

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Introduction

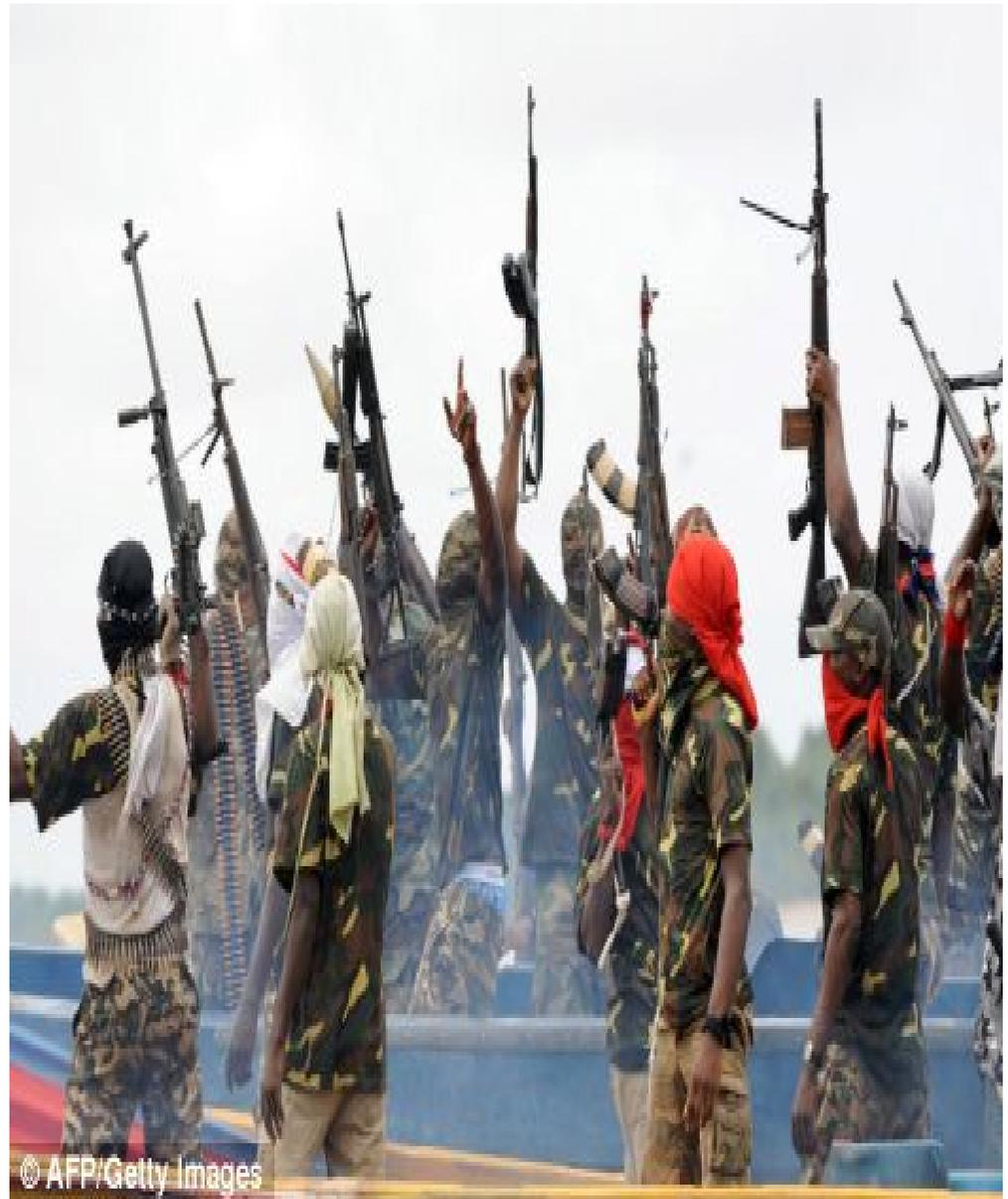
Disasters are of global interest because they cause **a lot of suffering** and **damage** to human populations and the environment.

Moreover it has been established that the number of disasters occurring is on the increase, secondly the impact of disasters on public health is tremendous.

AIR CRASHES



TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES



BUILDING COLLAPSE



GULLY EROSION



Homesteads perch precariously at gully's edge



DEFINITION OF TERMS

What is a disaster

A **disaster** is a sudden and unforeseen occurrence of an event that causes damage to properties, ecological disruption, loss of human life, deterioration of health and health services on a scale sufficient to warrant an extraordinary response from outside the affected community.

Characteristics of Disasters

- Essentially a disaster is an event
- It affects human beings i.e. life, property, infrastructure, environment, etc
- It disrupts daily life
- It creates need for external assistance
- It has a causative agent (hazard)
- It often occurs without warning.

Classification of Disasters

- Natural (Sudden onset)– Earthquakes, Volcanic eruption, Hurricane, Typhoon, Tsunamis, Tropical storms, Land slides, Bushfire
- Natural and Man-made (Sudden onset) – Fire, landslide.
- Man-made (Sudden) Toxic waste , fire, Wars, Oil spillage, transport accidents, technological and industrial accidents
- Man made (Slow onset)- War civil strife, environmental pollution and economic crisis. Natural (Slow onset) – Drought, desertification, famine and flood.
- Epidemics –Cholera, CSM etc, Infestations

Another classification of disaster

Major natural disasters:

Flood

Cyclone and hurricanes

Drought

Earthquake

Tsunami ,volcanoes eruption

Minor natural disasters:

Cold wave

Thunderstorms

Heat waves

Mud slides and Storm

Effects of Disasters

Disasters result in losses or deprivation of

- Life
- Health, which may be temporary or permanent
- Destruction of Social welfare services
- Socioeconomic or developmental advances e.g. property, essential structures, etc
- Dislocation & displacement
- Injuries e.g. burns, fractures
- Deaths
- Risk of communicable diseases due to lack of water, poor environmental sanitation and overcrowding

Effects of Disasters cont'd

- Mental Health effects
 - Post disaster syndrome characterized by temporary confusion which normally disappears within 24 hours.
 - Anxiety, depression, hysteria, neurosis etc
- Lack of shelter resulting in exposure to heat & cold
- Poverty
- Destitution
- Gaseous emission after volcanic eruption resulting in respiratory problems.
- Social frustration



Refugees

Disaster Management

- Disaster management is the body of policies, administrative decisions and operational activities which pertain to various stages of a disaster.

Aims and Objectives of Disaster Management

- Reduced (or total avoidance of, if possible) potential losses from hazards
- Assurance of prompt and appropriate assistance to victims when necessary
- Achievement of a rapid and durable recovery.

The four elements of disaster management

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Disaster Mitigation

This is are measures designed either to prevent hazards from causing disasters or lessen the likely effects of disasters. Knowing the types of disasters that can occur, where and when it can occur goes a long way in thinking through and planning.

- Mitigation can be primary or secondary
- Primary mitigation involves reducing **the presence** of the hazards or vulnerability.
- Secondary mitigation focuses on reducing **the effects** of the hazard (preparedness).
- Mitigation in a way complements the disaster preparedness and disaster activities.

Disaster Preparedness

- Since disasters cannot be avoided or easily reduced, the best approach is to prepare (adequately) for the them.
- A programme of long term development activities whose goals are to strengthen the overall capacity and capability of a country to manage efficiently all types of emergency.
- This is the focus of achieving desirable outcomes, having been armed with all necessary information such as the disaster profile of the area, and considering the capability and resources available to achieve the set objectives.

Focus for Disaster Preparedness

1. Manpower resources: Community education and training for action during the emergency and relief phase; such programmes are enhanced with drills or “ trial runs ” of activities ” contained in contingency plans “
2. Material resources: Mobilization of needed supplies and other materials, identification of sources of certain supplies for use during the emergency phase.
3. Funds are either set aside or easily mobilizable for use in the event of it being required to facilitate relief.
4. Management of the environment: Policy guidelines and administrative procedures designed to accommodate a management option for effective implementation of preparedness plans before, during and after a disaster.

Intersectoral collaboration is crucial from the planning stage for success as implementation of plans cuts across sectoral and community lines.

Tasks involved Disaster Preparedness

1. Evaluate the risk of country or particular region to disaster
2. Adopt regulation and standards
3. Organize communication, information and warning system
4. Ensure coordination and response mechanisms
5. Adopt measures to ensure that financial and other resources are available for increased readiness and can be mobilized in disaster situation
6. Develop public education programmes
7. Coordinate information sessions with news media
8. Organize disaster simulation exercise the test response mechanism

Relief phase

- Assistance from outside starts to reach disaster area, this depends on
 - Type of disaster
 - Type and quantity of supplies available locally.
- Following the initial emergency phase, needed supplies will include:
- Food, water, blankets, clothings, shelter, vector control, sanitary engineering equipment and construction material.
- Epidemiologic surveillance and control
 - Overcrowding
 - Population displacement
 - Disruption / contamination of water supply
 - Disruption of routine control programmes
 - Displacement of domestic and wild animals that can cause zoonosis.
- Vaccination
 - Typhoid, cholera and tetanus
- Nutrition
 - Infants, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and sick persons are at risk
 - Food relief programme

Rehabilitation phase

Starts from the very first moment of disaster

It can be classified into-

- Medical rehabilitation
- Social rehabilitation
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Economic rehabilitation

Reconstruction phase

This is the long term development of areas, it usually starts with building houses , road , rail, schools, social amenities such as sewage and refuse disposal, electrical grid water supply.

RECONSTRUCTION



First step towards future

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN RESPONSE

- NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency)
- GEMINI (Global Emergency Management Information Network including International decade for natural disaster reduction)
- International Police Association
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Committee Of The Red Cross
- International Search and Rescue.
- WHO
- UNICEF
- WORLD FOOD PROGRAM
- FAO

Conclusion

Disasters derail socio-economic progress, and put millions of people into dire poverty or make the poor even poorer. The need to systematically reduce the increased impact of disaster is steadily gaining recognition and commitment of government world wide.

Disaster management requires multi-sectoral , multi-disciplinary and multi-resource approach. No single Agency has all the answers to the challenges posed by disasters. Collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders is, therefore imperative for effective, timely and coordinated disaster management.

- Thanks for Listening