**BOX 1: DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS**

Absorptive capacity: **A limit to the rate or quantity of impact that can be absorbed without significant change in the process itself.**

Adaptive capacity: A limit to the rate or quantity of impact that may be buffered and adapted to, without significant change in the process itself.

Capability: The ability to achieve a desired operational effect under specified standards and conditions through combinations of means and ways to perform a set of tasks.

Capacity: The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.

Causal factors: Any behavior, omission, or deficiency that if corrected, eliminated, or avoided probably would have prevented the disease.

Consequence: A result or outcome. Disaster consequences are customarily described in terms of loss and damage.

Disease: A deviation from normal health that derives from an identifiable pathological process and which the patient experiences as an illness. Diseases may be categorized as communicable disease, non-communicable disease or injury.

Disaster: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster risk: The potential disaster losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period.

Disaster risk management: The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.

Disaster risk reduction: The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Dose: The amount of a substance available for interactions with metabolic processes or biologically significant receptors after crossing the outer boundary of an organism

Exposure: Proximity or contact with a source of a disease agent in such a manner that effective transmission of the agent or harmful effects of the agent may occur.

Forecast: Definite statement or statistical estimate of the likely occurrence of a future event or conditions for a specific area.

Hazard: An agent or a situation…with the inherent capability to have an adverse effect. Disaster hazards are dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Health: A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Health determinant: Underlying characteristics of society that ultimately shape the health of individuals and communities. Referred to as the “cause of the causes” of disease.

Health hazard: An agent or a situation that, when exposed to a human, has the inherent capability to cause an adverse health outcome (disease), resulting in morbidity (illness and/or injury) and mortality (death).

Health impact: A measure of the health effects (in terms of disease incidence) resulting from exposure and vulnerability to a particular health hazard.

Health risk: The probability that an adverse health event (disease) will occur

Impact: The degree of severity associated with an adverse outcome

Injury: A category of disease caused by acute exposure to physical agents such as mechanical energy, heat, electricity, chemicals, and ionizing radiation interacting with the body in amounts or at rates that exceed the threshold of human tolerance.

Mitigation: The lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters.

Natural hazard: Natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Outcome: one possible result of a statistical trial or experiment

Preparedness: The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Prevention: The outright avoidance of adverse effects. In disasters, the avoidance of adverse impacts (i.e. morbidity and mortality).

Protective factor: Attributes or characteristics that have a probabilistic effect on the likelihood of a positive outcome

Recovery: The return to a previous state. In disasters, the restoration, and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.

Residual risk: The risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.

Resilience: The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.

Response: The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.

Risk: The probability that a specific outcome will occur

Risk acceptance: Measures taken to treat residual risk not otherwise avoided, reduced or transferred. In disasters, this often involves activities related to preparedness, response and recovery.

Risk assessment: A methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

Risk avoidance: Measures taken to avoid risk altogether, usually by avoiding hazard

Risk communication: An interactive process involving the exchange among individuals, groups and institutions of information and expert opinion about the nature, severity, and acceptability of risks and the decisions taken to combat them.

Risk management: The systematic approach and practice of managing uncertainty to minimize potential harm and loss.

Risk reduction: Measures taken to lessen the negative effect of the risk (e.g. losses and damage)

Risk factor: Any attribute, characteristic or exposure of an individual that increases the likelihood of an outcome, in this case developing a disease

Risk transfer: The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party.

Risk treatment: Measures are put in place to control risk, whenever possible. This includes approaches for avoiding, reducing, transferring and accepting risk

Severity: The degree to which something is grave, extreme, or serious. In the case of disease, severity often represents the likelihood of mortality (e.g. injury severity scores).

Susceptibility: The state of being at risk, if exposed to a hazard.

Human-induced hazard: A hazard originating from technological or societal b conditions, including accidents, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities, that may cause loss of life, injury, illness or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Transformative capacity: A limit to the rate or quantity of impact that may be lessened through significant change in the process itself.

Uncertainty: A state or condition that involves a deficiency of information and leads to inadequate or incomplete knowledge or understanding of information.

Vulnerability: The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

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