

A family plan for disaster preparedness



Your family, and the community where you live, may be exposed to natural hazards or hazards caused by humans. The best starting point is getting to organize your own family, making sure that everyone takes part. Here are some of the things you might do:

Look around you. What are the hazards nearest your home? Could improvements be made to your house to make it safer? Are there places in your house, or in your community, that might be safer in the event of a hazard? Where are the nearest people and institutions that could help you, such as the fire station, the Red Cross, the hospital or the health centre?

Make sure you have a floor plan of your house. Mark the quickest and safest way out. If there are several ways out of your house, choose and mark the safest ones depending on where you, your parents, your brothers and sisters sleep, play or work.

You should also agree on the following:

- ▶ Where to meet outside your home, like a public park or the home of neighbour that you can trust.
- ▶ Where to meet if you are ordered to leave the neighbourhood: maybe the home of a friend or relative in another neighbourhood or town.
- ▶ A telephone number to call in case you find yourselves separated from your family when a disaster strikes. Learn by heart the phone number of a relative living in some other province, county or district so that your family can find out where you are in the event of a disaster.

You can also talk to your neighbours about preparedness plans and making risk maps. Find out which neighbours could help you in the event of an emergency: doctors, engineers, firefighters, psychologists.

