



CONNECTING AND PREPARING THE COMMUNITY TO LIMIT THE EFFECTS OF A DISASTER

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The Cayman Islands

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Engaging the Community For Preparedness and Mitigation

Strategies for the Pre-technology
Stage



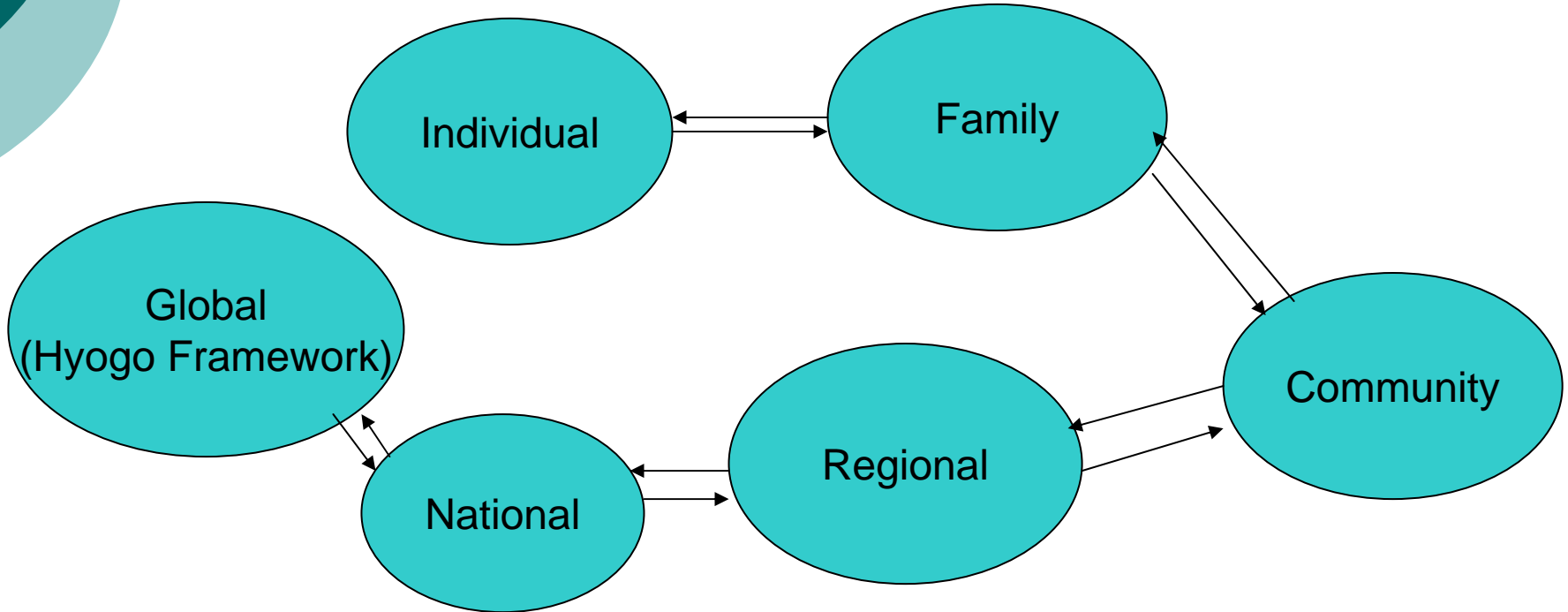
Engaging the Community

CONTEXT

Level 1	Individual
Level 2	Family
Level 3	Community
Level 4	Regional (State/Parish/District)
Level 5	National
Level 6	Global

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Leads to a preparedness continuum

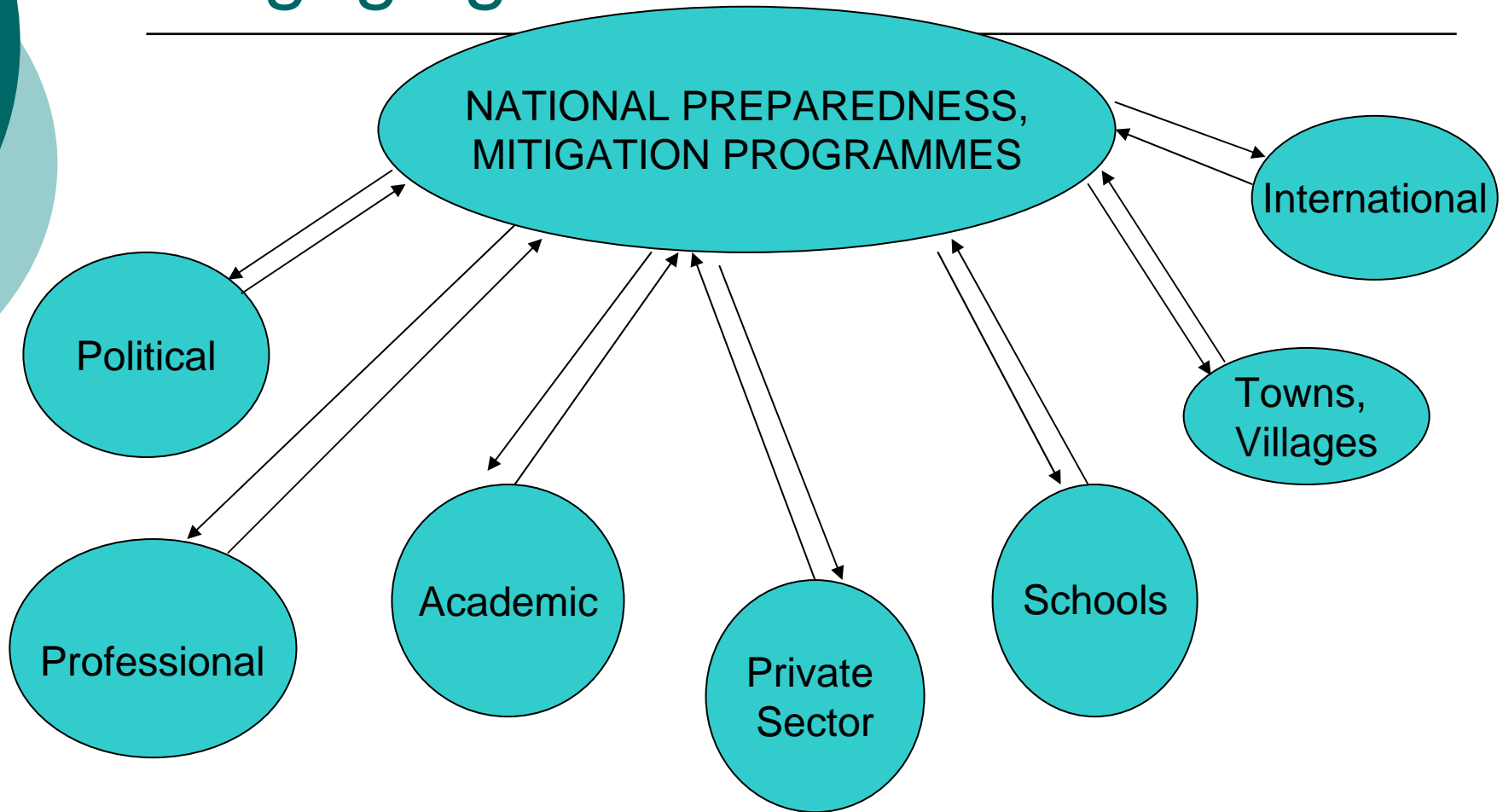




Engaging the Community

FOR SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS ALL LEVELS AND
COMMUNITIES NEED TO BE
ENGAGED

Engaging Communities





Engaging the Community

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

WHAT ARE COMMONALITIES IN
APPROACHES?



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NOT

What do they need to do

How do we get them to do it



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But

What do they think they need to do
How can we help them to do it

1. Whatever the community – their knowledge is valued



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2. Embrace other initiatives and nurture them

The D/EM community doesn't need to set up the group – establish strategic partnerships with community

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3. Address *their* interests in your context

i.e. find the common ground

- Engineers – codes
- Medical – patient care and safety etc
- Business community - viability



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Having identified needs to be addressed

4. Let the community take responsibility

(Value their competence and expertise, provide support)



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Any group working on disaster preparedness must be *representative* of the community

5. Ensure all groups represented
6. Ensure consensus on important matters



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See all communities as part of the DM family

7. Help develop capacity

Training

Exposure

Resources

Use their expertise



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8. Our interventions should reduce vulnerability

- Political – Better policy decisions
- Engineers – better codes, stronger buildings
- Health – safer hospitals, better care
- Business – less loss, faster recovery
- Public – reduce loss, better continuity
- Academic – research + data for vulnerability reduction
- Towns/Villages – customise to situation
- International – targetted country approaches



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8. Our interventions should reduce vulnerability

- Better policy decisions – no conflict with accepted best practice
- Better codes, stronger buildings – reduction in damage
- Safer hospitals, better care – functionality retained
- Faster recovery – reduction in downtime from event
- Public Sector – continuity of government operations assured



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8. Our interventions should reduce vulnerability

- Academic – Research results inform national RR programmes
- Towns/Villages – able to forecast, respond to events from local resources
- International – assistance compatible with national goals and objectives



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9. Recognise complexities – the simplest approach may not be the most effective

E.g. For some populations vulnerability issues linked to socio-economic issues.

Can the intervention include skills building for income earning?







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9. Recognise complexities – the simplest approach may not be the most effective

Best if DRR intervention is in context of development rather than a stand alone initiative

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9. Recognise complexities – the simplest approach may not be the most effective long term solution

For example –

Tourism community – can intervention go beyond “What do we do with tourists in an event” to

“How can we site and design this hotel so that tourists are safe during an event”



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Summary

Disaster Management professionals must engage multiple communities to ensure adequate preparedness for and reduction of impact of disasters



Engaging the Community

Summary

Diverse communities will require a diversity of approaches, however there are commonalities which can guide all interventions



Engaging the Community

Summary

Interventions should ultimately reduce vulnerability and build capacity and resilience

THANK YOU

