This annex provides considerations and recommendations to address the main issues in choosing a burial ground for short- or long-term storage of dead bodies following disasters. In extreme circumstances it may not be possible to follow them all. Following epidemics from infectious diseases, further specialist advice must be sought.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria / risks to be taken into account</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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| Contamination of drinking water from decaying human remains | 1. Contamination of the water may occur from buried human remains through microorganisms washing out into drinking water in high concentrations. The microorganisms are those that were present in the bodies at death. However, no epidemics or widespread disease outbreaks which were unequivocally the result of seepage from cemeteries are documented in the literature.\textsuperscript{14,15}
2. Keep a safe distance between the burial site and drinking wells, boreholes and wells (250m*).
3. Keep a safe distance between the burial site and any other spring or watercourse (30m*) and from field drains (10m*).
4. Human remains should be buried above the groundwater table.
5. A buffer zone with deep-rooting vegetation around the burial ground helps to eliminate microorganisms and decay products.\textsuperscript{16}
6. Coffins should be made from materials that decompose rapidly and do not release persistent chemical by-products into the environment.\textsuperscript{14} |
| Scavengers | • The body should be covered with a thick layer of soil (90cm–1.2m) to prevent scavenger access.
• Enclosure of the site may prevent access by big scavengers. |
| Topography | • Cemeteries are usually located on elevated ground, above the surrounding area, in order to protect the groundwater.
• If the chosen site is flat, the risk of flooding should be excluded. Slopes and hills can be subjected to landslides and may be more difficult to develop.
• A geological and hydrological opinion should be sought in any case prior to the opening of a new cemetery. |
| Cultural and religious aspects | • Funeral rites differ widely within and between communities. The burial site should allow the bereaved to honour their dead according to their wishes.\textsuperscript{15}
• The final burial site of each body must be indicated above ground.
• For unidentifiable body parts (e.g. from highly fragmented bodies), a memorial garden/monument may be installed as agreed with the bereaved families. |
| Legal aspects | • Many countries have a legal framework around the installation of cemeteries (public health law, environmental laws, laws around the management and protection of the water, construction laws, cemetery laws, privacy laws). |

\*Distances may vary according to the local geological and hydrological properties of the soil.