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This initial exploration provides scope for development. A holistic health system approach to all-hazards disaster management provides valuable lessons. Professionals concerned with disaster management from around the world can use this review to identify developments to be made across all health system levers to enhance their resilience and capacity to handle all-hazards disasters and management structures. An analysis of the wider relevant literature would be a worthwhile exercise. In summary, this review provides an important overview of disaster management from 2000 to 2011, demonstrating the increase in health system disaster training in the period. The reviewed literature embodied a vast amount of information. A systematic review would provide a more accurate and objective analysis of the evidence. This recently developed tool aims to progress a systematic review of evidence on health systems and the need for objective measures to be developed. The findings of this review demonstrate that a holistic health system approach to disaster management, supporting the aims of the adopted World Health Assembly resolution.

Strengths of this design and method.

The WHO has placed an emphasis on health systems since the World Health Report in 2000, culminating in the Assembly's adopted resolution on this topic. The health system can be defined as the structured and interrelated work of all agencies contributing to emergency and disaster management capacities and resilience of health systems' long-term population health in the face of all-hazards disasters. The reviewed literature embodied a vast amount of information. A systematic review would provide a more accurate and objective analysis of the evidence. This recently developed tool aims to progress a systematic review of evidence on health systems and the need for objective measures to be developed. The findings of this review demonstrate that a holistic health system approach to disaster management, supporting the aims of the adopted World Health Assembly resolution.