**ASSIGNMENT**

**MODULE 2**

1. Explain four modalities how humanitarian diplomacy operates
2. Do you think the humanitarianism has really evolved with times? That is according to the Red Cross founder the aim was to resort dignity as it is in the 21st century does humanitarianism has other ulterior motives? Explain your answer with relevant examples
3. According to the 1949 Geneva conventions on the protection of war victims, what are the international Humanitarian law mechanisms?
4. What does technology offer to the humanitarianism work? Are there any benefits? How we can improve the partnerships to tap the full potential of information technology in humanitarian’s work?

**Q (1) Explain four modalities how humanitarian diplomacy operate**

1. Direct contact with the relevant political and military actors

Humanitarian diplomacy uses political and military actors as decision makers and opinion leaders to reach vulnerable populations of a particular country. In most cases, politicians are capable of influencing the people under their jurisdiction towards the desired goal; they also have a clear picture of the areas with vulnerable populations and therefore able to provide ultimate information.

1. Indirect contact through intermediaries

Humanitarian diplomacy make the voices of victims to be heard. They adopt a neutral principle ( not taking sides) to avoid further crises. For example following post election violence in Kenya in 2007-2008, international intermediary The Late Koffi Annan mediated the talks between the then President Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga who were the reasons why the country was in a political violence. This mediation ensured the political fevers go down and national peace returned. Nevertheless, the international humanitarian laws must be followed.

1. Contacts in the fields where humanitarian operations are ongoing

Humanitarian diplomats through the respective headquarters, are able to assess for more humanitarian actions during monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian projects in a certain country. They set these needs in order of priority and communicate them to the government of the day and the donors. An example of an ongoing humanitarian operation is Kakuma Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya.

1. Through the use of traditional and modern modes of communication

Traditional modes of communication include singing, poetry and storytelling; These modes deliver a concise and effective message within a community. They mostly help in conveying messages that require behavior change in the community. For example a community affected by cholera scourge, hygiene information can be disseminated through story telling which barely requires formal education to understand.

Modern modes of communication includes television, radio and internet; These modes effective, faster and reaches a huge number of people. The internet uses platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Emailing, telephones, video chats among others.

**Q. (2) Do you think the humanitarianism has really evolved with times? That is according to the Red Cross founder the aim was to restore dignity as it is in the 21st century does humanitarianism has other ulterior motives? Explain your answer with relevant examples**

Humanitarianism has evolved with time due to the increasing population worldwide and frequency of man-made and natural disasters. At the same time, there are a lot of International non- profit organizations globally with the aim of offering humanitarian aid.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the main objectives of humanitarianism are to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after-math of a natural or man-made disaster. The humanitarian operations ensure the wellbeing of the affected population by offering basic necessities such as food, water, shelter and health services.

The main humanitarian principle is to ensure respect of all human with neutrality and impartiality; ensuring timely funding of projects that sustain dignity and proper funds allocation according to people’s needs.

Humanitarianism started way during the first and second world wars, when aid was mainly offered to the wounded soldiers and repatriates. Presently, humanitarianism offers its services even to the civilians affected by armed conflicts and general population affected by a disaster. Also, most humanitarian agencies had religious background, unlike today where majority are not allied to religion.

However, there are several humanitarian agencies that come in with ulterior motives besides restoring human dignity. For example, according to East Idaho News.com in 2015,Eritrea banned foreign aid because of suspicion; The then president Isaias said “aid is meant to cripple people” , which in my understanding he meant that people will always rely on aid assistance instead of working hard in order to improve their social wellbeing.

Another example of ulterior motive was cited by The Intercept.com, which feature humanitarian aid was used in geopolitics in North Korea when the U.S wanted to gather more information on Pyongyang’s ( capital of North Korea ) nuclear program. The U.S made a relationship with Kay Hiramine who was the CEO of Humanitarian International Services Group, which made it easy for the U.S to enter N. Korea and was able to measure its nuclear anomalies and disrupt its military devices (East Idaho News.com 2015)

**Q (3) According to the 1949 Geneva conventions on the protection of war victims, what are the international Humanitarian law mechanisms?**

1. **State parties to a conflict to respect and ensure respect for the conventions in all circumstances:**

This is according to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and 1977 Additional Protocol 1, which states that the involved parties must respect and ensure respect to treaties reached upon. Each party has a duty to ensure its authorities and persons under it do everything necessary to reach full compliance to the rules of international humanitarian law. For example a civil war in Sudan which is in Northeastern part of Africa, resulted to its division into two states that is North Sudan mostly occupied by the Arabs and South Sudan occupied by black African in 2011. This means there were agreements reached for this kind of division to work and every party needed to adhere to the agreed rules.

1. **Punishment for breaches:**

Grave breaches such as genocide (like in Rwanda) and other crimes against humanity are punishable by International Criminal Courts (ICC). This punishment is executed regardless of which nationality was involved.

1. **Protecting power:**

The International Humanitarian law seeks to maintain liaison between two states at war without taking sides (neutral state). This law also conducts relief and protection operations in aid of victims as well as supervising compliance with legal undertakings by the hostile party.

1. **Reparations:**

This is compensation of victims of armed conflict by the warring party as stated in Article 91 of Protocol 1. Compensation measures may include non monetary for example re-establishing the situation back to where it was before the war, apologizing to the afflicted party, rehabilitation of the affected victims to include medical and psychological claim and also giving a guarantee that the same wrongs will never be repeated.

**Q (4) What does technology offer to the humanitarianism work? Are there any benefits? How we can improve the partnerships to tap the full potential of information technology in humanitarian’s work?**

The world is in the vast of technology growth. Information technology being on the lead among the emerging technologies and innovations which have brought positive changes to the world. Humanitarianism benefit from this technology during its day to day activities. For example the use of cell phones to disseminate important information to the population via platforms such as face book and twitter accounts. Very many people will be able to receive information within a very short time since a large portion of the population can afford a phone. This gadget is also user friendly. A good example is when an advisory is given concerning insecurity alert within a certain area where people should avoid frequenting. It also creates awareness of what one need to do incase caught up by a disastrous situation. In case of a disaster, people are able to communicate their whereabouts and rescue mission becomes easier; most recent example is when a Kenyan journalist use his face book and twitter account to inform people where he was hiding during a hotel terror attack in January this year.

According to The United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, technology has seen refugees benefit a lot and this has made humanitarianism work much easier. For example, innovation of iris scanning of the refugees in Amman in 2016 for biometric registration; this has helped them use this data to open bank accounts and withdraw cash without need for cards and pin codes.

Technology has also been seen in advanced systems of agriculture and this has improved food production. For example in Jordan, refugees are able to grow their own food which they also sell and therefore increase their self reliance.

Technological advances has in the recent years brought other benefits. In 2017, direct cash transfer via mobile payments and electronic voucher were done to Somali to avert famine ; In Iraq, a humanitarian drone (unmanned aerial vehicle) together with artificial intelligence is an innovation used to deliver emergency aid.

Humanitarianism benefit from technology in that it is able to have an accurate information about the vulnerable population, their location, what assistance required and how this assistance will reach them.

However, to tap the full potential of information technology in humanitarianism work, privacy of individual information must be observed to avoid unnecessary exposure. This means that any data concerning the vulnerable population need to be handled with the highest level of confidentiality. This will win trust of the humanitarian workers by the population.

Again, humanitarians must be on the look out for new technology in order to be at par with emerging technologies and innovations.