

FIP recommendations for pharmacists' effective preparedness in disaster and emergency settings

Pharmacists play a crucial role in disaster and emergency settings by ensuring the safe and efficient distribution of medications, managing resources, and providing critical healthcare services. These comprehensive recommendations provide a strategic framework for proactive planning, training, and collaborative response. This guidance is not only useful for pharmacists, pharmacy teams and relevant stakeholders in regulation, government, industry, and educational institutions but also for pharmacy professional organisations, enabling them to enhance preparedness and strengthen their role in supporting effective disaster and emergency responses.

Strengthening research and education

- Conduct systematic research to identify best practices and support effective disaster response implementation.
- Advocate for the inclusion of emergency and disaster management topics in pharmacy curricula.
- Share good practices and resources among stakeholders, including civil societies and professional associations.
- Develop standardised training materials and simulation exercises.

Building partnerships and collaborative networks

- Create partnerships with insurance providers and entities to support funding for an eventual disaster situation.
- Collaborate with regulatory authorities to enable legislation that expands the scope of pharmacists' roles during emergencies.
- Establish synergies with local and regional authorities to streamline emergency protocols.

Resource development and capacity building

- Create comprehensive digital toolkits and resources to empower pharmacists in disaster preparedness and response.
- Participate in or build pre-funding initiatives to expedite disaster responses.
- Establish helplines to support pharmacists, including mental health resources, during emergencies.
- Offer online tools, webinars, and collaborative platforms to facilitate efficient knowledge dissemination on emergency preparedness.

Enhancing communication and public trust

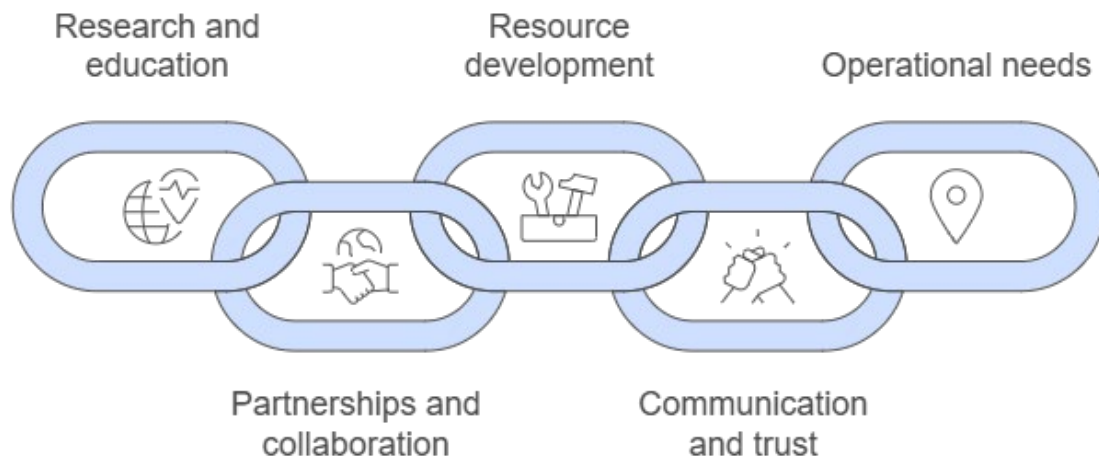
- Build connections with the general public in advance to foster trust and streamline communication during crises.
- Develop and maintain communication channels to provide accurate and timely updates during emergencies.
- Explore partnerships with civil society associations that can establish an agreement on how to support affected populations in case of a disaster.

Anticipating and addressing operational needs

- Anticipate disaster requirements by collaborating with stakeholders to refine planning processes.
- Advocate for funding, policies, and partnerships that ensure rapid mobilisation of resources when disaster strikes.

- Participate in activities that foster the sharing of good practices in order to get more knowledge and tips on how to act in a disaster situation.

Figure 1 - Summary of the main recommendations



By implementing these comprehensive recommendations, FIP member organisations can significantly improve their preparedness in disaster and emergency situations, ultimately leading to better healthcare outcomes for affected populations.

A set of flashcards will be developed, that can be used to raise awareness and provide quick messages on this topic.

If you need more information or have any queries about this document, please reach out to humanitarian@fip.org