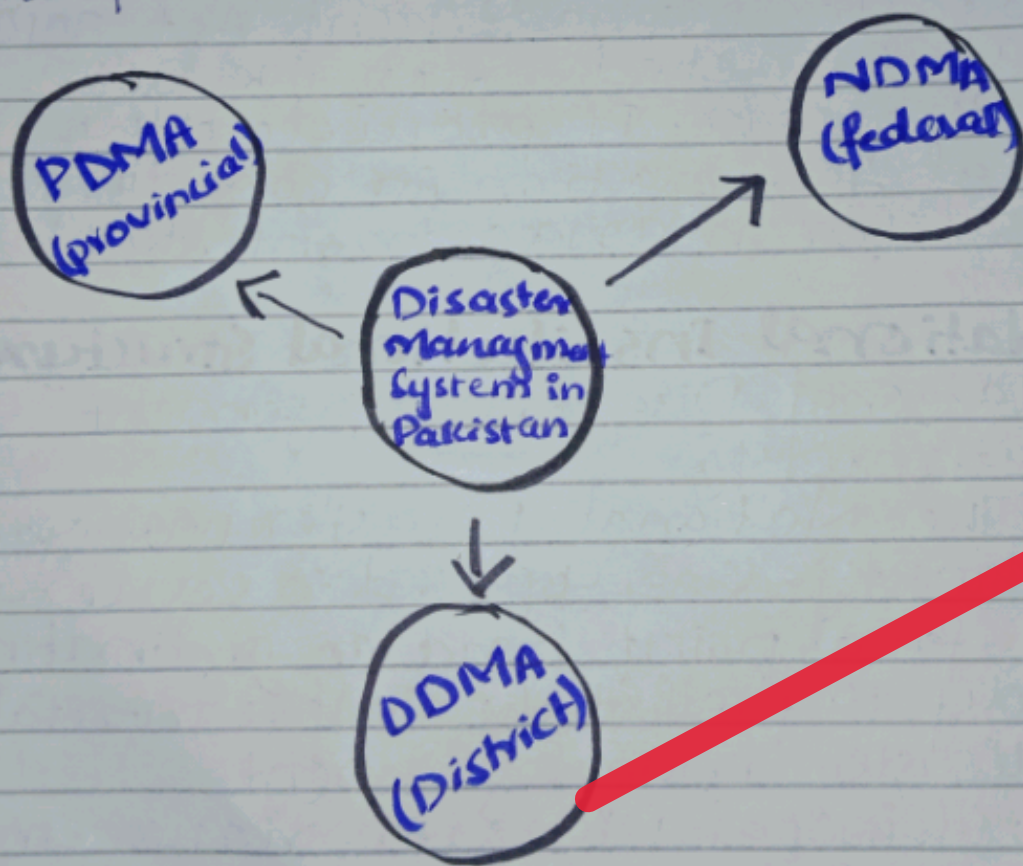
#### **2) Provincial Disaster Management Authority:**

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) is provincial implementing bodies responsible for co-ordinating with ministries.



implementing policies at provincial level.

3) District Disaster Management Authority  
District disaster management authority are for disaster risk management activities in the districts and also responsible for <sup>policies</sup> implementing and plans for emergency response in the districts.



### Flaws in Disaster Management in Pakistan:

Disaster management system in Pakistan has following flaws:



1) Disaster management in Pakistan basically revolves around flood disaster with primary focus on rescue and relief.

2) Applied disaster management policy sometimes carries strategic biases that are aimed at protecting locations and infrastructure of greater economic, political and strategic significance at the cost of the areas and communication with lesser influence and importance.

3) Within disaster management bodies in Pakistan, there is a dearth of knowledge and information about hazard identification, risk assessment and management, and linkages between livelihoods and disaster preparedness.

4) Disaster management policies responses are not generally influenced by methods and tools for cost-effective and sustainable interventions.

5) There are no long-term, inclusive and coherent institutional arrangements to address disaster



issues with a long-term vision.

## Recommendations:

- 1) There is a need to implement integrated disaster management policy at national and provincial level.
- 2) Government must invest in capacity building of the disaster management authorities.
- 3) Capacity of vulnerable communities shall be enhanced through training, awareness and education.
- 4) Research may be funded at different universities and research organizations to enhance the knowledge base.
- 5) To conclude, there is need of proper disaster management system that must not focus on emergency plans and recovery alone.

Good

Concise your answer length to 3 sides only

As you'd only get 7-8 minutes per 5 mark part

Otherwise, it's a detailed and good answer

You have got potential, work on your presentation

Good luck!