Risk Management and Emergency Management

IDRiM Cafe

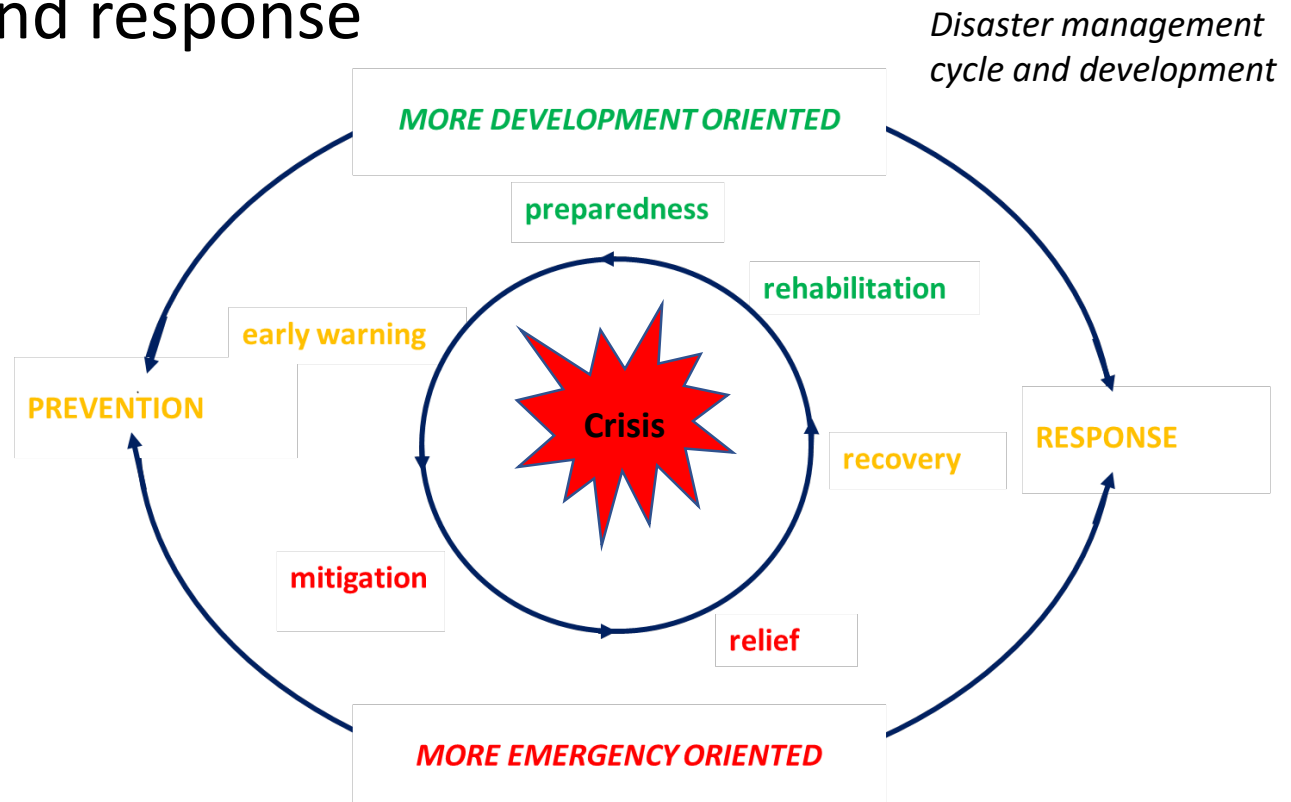**30th June, 2021**

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Ways of interpreting differences between risk management and emergency management

- Probability
- Prevention and response
- Time
- Power
- Culture

Disaster management cycle and development

MORE DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED

preparedness

rehabilitation

early warning

PREVENTION

Crisis

recovery

RESPONSE

mitigation

relief

MORE EMERGENCY ORIENTED

Processes that influence in the characteristics of risk and emergency management in practice
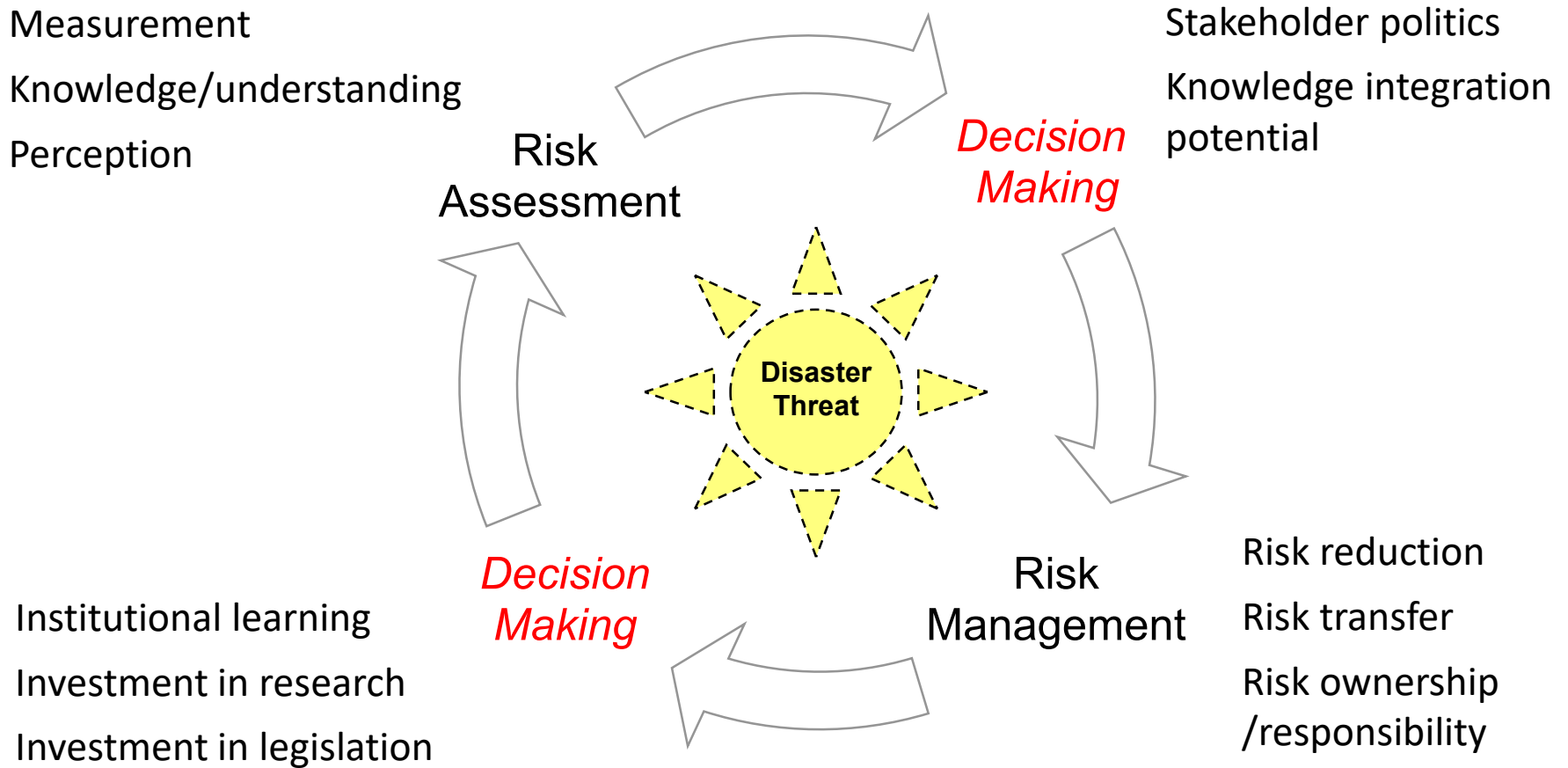
Basis:

E.g.

- Knowledge - for engaging risk and emergency
- Power - constraints and enablers of being able to engage risk and emergency
- Culture - choice, motivation and belief in engaging risk and emergency

Processes that can distinguish risk and emergency management:

E.g.

- Decision making in contexts of uncertainty
- Building up early as well as building back better
- Approximating more distant responsibilities (sustainability)
- Distinguishing who decides
- Enabling of values and hope

Some influences on the risk management process in relation to criticality of the threat

Measurement

Knowledge/understanding

Perception

Stakeholder politics

Knowledge integration potential

Risk Assessment

Decision Making

Disaster Threat

Risk Management

Decision Making

Risk reduction

Risk transfer

Risk ownership /responsibility

Institutional learning

Investment in research

Investment in legislation

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Collins, A.E. (2009) Disaster and Development, Routledge, p.222

Why it matters to recognise different emphases in risk and emergency management

- Disasters need not be inevitable, but are!

- Complex disaster causes and outcomes demand both aspects

- To be able to enhance institutionalised management systems – entry points through both prevention and response *modus operandi* (a particular way or method of doing something)

UK system of emergency and risk management

- Until 2000 Emergency Management a very military concern; risk mainly about quantifying likelihood and impact

- 2001 Civil Contingencies Secretariat established in Cabinet Office - Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) of 2004 introduced a unifying framework for civil protection in the UK

- Structure of UK emergency management also became more decentralized. Local agencies, such as police, fire and rescue and ambulance as first responders. Command and Control system - Bronze (operational), Silver (tactical), Gold (strategic) via Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBRA).

- However, responsive mode became challenged by risk orientated frameworks.

- Leading to, for example, the Strategic National Framework for Community Resilience (2011) UK Resilience embedded as further Cabinet Office strategy – Local Resilience Forums – All of Society Approach

- Represented a move towards risk, resilience and response as a more joined up area of policy and practice

- Local Resilience also featured in a National Security Capabilities Review (2017)

- Drivers of change: Terrorist threat, cyber security, flooding … and pandemic as significant influences.

- Current: Longer term risk assessments and environmental sustainability concerns gaining greater traction. E.g. COP26 shining a spotlight. Clean energy prerogative as integrated Disaster Risk and Climate Adaptation more on the horizon scan (though late).

Observations:

Major changes in policy orientations happening more quickly.

Cross cutting issues more universal. i.e. risk and emergency management more pervasive across contrasting political ideologies, as a common agenda strategic aim.

As everywhere, need more radical investment in *prevention* through speeded up sustainability agenda. This needs combined risk and emergency management.

Some key points about researching risk and emergency management: what IDRiM can do

- Aim for improved planetary well-being through risk and emergency management driven research

- Encourage innovation through exploratory research on the management of risk and emergencies

- Facilitate inclusive approaches to disaster risk and emergency management

- Improve communication of integrated risk and emergency management options through their critical applications