

# FIP recommendations for pharmacists' effective response 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 member-driven recommendations provide a strategic framework for proactive planning, training, and collaborative response. This guidance is useful not only for pharmacists, pharmacy teams and relevant stakeholders in regulation, government, industry, and educational institutions but also for pharmacy professional organisations, empowering them to enhance preparedness and support effective disaster and emergency responses.

## Mobilisation of resources and services in disaster areas

- Deploy mobile medical and pharmacy teams to ensure healthcare access in affected regions.
- Coordinate donations of medicines, medical supplies, and other essential materials to impacted areas.
- Engage pharmacists as volunteers to support emergency response efforts on the ground.

## Communication and information dissemination

- Establish dedicated communication channels (e.g., email, websites) for information requests and updates.
- Utilise social media platforms to share accurate, timely information with pharmacists and communities.
- Provide resources and guidance to help pharmacists navigate emergency operations.

## Ensuring medication access during emergencies

- Work with extraordinary measures, such as extended emergency supply orders and legal exemptions, to maintain medication availability.
- Partner with wholesalers, distributors, and manufacturers to aim for extended credit and uninterrupted supply chains.
- Support national and international campaigns to distribute essential medicines and vaccines efficiently.

## Supporting pharmacists and communities

- Provide mental health support for pharmacists responding to disasters.
- Encourage pharmacist participation in campaigns that support the delivery of essential goods and healthcare services to communities.
- Involve community pharmacies in the provision of first-aid care whenever possible and to disseminate messages (e.g., posters) of campaigns being carried out.

## Building disaster response capacity

- Equip pharmacists with training, tools, and resources tailored for emergency and disaster settings.
- Advocate for professional development in disaster response strategies to strengthen resilience.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration with other healthcare professionals and emergency responders.

## Continuous improvement framework

- Implement performance evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of response strategies.
- Encourage knowledge sharing of successful interventions among pharmacists.

- Establish regular review processes for updating response plans based on lessons learned.

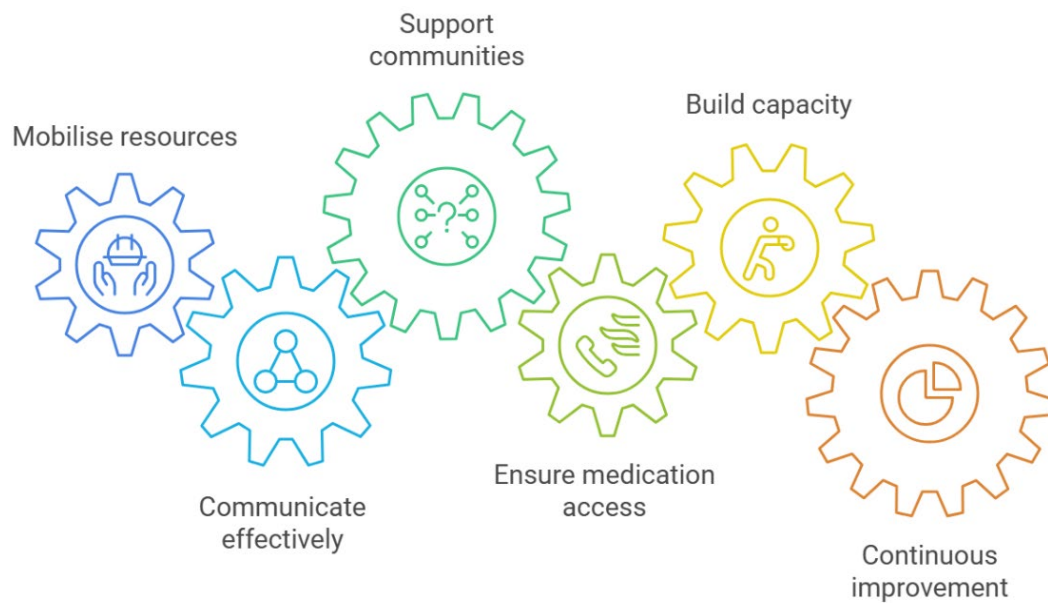


Figure 1 - Summary of the main recommendations

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

A set of flash cards 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](mailto:humanitarian@fip.org)