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Suggested risk-reducing activities for different hazard types

NOTE These are specific recommendations for specific common hazards. Some actions, eg disaster management committees, savings groups and volunteer teams, are useful for all hazard types.

FLOOD		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood warning system • Trained volunteers • Safe refuge centre (with water, toilets, lights etc) • Boat(s) and trained crews • Emergency evacuation drills • Teaching children to swim • Safe escape pathways • Safe storage of valuable assets, including documents, seeds • Savings schemes • Jerrycans and purification tablets for clean water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting water sources • Improved house designs • Storm drains, flood diversion channels and dykes • Houses on stilts (legs) or raised plinth • Alternative crops, or changed cropping patterns • Flood-resistant varieties of crops • Floating vegetable gardens • Tree plantation, especially on slopes and embankments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For improved government warning system • For repair and maintenance of river embankments • For bank erosion protection (eg gabion) • For dredging of river beds • For more flood shelters • For construction of escape routes across private land

DROUGHT		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water storage ponds, tanks • Rainwater harvesting from roofs • Rainwater harvesting using plastic sheets • Improved food storage (to reduce losses from pests) • Grain banks (family and community level) • Livestock health improvement • Livestock herd reduction • Fodder stocks for animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation farming methods • Half-moon pits, cross-dams, contour bunding, sub-surface dams etc • Small-scale irrigation schemes; foot- or animal-powered pumps • Drought-resistant crop types or crop varieties • Livelihood diversification • Alternative cropping patterns • Planting trees and fodder grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For improved government drought warning schemes • For better safety-net mechanisms for poor people • For more tanker deliveries of water • For more efficient watershed management • Against bore well water abstraction, drying up shallow wells

LANDSLIDES		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency tools stored outside building • Teams of volunteers, trained and equipped with tools for search and rescue • Vigilance during/after heavy rain for soil cracks, tree/post movement, changes in water colour or flow of streams • Warning system and rapid evacuation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation of trees to stabilise slopes • Storm drains to carry away rainwater from slopes • Low walls along the contour of the slope • Gutters to catch rainwater from roofs and channel to a tank or drain • Avoid cutting into slopes for construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For legislation to prevent building on unstable slopes • For legislation on tree-cutting on sloped land

WINDSTORMS		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning system – different levels, then evacuation signal • Community evacuation plan • Safe refuge centres (with water, toilets and light) • Wooden boards nailed over house windows • Guy-ropes onto house structure; if available, large net over the roof with weights • Safe storage of valuable items, eg in plastic bags or buried underground • Store food and water for 2–3 days • Trained volunteer teams • Emergency kit for 'quick-run' bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved house construction, especially roof structure • Tree plantation to form shelter belts • Sheltered location and best orientation for houses • Alternative crops which grow outside windstorm season • Storm drains to take water away from houses • Digging and regular cleaning of storm drains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For improved government warning system • For more storm refuge centres • For laws to control building in unsafe areas • For laws governing design of new buildings • For public buildings to be designated as shelters

EARTHQUAKES		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency kit always at hand – torch, water, whistle • Emergency tools stored outside building • Tall furniture tied to wall • Avoid placing heavy items on high shelves • Practise what actions to take if earthquake starts • Store gas cylinders outside if possible, with wrench to turn off gas supply • Equip open spaces with water supply and emergency latrines • Teams of volunteers, trained and equipped for search and rescue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build new houses to earthquake-resistant designs; use lightweight roof materials • Reinforce existing buildings to give extra strength • Avoid building on hillsides or in landslide-prone areas • Ensure public buildings (schools, churches, hospitals) are earthquake-resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For creation and enforcement of building regulations • For inclusion of earthquake safety in school curriculum • For public awareness and education campaigns • For improved government search and rescue capability

FIRE		
PREPAREDNESS	MITIGATION	ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alarm system – loud, audible • Fire buckets, hose, water points • Pre-arranged assembly points for displaced and dispersed families • Communication system • Trained volunteer fire-fighters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building houses a safe distance from each other • Cooking outside main house • Avoiding use of highly flammable materials, if possible, in house construction • Fire safety campaigns, especially with children and in schools • For two-storey buildings, means of escape via upstairs windows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For government fire-fighting services in urban areas • For improved access roads, especially into slum areas • For improved fire regulations, and fire drills for schools