



Insights for enhanced disaster management in a flood situation: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice.

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**SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**



Workshop Objectives

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- **Understand the roles** of different professionals in disaster response and recovery at a primary healthcare level.
- Explore **interprofessional strategies** to improve **care and coordination** for **vulnerable populations** during floods.
- **Apply a systems-thinking approach** to flood disaster aftermath using a **real-world case**.
- **Foster collaborative action planning** in the context of resource constraints and community needs.



Introduction

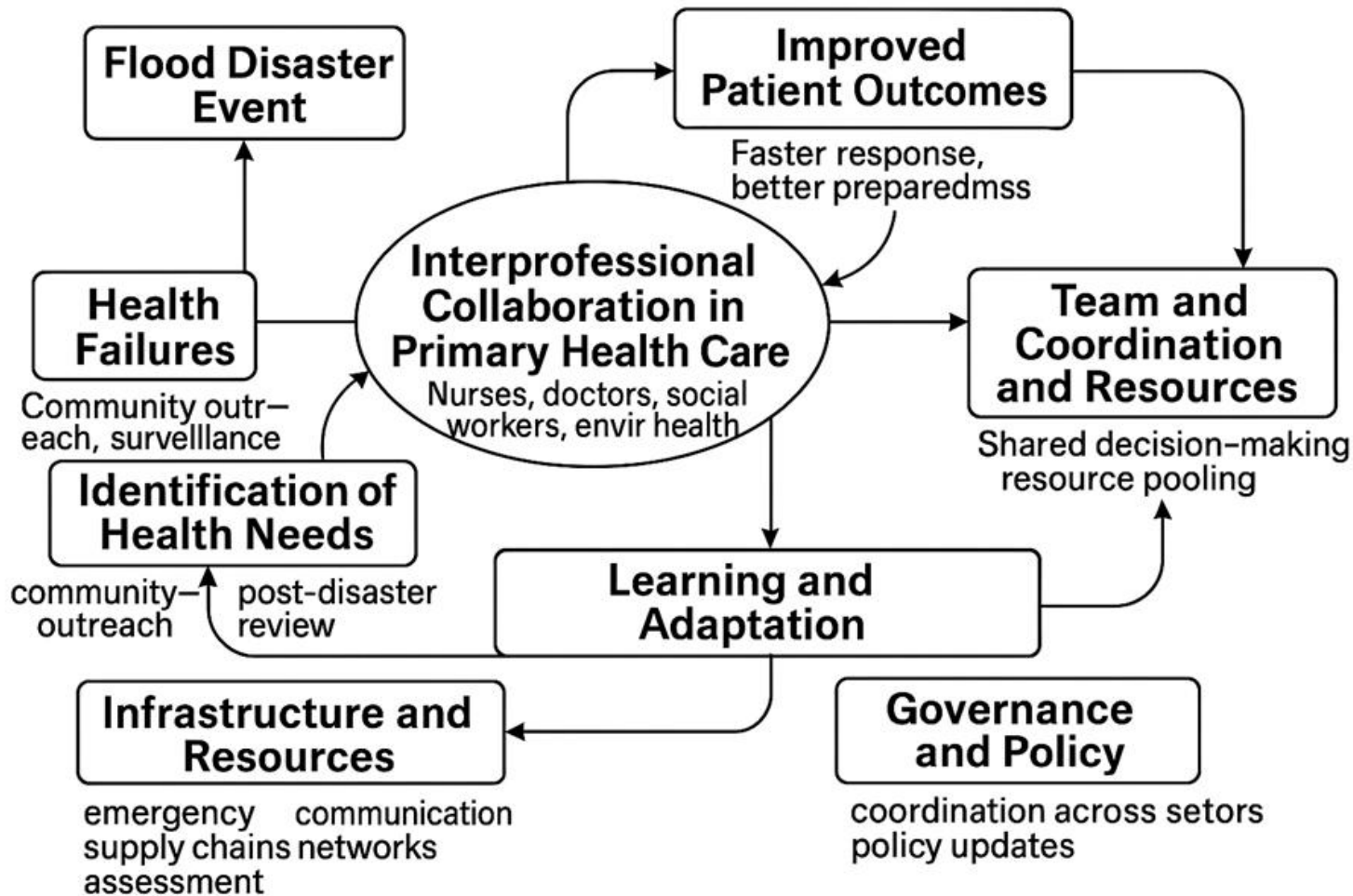
- **Floods** are among the most frequent and devastating natural disasters worldwide.
- They disrupt lives, displace communities, and put immense **pressure** on **infrastructure** and **public services**.
- Flood-induced displacement and migration lead to social and health challenges, including mental health disorders such as, **PTSD; Anxiety and Depression**.
- **KZN Flood in 2022** led to 459 deaths, 40,000 displaced, over 12,000 houses destroyed and 45,000 people unemployed. (Magadimisha-Chipunga, 2024)

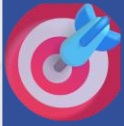


Introduction cont.

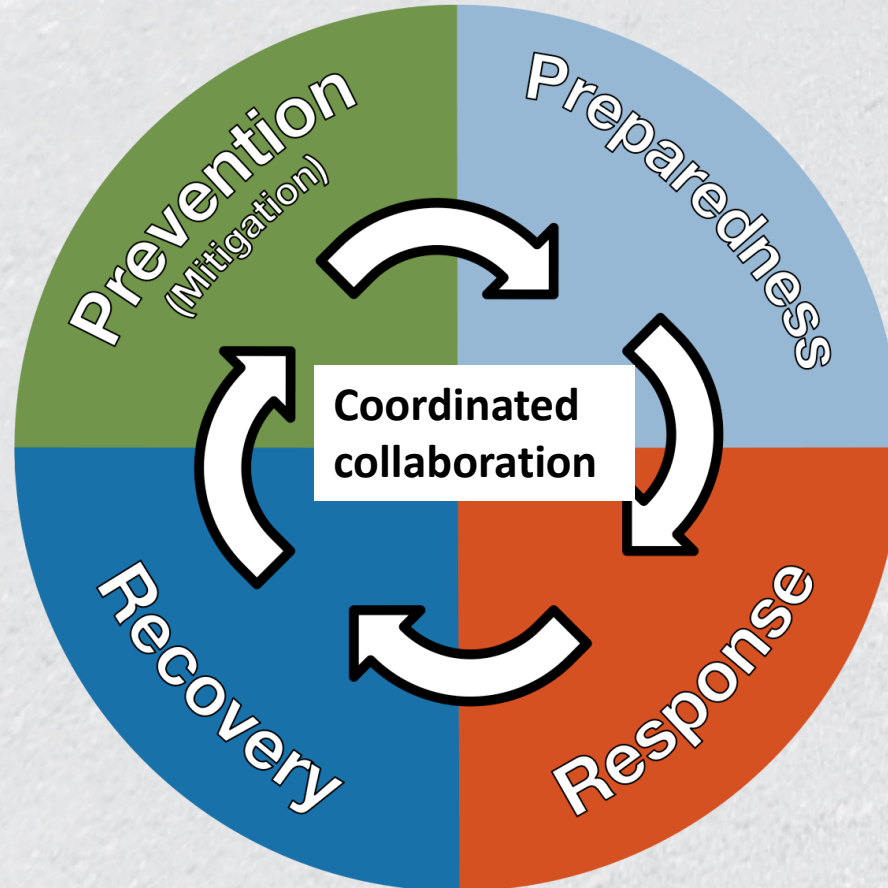
- R1bn national recovery fund (Ad hoc committee, 2022).
- Recovery has been slow and ongoing.
- Effective disaster management in flood situations requires more than just a rapid emergency response—it demands a **comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach** where every stakeholder plays a vital role.

Systems-Thinking Approach





What is Interprofessional Disaster Response?



Shared goals, mutual respect, and clear communication across professions and sectors.



Why Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Matters

**NO SINGLE
PROFESSION
CAN TACKLE
THE
CHALLENGES
ALONE**

- By collaborating we can
 - **Enhance communication**
 - **Optimize resources**
 - **Provide holistic care**
 - **Build community resilience**



The PHC Approach in Disaster Contexts

- In primary healthcare, disaster response should be



People-centered



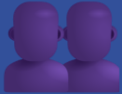
Equity-focused



Community-based



Continuity-oriented



Key Characteristics of an Interprofessional Response Team

SHARED VISION

A common understanding of goals: safety, health & dignity.

DEFINED ROLES

Clarity on each profession's scope and contribution.

EFFECTIVE

COMMUNICATION
Frequent, structured info sharing across professions.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Valuing each profession's unique strengths.

RAPID COORDINATION

Mobilizing joint efforts quickly and adaptively.



From Silos to Synergy



Disasters often expose **fragmentation** in systems. Interprofessional practice transforms this by:



Improving patient and community outcomes



Breaking down silos between health and social sectors



Enhancing **resilience and preparedness** for future crises



AfriVIPE video

- Please watch the following video and imagine yourself in this setting.
- Look at the case study on your handout that gives additional information about the case.

[Link to video](#)

- <https://youtu.be/vPGzCSQXMuI>

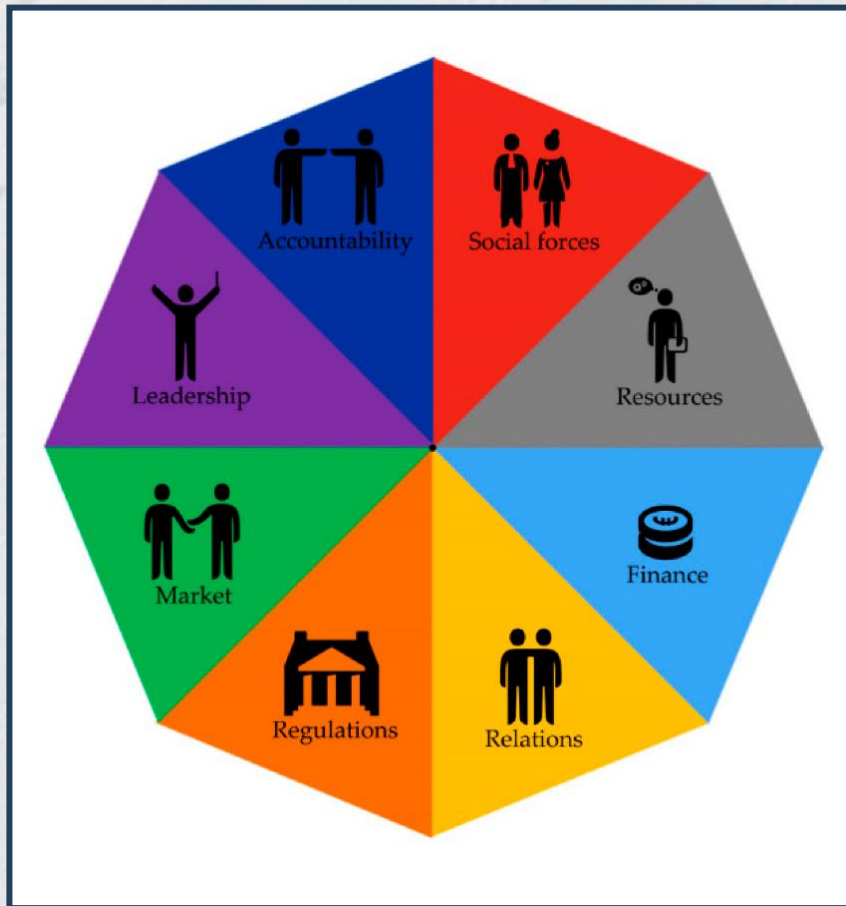
Group exercise

- Divide into groups
- Select a chairperson and scribe for your group.
- In your group answer the questions.
- Report back after 20 minutes.

Group feedback

- Each group provide feedback
- Write down one take home message about today's session.

Closing



- What difference could collaboration make in your day-to-day work?
- How could **interprofessional collaboration reduce harm** in flood aftermath?
- How would you integrate **collaborative disaster management planning** into daily Primary Health Care work

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Working closely with communities on health issues

THANK YOU
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