**WHAT IS DISASTER?**

A disaster is a sudden, calamitous event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community’s or society’s ability to cope using its own resources. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.

**(**[**VULNERABILITY**](https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/what-is-a-disaster/what-is-vulnerability/)+ [HAZARD](https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/definition-of-hazard/) ) / [**CAPACITY**](https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/preparing-for-disaster/)  **=**[**DISASTER**](https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/definition-of-hazard/)

**A disaster occurs when a hazard impacts on vulnerable people.**

The combination of hazards, vulnerability and inability to reduce the potential negative consequences of risk results in disaster.

**WHAT IS HAZARD?**

A hazard is a situation where there is a threat to life, health, environment or property. ... These hazards are termed as disasters when they cause widespread destruction of property and human lives. Once a hazard becomes active and is no longer just a threat, it becomes a disaster.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HAZARD AND DISASTER?**

Hazard is a condition/event that has potential for causing injury/ loss of life or damage to property/environment.

Disaster is an event that occurs suddenly/unexpectedly in most cases and disrupts the normal course of life in affected area; results in loss or damage to life property or environment and is beyond the coping capacity of local affected population/society and therefore requires external help.





