

Letter to the Editor

Cite this article: Das NK, Das P, Mukhida S, Kannuri S and Desai D (2025). Natural Disaster in Developing Country: How National Disaster Response Fund Support. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 19, e287, 1–2 <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2025.10072>

Received: 02 May 2024

Revised: 02 May 2024

Accepted: 12 May 2025

Keywords:

Natural disaster; national disaster response fund; developing country

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Manuscript has not been submitted to this journal previously and the authors affirm that it is not currently under consideration by another journal.

Specific contribution to advancing knowledge for practice: This manuscript has discussion about how NDRF operates in developing country.

Natural Disaster in Developing Country: How National Disaster Response Fund Support

Response to: The Philippines' Improving Response to Natural Disasters

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Abstract

The developing nations are at a constant threat from a lot of natural and manmade disasters. The developing countries also face similar things, but to their advancement in economic muscle and technology they are always at a better place to combat these. With devastating floods, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquake ravaging India every year there was a need of a dedicated, well trained force which can be mobilised in a moment's notice. National disaster response fund (NDRF) was hence born. Even the different states have their own force to look after local issues. A part of the budget is allocated to these bodies for smooth function. So we conclude, at the time of crisis countries come together and help each other. NDRF can be a biggest support for the country during the natural disaster if it prepared and maintained properly. planning become your major strength if it does on time and right amount during the natural disaster.

Respected Sir,

This response builds upon previous scholarly discourse concerning medical aid provision in natural disasters, specifically referencing analyses of India's evolving role¹ and the disaster response frameworks of other nations, such as the Philippines.² We note with appreciation the engagement stimulated by our earlier work.

Developing nations frequently exhibit heightened vulnerability to both natural and anthropogenic hazards. While developed countries are also exposed to similar threats, their greater economic capacity and technological infrastructure generally confer enhanced resilience and response capabilities. Developing countries, conversely, often confront specific challenges in disaster preparedness and response, including high population density, complex geographical terrain, limitations in dedicated specialized response personnel, financial constraints, and deficits in specific technical expertise.³ Consequently, international cooperation and mutual assistance during disaster events are crucial for augmenting national response capacities.

India's recurrent exposure to severe natural disasters, including significant floods, cyclones, tsunamis, and seismic events, underscored the necessity for establishing a dedicated, highly trained, and rapidly deployable national disaster response force.^{2,4} Strategic allocation of national resources, potentially involving a proportion of defense budgets, towards strengthening disaster preparedness and response infrastructure⁵ can substantially enhance a nation's ability to mitigate the impact of domestic disasters and concurrently develop a capacity for supporting affected neighboring and partner nations.

India's approach to disaster management has undergone a transformative shift over the past 2 decades. Historically, disaster response was often reactive.⁶ Major events, such as the 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone and the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, served as catalysts for governmental policy changes, leading to a more proactive and institutionalized framework. During earlier major disasters, international aid played a significant role in recovery efforts.^{2,7} Subsequently, India has increasingly allocated dedicated budgetary resources to its National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Within 2 decades, India has developed significant domestic response capabilities and has concurrently emerged as a provider of disaster relief assistance to other countries.²

Specific subnational entities within India have also achieved notable effectiveness in disaster management, with Odisha's cyclone preparedness and response drawing commendation from

international bodies like the United Nations. State-level disaster response mechanisms, often supported by state disaster relief funds (e.g., Odisha Disaster Relief Fund) and personnel (SDRF equivalents), contribute significantly to localized response efforts and can also be deployed to assist other states during major crises.⁸ The sustainability of these response capacities is maintained through consistent replenishment of dedicated funds via annual governmental budgetary processes, ensuring readiness for deployment across the country.

In conclusion, effective disaster response necessitates robust national capabilities and strong international cooperation. Dedicated and adequately resourced national forces, such as the NDRF, are pivotal components of domestic disaster management frameworks. Timely and appropriate strategic planning and resource allocation are fundamental requirements for enhancing national resilience and ensuring effective response during natural hazard events.

Acknowledgments. Not applicable.

Author contribution. Dr. NKD: Manuscript writing and concept; Dr. PD: manuscript review and revision; and Dr. SM: literature search, concept, and corresponding.

Competing interests. None.

Ethical standard. Institutional Review Board exempted ethical approval because there are no Human Subjects/patient data.

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