

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:

Provide ¹

Accessible Information to everyone about:

- The nature and level of the disaster
- The possible risk mitigation measures
- Assistance, recovery efforts and entitlements
- The reasons how and why decisions are made.

Certainty ²

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

Flexibility ³

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

Advice ⁴

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

Provide Agency ⁵

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

Recognise the individual ⁶

Recognise that people's recovery can be negatively influenced by a variety of factors.

Minimise Bureaucracy ⁷

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

Stress ⁸

Recognise that people's stress levels can continue to increase years after the disaster event

Be open ⁹

Communicate openly and effectively with affected people.

Attachment ¹⁰

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

Compensation ¹¹

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

Participation ¹²

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

Legislation ¹³

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