In June 2019, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) adopted the CES Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters, which:

- Clarify the role of national statistical offices (NSOs) and other members of national statistical systems (NSSs) in providing information related to hazardous events and disasters, and
- Identify practical steps to better support disaster risk management efforts in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster risk management.
Chapter 5 of the CES Recommendations provides a list of potential contributions of NSS to each phase of disaster risk management, including the phases of disaster response and recovery. This provides NSOs with guidance to address the current emergency situation (disaster response phase) with official statistics (e.g. on the geographical distribution of population at risk) and to plan specific activities that will be needed at the end of the crisis (for example specific surveys to measure disaster impacts). This chapter also recommends a set of basic statistics (“emergency data kit”) which should be kept up-to-date and easily accessible in case of a disaster. The emergency data kit requires clarified procedures regarding handling of data confidentiality, small scale-analysis, integration with other information etc. to be used in emergency situations without delay.

In the CES Recommendations, you will also find practical examples for:

- Using official statistics available in disaster-risk management while maintaining statistical confidentiality,
- How NSOs could contribute to data analysis and communication with policy makers, media and public, etc.

Ongoing activities

- UNECE Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters, which developed the Recommendations, is working under a renewed mandate to support NSOs in contributing to managing the current emergency situation
- The Task Force is collecting practical experience of NSOs in addressing the current and anticipated information demand, and how they deal with major challenges.

Upcoming

- Case studies on how NSOs respond to COVID-19.
- Core indicators on hazardous events and disasters

Do you have questions or want to share your experience? Let us know in the comments below.

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