

# 21 | Preparedness and capacity building

Environmental impact	3/3
Risk protection	2/3
Durability	2/3
Affordability	3/3

## Intro

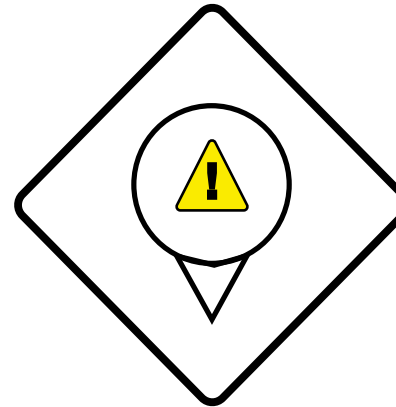
The preparedness phase combines the prevention of, the preparation for, and the individual precaution against hazards. Capacity building and raising risk awareness among the community strengthens the humanitarian settlements in their preparedness and responses to hazardous events. Preparedness measures include early warning systems, the planning of escape routes and refuge, the individual preparation of emergency bags, and the proper storage of emergency supplies and tools such as pumps or latrine pit emptying equipment. The stocks need to be controlled regularly to ensure materials are sufficient and functional.

Awareness raising campaigns need to convey simple key messages and be repeated regularly to ensure best comprehension of all members of the community. Community trainings on reacting to early warning systems, using escape routes and safe refuges are primordial to ensure the effectiveness of the preparedness measures. Inclusive and long-term capacity building can derive from educational efforts based on the combination of local, indigenous, and scientific knowledge systems. For this purpose, a dedicated disaster management cell or emergency operation center could be institutionalized within the humanitarian settlement, where selected people are trained on monitoring stocks, warning systems and other preparedness mechanisms. Local communities and humanitarian organizations can also prepare for disasters via land use plans, hazard maps, and (GIS-based) risk assessments (see *Measure [22]* and *GIS Add-In*).

## Lesson learned

### Early action against floods in the Bentiu camp, South sudan.

The Bentiu camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in South Sudan was expected to face significant flooding during the 2022 rainy season. As a result, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and local partners initiated a pilot project for early floods risk mitigation. The initiative included a special task force and public project tracker to steer the preparations and decision-making. The process of early action was perceived a needed and effective measure by UN informants. However, early anticipatory action should leave more power in decision-making to the staff on site for accelerated risk mitigation processes. Moreover, the implemented mitigation should be continuously revised (*Evan Easton-Calabria, 2023*).



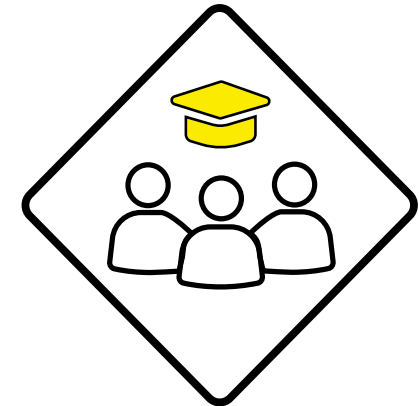
Risk maps and emergency plan



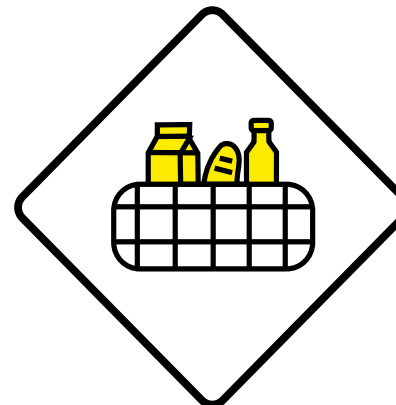
Water level detection system and alarm



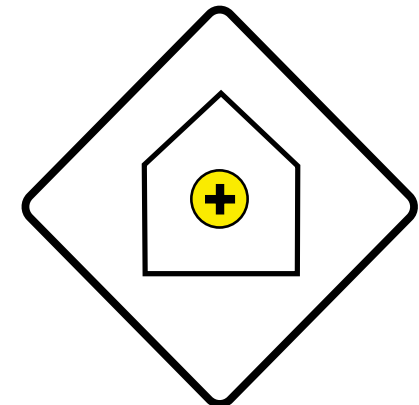
Escape routes and safe refuge



Community training, awareness raising



Storage of emergency supplies



Installation of an emergency operating post

## Overview of Criteria

**Type of Intervention:**

Non-structural.

**Scale of Intervention:**

Shelter-Plot-Block, Settlement

**Materials:**

NA.

**Environmental Impact:**

NA.

**Targeted Natural Hazard:**

Pluvial Flood, Coastal/Riverine Flood.

**Targeted Vulnerable Assets:**

Buildings, Transport, Technical Infrastructure.

**Strategy Type:**

Reduce Casualties.

**Implementation Time:**

Short (1 day - 1 month), Medium (1 month - 1 year), Long (> 1 year).

**Effect Duration:**

Short - term (<1 year), Medium - term (1 year to 10 years), Long - term (>10 years)

**Investment Costs:**

NA.

**Maintenance Costs (yearly):**

NA.

**Calabria, Evan Easton; Jaime, Catalina; Shenouda, Benjamin (2022):**  
*Anticipatory action in refugee and IDP camps: challenges, opportunities and considerations.* ICRC.  
Available online at  
<https://www.anticipation-hub.org/download/file-2568>.

**Calabria, Evan Easton (2023)**  
*Acting in Advance of Flooding: Early action in South Sudan.*  
Feinstein International Center.  
Available online at  
<https://fic.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/05.10.23-ActingInAdvanceFinal.pdf>.

**IPCC: Climate Change (2022)**  
*Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.*  
*Summary for Policymakers.* In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.*  
Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



## **Flood Risk in Humanitarian Settlements: Compendium of Mitigation Measures**

**Spatial Development and Urban Policy, SPUR**

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