

# PREPTalks

New perspectives for emergency managers



CENTER FOR HOMELAND  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY  
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

## The Making of a Resilient Future

Francis Ghesquiere

## Agenda

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Introductions (5 minutes)

Watch the PrepTalks (20 minutes)

Discussion (30 minutes)

## Introduction



- Francis Ghesquiere heads the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a global partnership hosted by the World Bank with programs in more than 80 countries
- He has extensive experience in ex-post and ex-ante disaster risk management operations
- He was key in the design of new policy instruments to help accelerate World Bank response to disasters, including the policy on emergency operations and innovative contingent financing instruments

# Watch the PrepTalk

<https://www.fema.gov/blog/preptalks-francis-ghesquiere-making-resilient-future>

## Topics

- Rising Disaster Costs
- New Technology
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Emerging Threats

## Topic 1: Rising Disaster Costs



[We must] sensitize ministries of finance, which are the people who allocate the resources ... Using probabilistic technique, we can now actually measure the probability of loss ... and what impact that will have on their balance sheet.

– Francis Ghesquiere

## Topic 1: Rising Disaster Costs



1. How is your community planning to hold down the rising cost of disasters?
2. A 2018 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that for every \$1 that the Federal Government invests in mitigation saves taxpayers an average of \$6 in future spending. What pre-disaster mitigation investments could have a similar return for your community?
3. As stewards of your community's tax dollars, how are you ensuring that your investments in infrastructure, economic development, mitigation and other initiatives are fiscally sound?
4. Does your community have ways to quantify future risks, both with and without disaster risk management interventions?

## Topic 2: New Technology

The ability to leverage technological innovations opens up revolutionary possibilities for emergency management. As the private sector leaps ahead and further raises public expectations, FEMA will carefully analyze innovations that could increase efficiency and improve the user experience for our partners and disaster survivors. Leveraging new technologies promises new opportunities to simplify FEMA's processes and make our programs more accessible and friendly to the populations that we serve.

Source: FEMA 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, p. 10, [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan_2018-2022.pdf)

## Topic 2: New Technology



1. How will continued rapid technological innovation change how people in your community live, work, and play?
2. How can you take advantage of the National Weather Service's improvements in forecast modeling to better communicate impending threats through your alerts and forecasting systems?
3. How will the increasing Internet of things (IoT) affect early warning systems, real-time data analytics, remote monitoring, and locating survivors faster?
4. Do we have access to modeling tools to help forecast future risk? Do we have adequate staff versed in GIS and modelling technology?



## Topic 3: Diversity and Inclusion



The U.S. population is growing older and more diverse in terms of culture, language, and perspective. This places pressure on authorities to incorporate specialized needs, expectations, and methods of communications into their plans to maintain equitable access to services.

Source: FEMA 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, p. 10,  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan_2018-2022.pdf)

1. How do your emergency plans (e.g., evacuation, sheltering, and communicating protective actions) need to change to support upcoming demographic shifts predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau?
2. What other demographic trends might you see in your community population? Are you appropriately involving stakeholders that represent different population segments in your planning efforts?

## Topic 4: Emerging Threats

The spectrum of viable threats is expanding, with cybersecurity joining nation-state threats and terrorism as a widespread public concern. The National Security Strategy requires that the Nation improve its ability to assess the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks to Americans. As an agency, FEMA will lead the Nation to build a culture of preparedness that includes improving risk management, strengthening capabilities, dynamic learning, and information sharing.

Source: FEMA 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, p. 11, [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema-strategic-plan_2018-2022.pdf)

## Topic 4: Emerging Threats



1. With increased connectivity and dependence on power comes increased security risks; how are you accounting for increased cybersecurity threats?
2. How well do your plans consider threats of terrorism or other acts of violence in your community, such as active shooter?
3. Are there any future conditions to start planning for now, including changes in flooding or wildfire patterns or new hazards, such as drought? Are there potential infrastructure failures, such as bridges or dams that should be included in plans?
4. Have you encouraged workplaces, schools, faith-based organizations, and other groups to hold drills to practice for these emerging threats?
5. Does your plan include response to non-natural hazards, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats?
6. Have you conducted tabletop exercises to assess the ability to respond to these threats? Have you included community stakeholders to participate in these exercises?

## Discussion of Next Steps

- Map the hazards, exposure, and vulnerability for your community now and projected over the next few decades. Determine a process for periodic review and updating and who has the expertise to support this effort.
- Organize groups with the correct representation for both technical and sociological discussions and create a process to review your community plans with each group. Based on your how your community populations will shift, conduct an outreach campaign to ensure appropriate participation of all population segments.
- Review your access and capabilities in mapping and modeling technologies.
- Review the three goals in FEMA's Strategic Plan and the underlying objectives and consider incorporating similar goals in your jurisdiction's strategic plan.
- Develop a process for ongoing coordination across the whole community, to include continued forecasting, plan review, land use planning, and financial investments.

PrepTalks. New Perspectives for Emergency Managers.

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[www.fema.gov/preptalks](http://www.fema.gov/preptalks)