


 جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University  	<b>Recovery After a Disaster Policy</b>		
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## Recovery After a Disaster Policy

### Overview

This policy aims to create a structured and proactive framework to guide UAE University in disaster preparedness, response and recovery —whether natural, human-made, or other extraordinary events that may disrupt normal operations. Readiness programs are essential to protect the lives and well-being of university staff, students, contractors, visitors and colleagues; minimizing damage to and loss of university property and assets; and ensuring the rapid restoration of normal University operations.

### Scope


This policy applies to all individuals, operations, and facilities associated with UAE University, including the following:

- Types of Disasters: Natural and human-made disasters, including but not limited to:
  - Natural Disasters: Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, sandstorms, extreme heatwaves, etc.
  - Public Health Emergencies: Pandemics such as Covid-19 and other health-related crises.
  - Human-Made Disasters: Fires, cyberattacks, chemical spills, and other incidents.
  - Hybrid Scenarios: Complex emergencies involving a combination of natural and human-made factors.
- Institutional Activities: All academic, research, administrative, and extracurricular activities conducted on or off campus.
- Stakeholders: All employees, students, contractors, visitors, alumni, partner organizations, regulatory authorities, and the broader community.
- Facilities and Infrastructure: Physical and digital infrastructures, including academic buildings, research / teaching laboratories, IT systems, and financial resources, hostels
- Geographical Scope: All UAE University campuses, both within the UAE and internationally, where University-sponsored activities are held.

### Policy

The specific objectives of the policy are as follows:



- Ensure the Safety and Well-Being of the University Community  
Protect the lives and health of employees, students, contractors and visitors during and after a disaster by providing timely medical assistance, psychological support, and access to essential services. Special attention shall be given to vulnerable groups, including individuals with disabilities.
- Maintain Continuity of Academic and Research Activities  
Ensure the continuation of academic and research functions by providing mechanisms for online and hybrid learning and safeguarding ongoing research projects, equipment, and data.

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3. **Protect and Preserve Institutional Assets**  
Safeguard the University's physical infrastructure, digital assets, and financial stability by implementing resilience strategies and rapid recovery protocols.
4. **Build Institutional Resilience**  
Foster a culture of preparedness, adaptability, and proactive response to both anticipated and unexpected crises.
5. **Foster Collaboration and Partnerships**  
Strengthen coordination with national, regional, and international bodies, including government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector.
6. **Align Recovery Efforts with Sustainability Goals**  
Promote eco-friendly recovery measures and ensure that rebuilding efforts support the long-term sustainability of the institution.
7. **Enhance Awareness and Preparedness Among Stakeholders**  
Provide ongoing training, establish effective communication channels, and involve the University community in disaster preparedness.
8. **Strengthen Compliance with National and International Frameworks**  
Ensure compliance with UAE laws and international standards for disaster risk management and recovery.
9. **Promote Post-Disaster Learning and Continuous Improvement**  
Establish processes for post-disaster evaluation and incorporate lessons learned into future disaster planning and recovery efforts.

## **Article (1): Governance and Responsibility**

1. **Crisis Management Committee (CMC)**  
This Committee shall be the central governing body responsible for overseeing all disaster recovery efforts at UAE University. The Committee's tasks include coordinating recovery activities well, policy compliant and efficiently executing them.  
Composition of the Crisis Management Committee (CMC): The Vice Chancellor (Chair), Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (Deputy Chair), and representatives (members) from Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University Facilities unit, Information Technology Division, Human Resources Department, Office of the Associate Provost for Student Affairs, Operations and Emergency Section, Health and Safety, and other relevant departments. The Committee may also include liaison representatives from external national authorities such as NCEMA, MoHAP, TDRA, the UAE Cybersecurity Council, Civil Defense, and the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, as needed.
2. **Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC)**  
Designated by the Vice Chancellor, shall serve as the primary operational point of contact for all disaster recovery activities, ensuring the effective execution of the recovery plan and coordination across departments.

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3. Departmental Roles and Responsibilities  
Departments are assigned specific recovery roles, including restoring academic activities, infrastructure repair, IT recovery, and ensuring stakeholder welfare.
4. Communication Protocols  
Under the supervision of the UOD, the timely arrival of internal and external communications must be ensured.



### Article (2): Key Components of the Policy

1. Regular risk assessments should be conducted by the Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) to identify vulnerabilities and map potential disaster risks.
2. A comprehensive Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) should be maintained and updated periodically to reflect changing circumstances and emerging risks.
3. The Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) activates a detailed disaster response plan, including evacuation procedures, emergency communications, and resource allocation strategies.
4. Recovery efforts shall prioritize the restoration of critical functions such as IT systems, academic services, and student welfare. Psychological and medical support will also be made available to those affected.
5. The university works with regional and international governmental institutions to ensure an effective recovery process. This includes structured coordination with Emirati authorities such as NCEMA, the UAE Cybersecurity Council, Ministry of Health and Prevention, and local emergency services to align recovery actions with national frameworks.

### Article (3): Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation procedures provide specific guidelines on how to implement disaster recovery, including:

1. Performance Indicators: Defined in procedures to measure recovery success.
2. Regular Reviews: Scheduled drills and simulations to assess preparedness.
3. Annual Reports: Recovery progress to be documented by the University's Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) and submitted to the University's Board of Trustees.

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#### Article (4): Compliance


1. This policy complies with UAE federal laws and international frameworks. In particular, it aligns with the guidelines and directives issued by NCEMA, TDRA, and the UAE Cybersecurity Council, ensuring that recovery actions conform with national disaster and cybersecurity strategies.
2. The university adopts international best practices in disaster risk management and recovery, integrating innovations and lessons learned from global disaster management strategies.

#### Article (5): Review and Updates

This policy is reviewed every three years by the University's Crisis Management Committee or as necessary to incorporate new developments in disaster management, emerging risks, and stakeholder feedback. This policy is updated based on lessons learned from past incidents and advances in disaster management technology.

#### Article (6): Implementation Procedures

Detailed procedures accompany this policy, outlining activation, resource mobilization, communication plans, phased recovery timelines, monitoring, and regular training to ensure readiness and effective execution during crises.

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## Signatory Authority Matrix

Description	Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance	Crisis Management Committee (CMC)	Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC)	Academic Affairs	Facilities Management	IT	HR	Student Affairs	Operations & Emergency Section	Health and Safety	Communications / UOD	Vice Chancellor	Chancellor	Board of Trustees
Policy Establishment & Modifications		I	R									A&R	R	A
Risk Assessments	C	R	I	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A		
Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) Maintenance	C	R	I	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A		
Activation of Disaster Recovery Plan	A	A	I	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
Response Procedures	C	R	I	R	R	R	R	R	A	A	C	A		
Academic and Research Continuity		R	R	I	C	C	C	A	C	C	C	A		
Recovery of IT Systems	C	R	A	C		I		C	C		C	A		
Psychological and Medical Support		R	R	C			C	C	A	I&A	C	A		
Physical Infrastructure Recovery	C	R	R	C	I&A		C	C	A	I&A		A		
Compliance with National and International Standards		A	I	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A		
Training and Drills	C	R	I	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	C	A		
Communication Protocols	C	R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	I&A	A		
Annual Reports on Recovery Progress	A	A	I	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A	A&R	A	
Post-Disaster Evaluation	C	R	I	C	C	C	C	C	A	A	C	A&R	A	A

I= Initiate, C= Consult, R= Recommend, A= Approve.