

Disaster management

Policy statement

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Disaster management

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) recognises that disasters resulting from natural, environmental and technological hazards (includes biological, geological, hydrometeorological and socio-natural hazards) have a major and long-lasting impact on people and the countries in which they live.

WCPT encourages member organisations to facilitate the contribution of physical therapists, as experts in physical therapy intervention/treatment including rehabilitation, to national and local disaster preparedness and management strategies. Physical therapists should:

- be involved in the process of developing policies and plans that help areas, countries and regions prepare for disasters
- be involved in preventive education and measures before, during and after disasters
- provide interventions/treatment, including rehabilitation to those affected by disasters
- ensure that populations affected have access to physical therapy intervention/treatment, including rehabilitation services to achieve the highest attainable level of health and function

WCPT encourages member organisations to:

- work with national governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), aid agencies and others to develop disaster prevention plans, preparedness and response strategies, and provision of coordinated responses to situations
- facilitate discussion, share resources and provide guidance to individual physical therapists wishing to respond/volunteer in emergency relief situations
- encourage professional entry level physical therapy programmes to include disaster management in their curricula

Glossary (<https://world.physio/resources/glossary>)

Curriculum development

Disaster

Disaster preparedness

Disaster prevention

Hazard

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)

Rehabilitation

Approval, review and related policy information	
Date adopted:	<p>Adopted at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007.</p> <p>Revised and re-approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011.</p> <p>Re-affirmed at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015.</p> <p>Re-approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019</p>
Date for review:	2023
Related WCPT policies:	<p>WCPT ethical principles</p> <p>WCPT policy statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health human resource • Primary health care • Relationships with other health professionals • Torture • Description of physical therapy <p>WCPT endorsement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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