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| **Module No. TWO** | **Module Name: INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCIES** |
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| Deadline | 31.05.2019 |
| Program | Diploma in Food Security and Nutrition in Humanitarian Emergency |
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| Reg: | **AIPMS/241/003/2019** |

**ASSIGNMENT 2**

**Question ONE:** Discuss rationale for general food distribution

The rational for GFD are normally derived from needs assessment and could vary from saving lives and protecting the nutritional status of a population to protecting and rehabilitating livelihoods.

However, during the onset of an emergency, displaced people have very little time and limited possibilities to take adequate amounts of food with them when they flee. Hence their situation warrants general food distribution.

General food distribution is also based on community’s needs and gaps, with a particular focus on the needs of persons with specific needs and those at risk.

The nutrition and energy need of the affected population due to climate, activity, health and nutrition status, age and sex also necessitate for food aid requirements.

In camp settings such as the refugees and IDPS, where the population is likely to have limited or no access to outside resources, general food distribution has to happen, and this case must be full food basket.

**Question TWO:** Explain different livelihood approaches in emergencies

Livelihood strategies are the range and combination of activities and choices that people make in order to achieve their livelihoods goals. These are comprising of the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living.

The Livelihood approaches that are accorded in emergency generally seeks to help   
Households in various ways to generate income as a means for providing for their needs.

Livelihood approaches in emergency involves improving the resilience of household livelihoods to meet basic needs on a sustainable basis. These approaches are as follows

1. Improving production to stabilize yields through diversification in agriculture through provision of seeds, and tools.
2. Creating alternative income-generating activities such as small-enterprise activities – petty businesses.
3. Reinforcing coping strategies through other support, such as food for work or cash transfers.

In summary, livelihood approaches in emergency often focuses on initiatives, such as improving agriculture production and yields, creating venues for income generating activities and provision of financial support and food assistance to reinforced coping strategy.

**Question THREE:** What are the best ways of preventing communicable diseases? Explain five

People can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases with good hygiene and sanitary habits. If a person gets sick, he or she should avoid close contact with other people, sneeze or cough into tissues or a handkerchief, and regularly wash his or her hands to reduce the changes of spreading the disease.

Getting vaccinated is another good method of stopping disease transmission. Vaccinations can help stop people from infections causing bacteria or germs. Getting regular vaccinations can prevent many serious illnesses from spreading.

Proper precautions can greatly lower the risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases. Barrier method contraception, such as condoms, help reduce bodily fluid contact, which in turn reduces the chance of infection passing from one partner to another. People can also significantly lower their risk by insisting that partners get tested for STDs before engaging in sexual contact.

Quarantine is a method that involves isolating one or more infected people, so they do not spread contagious diseases to others. Although it can be an effective method to control communicable diseases, it is not among the most commonly used.

Public education is a good way to control communicable diseases. When people are knowledgeable, many will take the necessary steps to safeguard themselves and their families from harm.

In summary, their many important ways to slow or stop disease transmission and these are by ensuring the food we eat and water we drink is safe, avoiding people who are sick and practicing safe sex **-** Wearing a condom can prevent the spread of a communicable disease during sex, avoiding close contact with others can help prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.

**Question FOUR:** Discuss thecommon emergencies common in the African content in the past twenty years.

Emergency is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area.

In Africa, the common emergencies that has been registered in past twenty years falls under the following categories – Man-made, Natural emergencies and complex emergencies and are discussed as follows:

**Man-made emergencies**

Armed conflicts, may of the wars fought in Africa in the past twenty years all leaded to a humanitarian disaster. Displacement, loss of lives and infrastructures. Taking South Sudan as an example for this matter. South Sudan continue to experience humanitarian crisis driven by many years of brutal civil war which has impacted agriculture, trade and local markets have been disrupted and food stock has depleted over 7.1 million people impacted – half the country’s population displaced.

**Complex emergencies**

Africa has experience both natural and man-made emergencies over the past twenty years. Examples food insecurity due to failed years of rain and armed conflicts for the case of Somalia, Nigeria – the Boko Haram, drought for Mozambique.

The Horn of Africa region has experience severe drought in the recent past which has caused crops to fail and cattle to die. On top of this crisis, the region has now been hit by the worst flooding in 30 years. 13 million of people are facing acute food and water shortages in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and are in urgent need of emergency assistance.

**Question FIVE:** Describe the roles of the UNITED NATIONS agencies that are involved in emergency

**Helping refugees:**

The [UN Refugee Agency](http://www.unhcr.org/) (UNHCR) emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict. The agency leads and co-ordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

**Helping Children:**

[The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)](http://www.unicef.org/) has strived to reach as many children as possible with effective, low-cost solutions to counter the biggest threats to their survival. UNICEF also consistently urges governments and warring parties to act more effectively to protect children.

**Feeding the Hungry:**

The [World Food Programme](http://www.wfp.org/) (WFP) provides relief to millions of people, who are victims of disasters. It is responsible for mobilizing food and funds for transport for all large-scale refugee-feeding operations managed by UNHCR.

**Support Farmers:**

The [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](http://www.fao.org/) (FAO) is often called on to help farmers re-establish production following floods, outbreaks of livestock disease and similar emergencies.

The [FAO Global Information and Early Warning System](http://www.fao.org/GIEWS/english/index.htm) issues monthly reports on the world food situation. Special alerts identify, for Governments and relief organizations, countries threatened by food shortages.

**Healing the Sick:**

The [World Health Organization](http://www.who.org/) (WHO) coordinates the international response to humanitarian health emergencies.  WHO is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

**Question SIX:** Discuss factors that trigger nutrition emergencies

Nutrition emergencies are primarily caused by severe shortages of food combined with disease epidemics though underlying factors such as poor care and feeding practices, and insufficient access to health care and an unsafe environment all contribute to nutrition emergencies.

Where there is underlying vulnerability, sudden events such as natural disasters, conflict, political crisis, economic shocks and food price increases can trigger a nutrition emergency.

**Conflict:**

Conflict often uproots people from their homes and land, so food production declines or stops completely. Conflict also disrupts economies, so markets become unstable. This leaves people who are already vulnerable more susceptible to malnutrition and hence triggering nutrition emergencies.

**Natural Disasters:**

Much like conflict, natural disasters can destroy homes, land, jobs, and markets. Until communities can be rebuilt, people affected by natural disasters are at greater risk for malnutrition.

Some populations are vulnerable as a result of underlying factors such as poverty, chronic food insecurity and poor infrastructure. nutrition emergencies are much more likely to occur in such population and this population is mostly found in developing countries than in the developed world.

***References:***

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6. *Livelihoods and DRR | 173*
7. [*https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-communicable-disease*](https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-communicable-disease)*.*
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