Human Rights Checklist

For disaster preparedness, prevention and recovery responses.

A human rights checklist for government agencies and non-governmental organisations to use in developing disaster preparedness, prevention and recovery responses.

Following a disaster, it’s critical that agencies:

1. Provide Accessible Information to everyone about:
   a) The nature and level of the disaster
   b) The possible risk mitigation measures
   c) Assistance, recovery efforts and entitlements
   d) The reasons how and why decisions are made.

2. Certainty
   Recognise that a sense of certainty and feeling in control can speed people’s recovery.

3. Flexibility
   Incorporate flexibility into post-disaster policies and processes including the ability to engage with affected people.

4. Advice
   Recognise that those closest to the impacts of disaster can provide valuable advice on post-disaster practices and solutions.

5. Provide Agency
   Provide people with the ability to take charge of their own affairs to the greatest extent possible.

6. Recognise the individual
   Recognise that people’s recovery can be negatively influenced by a variety of factors.

7. Minimise Bureaucracy
   Recognise that stress can be exacerbated by the pressures of dealing with bureaucracy.

8. Stress
   Recognise that people’s stress levels can continue to increase years after the disaster event.

9. Be open
   Communicate openly and effectively with affected people.

10. Attachment
    Recognise attachment to place is an important identity marker, and displacement can have an impact on recovery.

11. Compensation
    Recognise and factor in the numerous financial, emotional and social costs people face when having to move.

12. Participation
    Provide the opportunity for people to participate in the design, planning, and implementation of the disaster response.

13. Legislation
    Ensure that all recovery activity is guided by legislation and limited to the powers provided therein by Parliament.