

Impact of natural and man-made disasters on people living with diabetes mellitus: a narrative review

Almoutaz Alkhier Ahmed Abdulrahman

Correspondence:

Almoutaz Alkhier Ahmed Abdulrahman

A/clinical professor of Family Medicine – MBRU. FRCGP (INT), MSc diabetes, MSc endocrinology, MSc Health Economy,

MPH, Dip IBLM, FASLM, SFIDF, LFOM. Senior Family Medicine Specialist, Nad Alhamar Health Centre Dubai Academic Health Corporation.

Email: Khier2@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Objective: Assess the direct impact of natural and man-made disasters on people living with diabetes (PLWD), emphasizing disrupted medical care access and adverse health outcomes.

Design:
Narrative review

Participants: People living with diabetes exposed to natural or man-made disasters.

Results: Natural and man-made disasters substantially disrupt medical systems, key services, and socioeconomic stability. As a result, PLWD are disproportionately affected because of reliance on continuous care, medications, and stable living conditions. Disruptions within healthcare infrastructure, medication access, and food security contribute to worsening glycaemic control, increased complications, and higher emergency healthcare utilization. Furthermore, socioeconomic inequalities and health disparities worsen these outcomes.

Conclusion: This evidence shows that people living with diabetes are highly vulnerable to the impacts of natural or manmade disasters. Therefore, strengthening disaster preparedness, enhancing the durability of the healthcare system, and implementing targeted interventions are vital to mitigate adverse health outcomes.

Key words:
Natural and man made disasters, people living with diabetes, access to medical care, adverse health outcomes