

## Concept Note

# ***Implementing Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health EDRM)***

**Venue:** Auditorium, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Campus

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

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## **Executive Summary**

Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) has organised a training program on ‘Implementing Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health EDRM)’ to build resilience of nursing students and staff members of KD Institute of Nursing Sciences, Ahmedabad, through capacity building in the field of disaster risk management and public health emergencies. One of the primary objectives of the program is to acquaint the students and staff members with disaster response, recovery, rehabilitation, preparedness and mitigation. The entire training program will focus on how disaster nursing needs to be improved and can function optimally aftermath of a disaster. The training will provide a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk management, public health and fire safety, especially in healthcare institutes. The experts from the field of disaster management, humanitarian assistance and fire services will provide their valuable knowledge and experiences to build resilience in health infrastructure through practical demonstrations.

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## **Background**

Health systems at all levels have a central role in managing the risks and reducing the consequences of emergencies and disasters from all hazards. The health sector is a leader in managing infectious risks and responding to outbreaks. However, it also has a critical role in preventing and minimizing the health consequences of emergencies due to natural, technological and societal hazards. While many countries have strengthened capacities to reduce the health risks of emergencies through the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and health system strengthening, many communities remain highly vulnerable. WHO has also developed the “Health emergency and disaster risk management framework” (Health EDRM) to provide ministries of health and other stakeholders with an overview of policies, strategies and legislation; planning and coordination; human and financial resources; information and knowledge management; risk communications; health infrastructure and logistics; community capacities for Health EDRM and monitoring and evaluation (Source: WHO). However, public health staff, including nurses, face key challenges<sup>1</sup> like resource allocation, interoperability of communication systems, evacuation strategies and ethical considerations. This is aggravated during disasters due to huge loss of lives, property damage and an exponential inflow of survivors, stressful conditions and mounting pressures on health staff for

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<sup>1</sup>Khirekar J, Badge A, Bandre GR, Shahu S. Disaster Preparedness in Hospitals. Cureus. 2023 Dec 6;15(12):e50073. doi: 10.7759/cureus.50073. PMID: 38192940; PMCID: PMC10771935.

immediate response and relief. The critical infrastructure, like the health system, when it collapses, has a cascading effect on the community, increasing their risks exponentially. It was commonly found that there was a lack of operational hospital disaster management competencies, along with poor planning and preparedness. In the wake of this, it is very important that the nursing students, i.e. the future workforce, should be aware of the role of different institutions and their positioning in the disaster management cycle.

There is a shared consensus to have a resilient hospital that can respond immediately and be fully functional after the disaster. It requires a multi-hazard approach, attention to structural and non-structural safety components and well-trained manpower. As per the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have defined: “**a Safe Hospital** as one that:

- *will not collapse in disasters, killing patients and staff;*
- *can continue to function and provide its services as a critical community facility when it is most needed; and,*
- *is organised, with contingency plans in place and health workspace trained to keep the network operational”.*

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in its Hospital Guidelines, 2016 has recommended a ‘National Framework for Hospital Safety’ with the following priority areas:

- Priority Area I: Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms;
- Priority Area II: Advocacy, Awareness Generation and Education;
- Priority Area III: Capacity Building;
- Priority Area IV: Preparedness, Response and Recovery;
- Priority Area V: Risk Reduction and Structural Mitigation

This training is aligned with these frameworks in addition to the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030, Prime Minister’s Ten Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction and the disaster management acts and policies.

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## Session Objectives

This training aims to:

1. Understand the basic concepts of Disaster Risk Management, the DM Cycle, etc.
2. Orient on fire safety and the usage of fire safety equipments, etc.
3. Discussion on career opportunities in the field of disaster risk management, climate change and public health.

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## **Date & Time**

- 06th September, 2025, 09:30 - 16:00

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## **Venue**

- Auditorium, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), near Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, B/h, Gandhinagar Highway, Koba, Raysan, Gujarat 382007

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## **Format**

- In Person

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## **Expected Participants**

- Participants (95)
- Nursing Students and Staff of KD Institute of Nursing Sciences, Ahmedabad

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## **Expected Outcomes**

At the end of the training program, the participants would be able to have conceptual clarity on various components of disaster risk management, be confident in handling fire safety equipment like fire extinguishers and be aware of the various opportunities in the field of disaster risk management and public health. The topics related to their syllabus, like understanding the relationship between public health and disaster management, fire safety, etc., will be covered in the program.

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