
The role of lifesaving organizations in disaster management

Dr Georgios-Marios Karagiannis¹

Hellenic Red Cross¹

The purpose of this paper is to present the role of national lifesaving organizations and the International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) in disaster management.

Drowning in aquatic disasters takes a significant human death toll upon the world. Climate change will almost certainly increase both the frequency of occurrence and the severity of hydro-meteorological hazards, such as floods and hurricanes. However, most of these deaths are preventable.

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters sets the global objectives for disaster risk management, with an emphasis on local and national resilience.

In this paper, the activities of lifesaving organizations in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are analyzed in light of the priorities for action set in the Hyogo Framework.

The strategy of ILS with regard to aquatic disaster management, as illustrated in the ILS Position Statement in Aquatic Disasters, suggest an orientation toward prevention of drowning in disasters with a focus on at risk population and water safety education. This orientation matches the Hyogo Framework priorities of community involvement, resilience building at the local and national levels and risk reduction. Finally, the perspectives of the work of ILS and lifesaving organizations in aquatic disaster management are presented.

Corresponding Author

Dr George Karagiannis
Emergency Manager
Hellenic Red Cross
131, Deinokratous Str.
128, Cours Fauriel
Patras Achaia Greece 26224
Email: gmkaragiannis@gmail.com
Telephone: +30 6937670488