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**“Turning Practice Into Policy”**

**A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**  
**FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

TEARFUND U.K

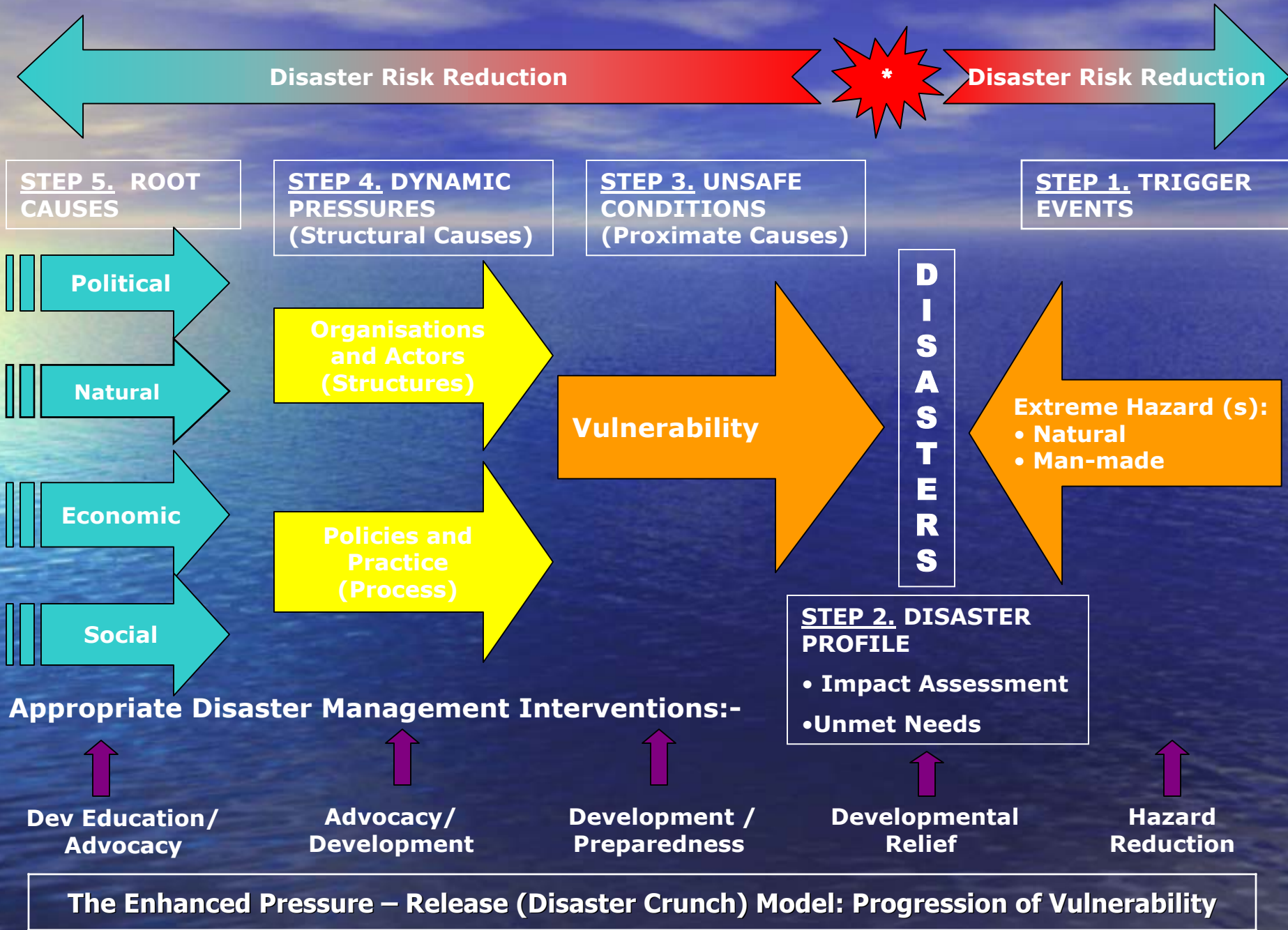
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# Introduction

- 98% of people affected from countries of low /medium human development
- Impact most acutely felt by poor and marginalised people at the local level
- Hazards increasing, but vulnerability is the primary reason
- Main strategy of vulnerability reduction at the household level is to strengthen local capacities and coping mechanisms
- Limited *understanding* of disaster risk is a major constraint to effective disaster risk reduction both at local, national, international levels.
- Understanding the casual factors of risk and vulnerability are critical in designing effective risk reduction interventions
- Requires an appropriate conceptual framework to understand the relationship between vulnerability and the development process.
- Proposed framework starts from local level (people's perspectives)

# Understanding Integrated Disaster Management:



# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA):

## Step 1. Hazard(s) **Assessment**

- Identification of past, present and future hazard(s)
- Determine the nature and behaviour of the hazard(s)

# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

## Summary:

### Step 2. Disaster Impact Assessment

- **Most vulnerable groups**
- **Elements-at-risk**
  - Human
  - Social
  - Natural Resources
  - Physical Infrastructure
  - Economic / Livelihoods
- **Priority *unmet* Needs**
  - Physical Security
  - Health Care
  - Water / Sanitation
  - Food / Nutrition
  - Shelter / Clothing / Essential Non-Food Items
  - Livelihoods / Employment
  - Education
  - Hope

# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

## Summary:

### Step 3. Unsafe Conditions

#### **Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis:**

- **Vulnerability Assessment:**

Identify the factors that create *unsafe conditions* making communities susceptible to the impact of a hazard (fragility)

- **Capacities Assessment:**

Identify people's strengths (means, assets and resources) used to counter the unsafe conditions and meet basic needs (resilience)

# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

## Summary:

Disaggregate information into the following categories :-

Human Factors

Social Factors

Natural Factors

Physical Factors

Economic Factors

Note: Adapted from Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

## Summary:

### Step 4. Dynamic Pressures

- Organisations and Actors (State, Civil Society, Private Structures and Institutions)

- Community / Household level
- Municipal
- National
- Regional
- International

- Policies and Practices (Formal / Informal Processes)

- Policies / Frameworks / Strategies
- Legislation and Laws
- Culture / Customs
- Power Relations (I.e. age, gender, caste, class, ethnicity)
- Vested Interests

# Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

## Summary:

### Step 5. Underlying Causes

- **Social;** Value and Norms, Customs & Culture, Religious Beliefs, Philosophies, Rights and Responsibilities, Societal divisions linked to issues of inequality, greed, prejudices (e.g. class, caste, creed, ethnicity, gender)
- **Political;** Ideologies, Priorities, Patronage
- **Economic;** Doctrines, Terms of Trade
- **Natural;** Natural environment

# Understanding Integrated Disaster Management:

Disaster Risk Reduction

Risk Reduction

STEP 5. UNDERLYING / ROOT CAUSES

STEP 4. DYNAMIC PRESSURES (Structural Causes)

STEP 3. UNSAFE CONDITIONS (Proximate Causes)

STEP 1. TRIGGER EVENTS

Political Accountability

Structural Reforms

Building Local Capacities

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Climate Change Initiatives

Economic Equity

Pro-poor Policies and Practice

STEP 2. DISASTER PROFILE

Social Justice

Appropriate Disaster Management Interventions:-

Dev Education / Advocacy

Advocacy / Development

Preparedness / Mitigation

Developmental Relief

Hazard Reduction

The Pressure Release Model: Building Resilience

# Conclusions

- The PDRA methodology engages affected communities in a participatory process that helps people to identify and understand disaster risk.
- The awareness of inherent capacities and vulnerabilities forms the basis of informing community action planning to manage risk
- Local-level actors cannot alone address all the structural and underlying causes of vulnerability
- Effective community-based disaster risk reduction must be adopted into government structures to *scale up* to address huge numbers “at risk”
- Requires effective *partnership* between civil society and governmental bodies