



Annual Report 2023



Message from our Executive Director

Aloha,

I am pleased to release the 2023 Annual Report of the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC), a congressionally-authorized member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

2023 was yet again another record setting year for climate and weather disasters with 28 confirmed “billion-dollar” weather and climate disasters. This is the highest count recorded to date, totaling over \$92 billion in damages. Over the last seven years, more than 5,000 people have been killed with over \$1 trillion in losses (NCEI, 2023). The impacts in poor, minority, island and underserved communities have been exacerbated by social stressors and limited access to health care and other resources. We must increase awareness, improve response and recovery capabilities, and address ongoing disparities in society. The cornerstone of community resilience is social equity. NDPTC is committed to social justice and equitable outcomes in the work we do.

Over the past year, NDPTC delivered over 220 training courses across in-person, virtual, and web-based modalities serving participants in EVERY state and territory. We trained over 60,000 participants since inception and 5,000 participants in 2023 across all government levels and disciplines engaged in response and recovery. We are currently the only training provider to deliver FEMA-certified courses on climate adaptation and mitigation including AWR-347 Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Management and MGT-484 Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigating Hazards. Over 2,000 emergency management professionals have taken our climate action planning and risk management training courses. We must expand the training and outreach to underserved communities. Our training is highly rated with an average of 92% of participants reporting that NDPTC courses helped them do their jobs more effectively.

NDPTC is committed to increasing efficiencies and effectiveness of course development and delivery through adoption of new training modalities, updated content in all courses, and leveraging economies of scale to reach underserved communities. Our metrics for engagement include collaborative course development and delivery, training in multiple languages, and integrating the research to support training quality. NDPTC is a learning organization, disseminating research and development through publications, conference presentations, workshops and training, and professional development for our staff and partners. Together, we can build and sustain a culture of preparedness and resilience. Please join us in working to make our world safer, more secure, just, prosperous and peaceful.

Karl Kim, Ph.D.
Executive Director, NDPTC
University of Hawaii



Our story so far

NDPTC is a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) authorized to develop and deliver training and educational programs related to homeland security and disaster management, with a specific focus on natural hazards, coastal communities, and the special needs and opportunities of islands and territories. The NDPTC actively engages internally with FEMA and the University of Hawai'i, as well as with external partners across the region to integrate the delivery of its trainings, products, and services.

Our Mission

The NDPTC works collaboratively to develop and deliver training and education on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery to governmental, tribal, territorial, non-profit, and private partners, integrating land use, infrastructure, urban planning, environmental management, and emerging technologies to build and sustain resilient communities.

Our Vision

To be the premier, trusted provider of risk-based natural hazards training focused on underserved, vulnerable populations living in hazardous, coastal, and island communities.

Our Goals



Increase quality, quantity, and efficiency of course development and delivery.

- Develop courses with appropriate content and instructional design, targeted to the relevant learners in the emergency management community.
- Adapt content to changing hazard occurrences and severity.
- Identify and expand markets for training to increase resilience in underrepresented, minority, and remote communities.
- Increase accessibility of NDPTC training.



Deepen meaningful and consequential engagement with stakeholders.

- Build partnerships with academic, governmental, professional, and private organizations.
- Integrate and amplify NDPTC and partner training and education opportunities.
- Support FEMA doctrine related to education, training, and exercises.
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders to improve NDPTC products, operations and outcomes.



Sustain NDPTC as a trusted, resilient, learning organization.

- Provide subject matter expertise to partners, emergency management organizations and the whole community.
- Develop science-based mitigation and adaptation training.
- Disseminate timely information on natural hazard risks through traditional and social media outlets.
- Research and integrate the latest hazards, knowledge and technologies into training.
- Support a culture of preparedness for the whole community.

Our Strategy

PROJECTS	OBJECTIVES	HIGHLIGHTS
Course Development	Certify, update, and recertify courses with relevant and timely information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed two new courses• Recertified four courses• Certified Mitigating Hazards with Land-Use Planning• Adding additional web-based training options
Course Delivery	Expand delivery modalities, efficiencies, and instructor expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Returned to in-person deliveries in many areas• Continue virtual training opportunities as appropriate
Partnerships and Outreach	Conduct outreach to increase and strengthen partnerships and ensure routine communications with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New and continued partnerships with IAEM, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, NASA, National Estuarine Research Reserve, APA, ASFPM, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, NWS
Academic Initiative	Implement curriculum, courses, and programs with academic institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established partnerships with University of Puerto Rico, Elizabeth City State College, Portland State University, Kapiolani Community College, American Samoa Community College, and Northern Marianas Community College

Our 2023 accomplishments

37%

Decrease in
Development and
Recertification Time

56

States and
Territories Trained

60,229

Participants
Trained to Date

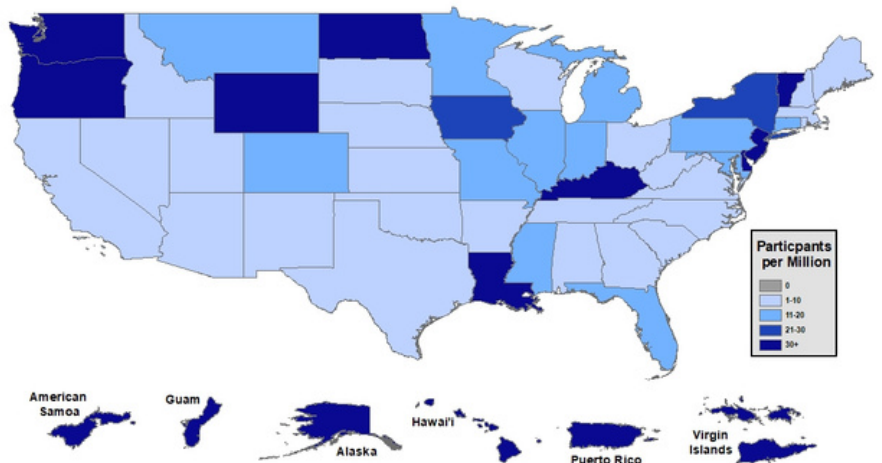
226

Instructor-led
Course Deliveries

27

Certified Courses
in Catalog

- Course offerings include:
 - 27 FEMA-certified courses
 - 2 newly certified course
 - 4 courses recertified
 - 10 courses in the update and recertification process
- Delivered 226 instructor-led and web-based trainings to over 5,000 participants in the United States and its Territories.
- Trained participants from every state and territory across all disciplines and government levels
- Further reduced course development and recertification time by 37%.



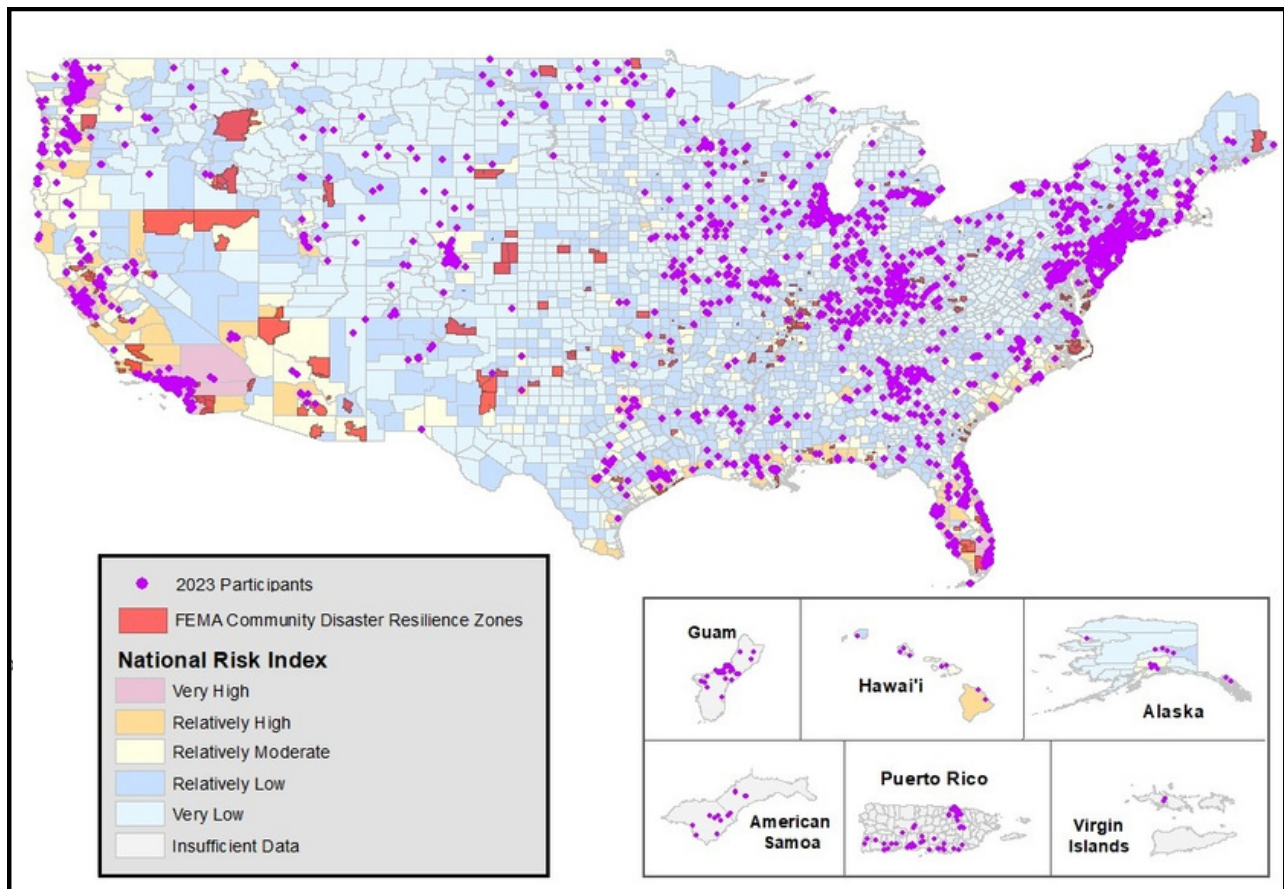
Aligning with FEMA and the NDPC

NDPTC supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency's strategic plan priorities:

- 1) Equity:** Ensure that training is developed and delivered in a fair and holistic manner through the lens of equity. Consider and address socioeconomic factors within training and provision of training in different languages and modalities.
- 2) Climate Resilience:** Provide training that directly addresses and includes climate resilience and adaptation as a cornerstone of preparedness, mitigation and recovery. Inclusion of future conditions due to climate impacts in all relevant course materials.
- 3) Prepared Nation:** Collaborate with partners across the U.S. including colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, and government entities to ensure broadest access to training opportunities.



Ensuring Equity in Training



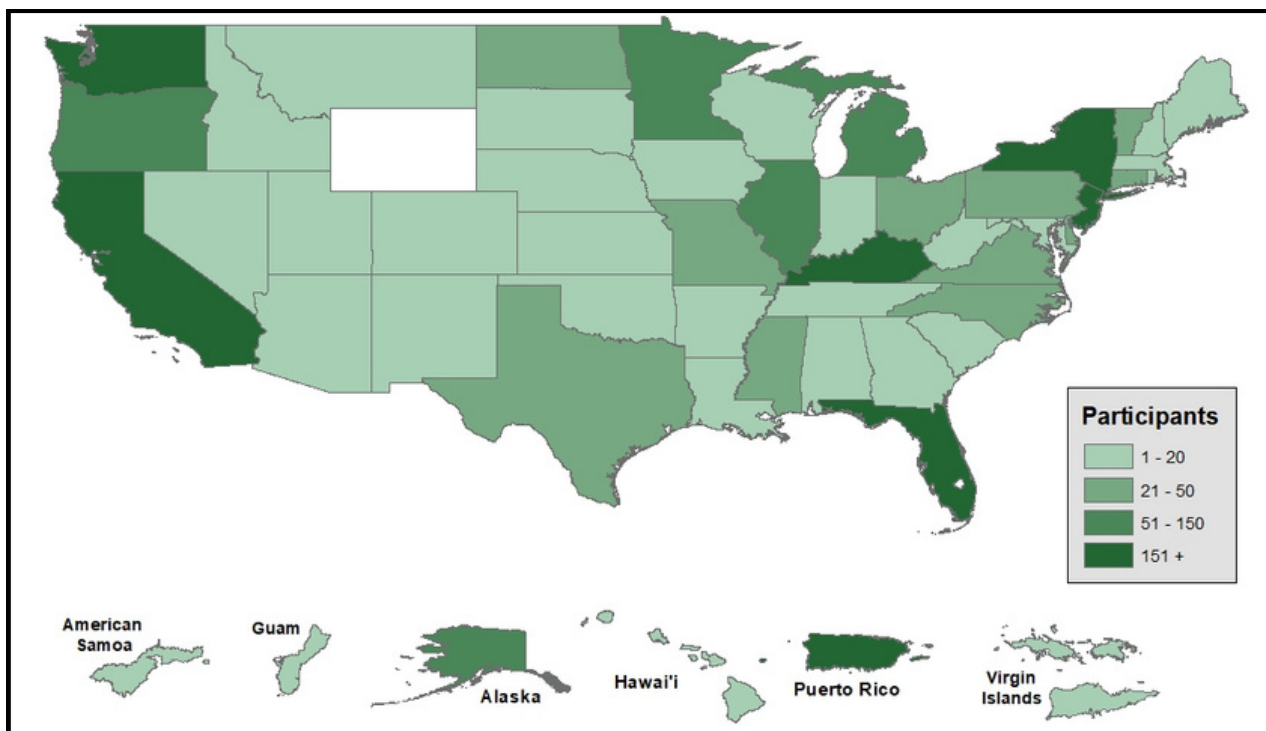
Participants Trained in Vulnerable Areas

NDPTC strives to ensure equity in both the development of training courses and delivery of courses to participants.

Initiatives to support equity include:

- Outreach through various communication channels
- Engaging in additional outreach opportunities with tribal nations and historically underserved communities
- Engaging through Minority Serving Institutions such as Tribal Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Providing training in multiple modalities and languages
- Soliciting feedback on new course development and updates to existing courses from a broad range of subject matter experts and practitioners
- Reviewing course content and training delivery protocols to ensure that potential challenges due to socioeconomic vulnerability factors are considered and addressed

Helping Build Climate Resilience



Participants Trained in Climate-related Courses

The frequency of billion-dollar disasters has increased every year. According to NOAA, the U.S. experienced 28 billion-dollar disasters in 2023, the highest number since 2020. Although climate change does not cause disasters, the impacts of changes in climate can affect the severity, intensity, and frequency of natural disasters.

NDPTC is working to help build climate resilience through training on multiple fronts:

- Integrating climate impacts into each hazard-specific course to illustrate the interconnections of climate and natural disasters and assist our participants in planning for future impacts of changing hazards
- Continuing to expand our portfolio of dedicated climate resilience and planning courses such as AWR-347 Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Management and MGT-484 Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigating Hazards

On the Horizon

NDPTC is leveraging new concepts and tools from ongoing external research projects to improve the resilience of our stakeholders and the whole community. These include:



Rapid Integrated Damage Assessment (RIDA) to increase the speed, accuracy, and scope of post-disaster damage assessment using remote sensing capabilities such as Satellite and Google Street View and integrating artificial intelligence – machine learning



USAID InvestDM: Support the Indonesia National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) workforce development program Investing in Human Capital for Disaster Management (INVEST-DM)



Some of our recent journal articles and publications:

- Aging in Place or Moving to Higher Ground: Older Adults' Adaptation to Sea Level Rise in Honolulu, Hawaii
- Going Slow to Build Resilience: Cittaslow in Korea's Rural Regions
- Challenges to maintaining disaster relief supply chains in island communities: disaster preparedness and response in Honolulu, Hawai'i
- Building Back Better: Transportation Recovery Challenges From the 2018 Kaua'i Flooding Disaster
- Ten Takeaways from the COVID-19 Pandemic for Transportation Planners
- Promoting Porosity: Adaptation of Urban Roadways for Flooding and Climate Change
- Developing an Emergency Response Playbook for State Transportation Agencies
- Pausing the Pandemic: Understanding and Managing Traveler and Community Spread of COVID-19 in Hawaii
- Designing Resilient Coastal Communities with Living Shorelines
- Equity, participation, and planning for recovery in Puerto Rico
- Knowledge to action: Resilience planning among state and local transportation agencies in the United States
- Liminality of COVID-19: Knowledge to Action



92%

Participants said the course attended provided skills that helped them do their job more effectively.

Testimonials

"Working on my agency's Climate Justice & Resilience Taskforce, I was able to provide hazard related information related to climate change. This helped inform workshops and planning efforts.." -AWR-347 Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Management

"During a Level 2 evacuation order the executive team worked through the steps of an evacuation of a 600 bed psychiatric hospital. With the information I learned from the class I was able to guide leadership when different issues arose. We had a basic plan and with the class information and a near miss, I was able to enhance our plan. Having the information is one thing but actually staring the incident in the face adds another element to planning. I was happy I attended the class." - MGT-461 Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions

Muy útiles, siempre, los cursos impartidos en español localmente. Como líder técnico en ciertos grupos profesionales, expreso que urge mayor frecuencia de estos cursos para beneficio del refuerzo de resiliencia comunitaria a futuro. Considerando la dificultad de capturar estos temas localmente, principalmente aquellos que se proveen basados en manuales de FEMA, reitero que la oportunidad que provee el NDPTC localmente es única y muy necesaria.

"I do the social media for Be Ready Utah, the community preparedness outreach program for the Utah Division of Emergency Management. I use the information I learned from the course every day in making my messaging better for the people of the state of Utah." - PER-343 Social Media Engagement Strategies

"The State of Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources assisted the State of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency with implementation of coral reef restoration as a hazard mitigation action into the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This work was supplemented with knowledge from the Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigating Hazards Course!"

-MGT-484 Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigating Hazards

We thank you for your ongoing support of our Center!



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