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**Unit 1: Assignment 1**

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1. **With relevant examples define the following**
2. **Disaster management**

* Disaster management entails a process where an impact caused by either a natural or artificial occurrence of a threat that results to disruption of normal life activities of the society, destruction of properties or environment and stretching the communities normal coping mechanisms is managed, prevented, reduced to the minimum level or eliminated completely. An example of disaster management at a local level can be in case of flooding experienced in a location, the affected community will take action and move to higher grounds and alert the other locations or villages.

1. **Hazard**

* It is defined as a natural or artificial occurrence that affects or disrupts normalcy in society way of living , environment ,etc A typical example of a hazard is flooding that is unexpected after a heavy down pour from a location and which results to destruction of infrastructure ,public health concerns, etc

1. **Emergency**

* It is defined as an a sudden , unexpected or impending situation that may cause injury, loss of life , damage to the property and or interference with the normal activities of a person or community and that requires immediate attention and remedial action. An example of an emergency is the situation created during the Horn of Africa drought in 2011 that resulted to loss of lives for human beings, destruction of livelihoods, livestock and local market systems and of which affected 13 million people. This created an urgent state or situation of need for life saving activities that included provision of water for human consumption and nutrition supplies to the affected population.

1. **Disaster**

* It is defined as a serious disruption of the normal functioning of the society, causing or threatening to cause, widespread human, materials and environmental losses rendering the affected community unable to cope using its own resources. An example of an emergency is the Horn of Africa drought in 2011 (Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia) as from May to June that resulted to loss of human lives (as reported deaths of tens of thousands people) destruction of livelihoods ,livestock and local market systems and of which affected 13 million people

1. **Vulnerability**

* Is defined as the ability of a person or community has to predict, cope with or avoid and recover from, the impacts of a hazard or disaster.These characteristics are determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes. An example can be Destruction of vegetation or forest cover in high lying areas that may cause soil erosion and even mud slides to communities leaving in the low land during heavy downpour of rain.

1. **Risk**

* Is defined as potential for loss of lives or property damage that has been caused by an occurrence of a disaster, emergency, etc. An example of a risk is when a driver approaches yellow light and must choose to brake in order to stop in time for the light to turn red or to accelerate to make it through the light before it turns red. If the driver accelerates, he is risking going through the light which could result in an accident or a penalty.

1. **Explain the challenges facing disaster management in developing countries.**
2. Weak governance and institutional capacities – Most of the developing countries or nations have no policies or any foundation basis in disaster management. Due to this, no specific institutions have been created to clearly articulate issues in relation to disasters. Developing nations with institutions have weak management and governance structures in place and not always reliable due to low empowerment
3. Limited infrustructure – Most developing nations have minimum or lack quality infrastructures in terms of building structures, transport system, communication, early warning signs systems, etc which can resist shock during disasters. Additionally, despite the availability of building standard & codes, they are not been adhered to and if implemented, it would require massive resources which they cannot afford.
4. Limited fiscal resources and low resilience economies – With limited resources, investing in Disaster Risk Reduction is not a top most priority of the most developing nations compared to other sectors like Health, defense. This has resulted to over reliance of aid from developed nations to support during emergency and relief operations.
5. Limited Knowledge base – Lack of trained expertise in developing nations is rampant with fewer training opportunities or courses creating deficiencies in necessary areas on managing a disaster. Additionally, with limited available knowledgeable persons, there is limited equipment’s or tools needed in effective disaster management processes
6. **Identify three types of disasters and explain the counter measures to be taken for each of them.**
7. **Flood**: This is a disaster caused by either continuous heavy down pour in highland locations then water flows to low land or as a result of cyclone forcing waters over the surface land. It has no warning and speed may be gradual or sudden. Among the notable counter measures will include;

* Enacting land- use regulations to ensure that land conservation exercise is undertaken to avoid soil erosion.
* Forecasting, monitoring and warning signs should be encouraged through meteorological monitoring and alerting systems
* Flood control initiatives that may include construction of dams to contain excess water, levees, dikes or engineering walls where possible.
* Relocating population to safe or higher grounds
* Public awareness and education programs that should be conducted timely before the expected flood time of occurrence.

1. **Drought**- This disaster always affects large areas which are known and the period might be prolonged hence early warning signs. It affects livelihoods hence human habitation may be severe. Countermeasures may include;

* Major policy formulations and enactment by both national government levels
* Public awareness and education programs on land and other natural resources management.
* Planning and preparation of emergence response interventions that includes supporting with life-saving activities

1. **Civil unrest –** This is an artificial disaster with unpredictable patterns and effective warning might be a great challenge. It is mostly characterized by violent and disruptive occurrences (especially if its terrorist activities) and is usually the responsibility of police and armed forces within the country and which may include other emergency services like firefighters and other welfare agencies. Among the counter measures include;

* Law enforcement of the population as per the constitution
* Positive resolution of the causes of unrest and ensuring that the public is aware of the constitutional rights and how to channel it.
* Authorities should be aware of underlying issues that affect a populations either political, social or economic strife and address them timely.

1. **Tropical cyclone –** this is a type of disaster that originates in large water bodies (oceans or seas) with an identified ‘eye’ as the center of the storm which creates fast winds and great rains. The information on this is derived from meteorological observation and causes severe destruction and loss of lives especially if it reaches over the land inhabited by people. Counter measures on this includes;

* Developing early warning arrangements to monitor especially in places susceptible to these disasters
* Relocating people to safer zones or areas
* Respecting and adherence to required safe building and construction guidelines
* Precautionary measures during the warning period e.g. informing the public , closing down facilities, etc
* Public education and awareness about the cyclone.

1. **Using your own examples, explain the importance of having trained personnel in effective disaster management.**

Disaster management needs trained and dedicated personnel to ensure effective communication and coordination with all stakeholders during management cycle. With effective coordination and communication skills, each responsible party will be able to have clearly understand their terms of reference in reference to the guidelines set and this will in turn shorten the impact of the disaster occurrence.

It helps in ensuring good disaster planning and response initiatives/strategies before and after an occurrence of a disaster. A team with expertise will be able to critically support through their skills and knowledge in involvement at all the stages with the interaction of other stakeholders for current and future planning purposes.

Trained personnel in disaster management is a great investment for the institution or organization. With efficient skills and knowledge in this specific field, an organization or government may be able to assess and plan prior to the occurrence of the disaster. The trained personnel will be beneficial in entirely all the departments or sectors within the organization and not only in Disaster management docket.

1. **Outline the steps/processes in the disaster management cycle with the help of a diagram**

Figure 1: Disaster management cycle

Disaster management cycle process as shown above entails the following processes;

* Preparedness; this is aimed at achieving alertness or readiness to be able to respond to any emergency situation with interventions that strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of communities, organizations and governments. The interventions might be classified as short term or long term and will be sequential done in phases. These measures of dealing with the disaster can be articulated through well-structured mechanisms, procedures, rehearsals, civil education and building early warning systems. Each specific group are tasked to undertake key activities (plans for saving lives, minimize disaster damage and enhance disaster response operations) and be part of the process actively and fully at specific levels, either local or national. The effectiveness of preparedness depends on the availability of information on hazards, emergency risks and countermeasures to be considered or taken.
* Response; after the occurrence of an emergency or a disaster , immediate assistance to maintain life , improve health and support the morale of the affected population in terms of limited aid and rehabilitation of basic infrastructures
* Recovery: After the response phase, the affected communities will be able to undertake activities aimed at restoring lives and the basic infrustructure that supports them. During this period, activities related to enhance prevention and increase preparedness hence reducing vulnerability of the affected community.
* Mitigation: It is defined as preventing future emergencies or minimizing their effects when emergencies occur. Mitigation measures will include activities that prevent an emergency, reduce damaging effects in case of unavoidable emergencies and even reducing the chances of an emergency happening.

1. **What are the impacts of disaster management on National Development?**

* Disaster management is beneficial when correctly implemented and prioritized especially in nations that are affected with disasters more frequently. When managed well, it will result to low loss of lives and destruction and hence a nation’s resources will be safe guarded and will help the government prioritize other needful sectors.
* Disaster Management should be incorporated into National Development strategies and priorities as has been proven to be highly cost effective through Disaster Risk Reduction investment on Sustainability. Good management and regulating of both public and private investment will determine the degree of hazard, exposure and vulnerability.
* In order to move towards safer national development, development projects should be sensitive towards disaster mitigation. With the kind of economic losses and developmental setbacks that countries suffer yearly, it makes good economic sense to spend a little extra today in a planned way on steps and components that can help in prevention and mitigation of disasters, than be forced to spend many multiples more lately on restoration and rehabilitation. The design of development projects and the process of development should take the aspect of disaster reduction and mitigation within its ambit; otherwise, the development ceases to be sustainable and eventually causes more hardship and loss to the nation
* With the focus on ‘’Leaving no one behind’’, disaster management spells out the need to improve the strategies on poverty reduction through people centered interventions. Disaster Management calls for equality and specific investment with all the risks to be shared between the rich and the poor.

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