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Disaster Preparedness in Arabian Gulf Countries

Disaster preparedness is a unique platform that helps researchers, and allied personnel to design and implement strategies for the benefit of the society. Disaster preparedness and management includes coordinated and realistic planning to increase the overall effectiveness of disaster planning. The purpose is to reduce the efforts and increase the overall efficiency of national societies, community, and household members involved in the management and preparedness for disaster. The United Nations Office for Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction defines disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of the society or community, which includes, material, environmental, economic, and human losses.

The impact may affect the community or society to an extent, which is beyond its ability to cope with its own resources. Arabian Gulf countries require comprehensive and robust disaster management plans/strategies to cope with untimely, unpredictable, and perceived high impact disasters. In the past decade, there has been a marked increase in the magnitude and frequency of disasters causing public health emergencies, huge economic losses, and irreversible impact to the environment. Based on global data, there has been approximately 60% increase in disasters around the globe, wherein an estimated 33 million people have become homeless and 4.2 million were injured.

Both man-made and natural disasters have caused over 2 million deaths in the past decade and affected over 3 billion people indirectly. This paper provides an overview of disaster preparedness in Arabian Gulf countries based on previously published literature. It provides an in-depth review of key themes and trends documented on disaster preparedness and management in Arabian Gulf countries.