

Glossary of Terminology

This Glossary of Terminology presents definitions of commonly used terms.

Terminology	Definition
Deaths	“Number of people who lost their life because the event happened” (IRDR, 2015, p.9).
Direct Deaths	Persons who died as a direct result of a disaster (e.g. crushed by a building during an earthquake, or died due to outbreaks, epidemic, pandemic) (IRDR, 2015).
Indirect Immediate Deaths	Persons who died of other causes (within days, weeks to months depending on the peril) as a result of a disaster occurring (IRDR, 2015).
Indirect Delayed Deaths	Deaths caused by longer-term effects of a disaster that are only visible and measurable well after the disaster happened (years to decades) such as radioactive exposures after a tsunami event (IRDR, 2015).
Avoidable Deaths	<p>Avoidable deaths are those, which are amenable, preventable, and at times both (Cook, 2019) from disasters. Each death is counted only once.</p> <p>Amenable deaths could be avoided due to timely and effective health care (Cook, 2019). Timeliness involves reducing waits and sometimes harmful delays for both those who receive and those who give care. Effectiveness refers to providing services based on scientific knowledge to all who could benefit and refraining from providing services to those not likely to benefit (avoiding underuse and overuse) (NAS, 2001).</p> <p>Preventable deaths could be avoided by public health interventions (Cook, 2019), such as epidemiology and surveillance, outreach, screening, health teaching, social marketing and policy development – among others (KSU, 2020).</p> <p>Both amenable and preventable deaths can be further avoided through effective disaster risk governance.</p>
Unavoidable Deaths	<p>Deaths occurring annually due to natural causes (e.g. old age) or other causes (e.g. underlying health conditions and poverty-related illnesses) leading to premature deaths. The Avoidable Deaths Network classifies unavoidable deaths into three broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Communicable Diseases; (ii) Non-Communicable Diseases; and (iii) Injuries. <p>Hundreds and thousands of people die annually in low- and middle-income countries from communicable and non-communicable diseases and injuries.</p>

Suggested citation:

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Nnaji, A., Dev Sarmah, A.R. and Corsel, D. (2020) *Glossary of Terminology*. Avoidable Deaths Network: UK.

References

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