***Assignment 3***

a. Define Humanitarian Principles. Elaborate in details two Humanitarians principles.

b Define the following terms as used in Humanitarianism

i. Humanitarian intervention

ii. Disaster Management

iii. Humanitarian Assistance

iv. Common Humanitarian Action Plan

c) Using examples explain five types of emergencies.

d) Highlight the two principle functions and two Auxiliary Functions of Humanitarian systems. Support your answers with relevant examples.

e) Explain the Six facets of coordination as highlighted in the Humanitarian practice

**ASSIGNMENT**

**MODULE 3**

**Q (A) Define Humanitarian Principles. Elaborate in details two Humanitarians principles**

Humanitarian principles are rules that control and explains how humanitarian actors should work in cases of humanitarian crises. They are universal elements that were developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Crescent. They help to know what is right and wrong by the humanitarian agencies and actors.

There are several humanitarian principles that guide humanitarian actors. They include the following: (i) Humanity

(ii) Neutrality

(iii) Impartiality

(iv) Accountability

(v) Do no harm

(vi) Respect for culture and custom

**Neutrality –**This is one of the core principle that humanitarian actors must undertake during the delivery of humanitarian aid. The word neutrality implies that the humanitarian actors should not take sides (non partisanism) or practice favourism in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political racial or religious nature. Humanitarian actors need to adhere to neutrality in order to create and maintain confidence of all so that unity and universality of the concerned movements is ensured. It is said that, a neutral movement which refrains from participating in conflicts and controvercies is ready and in a position to give its whole attention to suffering individuals and help them in proportion to their suffering. Transparency and openness go hand- in- hand with neutrality.

**Humanity –** This principle stipulates that, vulnerable population should be respected, protected from more harm and need be served with dignity, regardless whether they are enemies of a kind. This separates humans from animals. Humanitarian actors should not discriminate in offering their aid on the bases of race, religion or political affiliation.

**Q(B) Define the following terms as used in Humanitarianism**

**(i). Humanitarian intervention –** This is a forced action by a State that involves use of armed forces against another State which is violating basic human rights of its civilians. The intervening State does this without the consent from the government of the target State, with or without authorization from United Nations Secretary Council. The intervention is meant to prevent or halt gross and massive violation of human rights or International Humanitarian Law. For example, the US intervention in Iraq in 1990.

**(ii). Disaster Management –** This is the discipline that deals with and avoidance of risks. It involves preparing, supporting and rebuilding when natural or man made disasters occur. It entails five Steps which include: preparedness, response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention ( mitigation). Disaster management aims at reducing potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims and achieving rapid and durable recovery.

**(iii). Humanitarian Assistance –** this is the aid that seeks to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintaining human dignity to the vulnerable population , for example people affected by armed conflicts or natural disasters. Humanitarian assistance may be in form of material aid like food, shelter, water, healthcare services and sanitary facilities; or in form of protection like measures designed to ensure respect for the rights of people in need. This assistance should be in accordance with the humanitarian principles

**(iv). Common Humanitarian Action Plan –** This is a strategic plan for humanitarian response in a given country. It is the main tool in humanitarian sector for coordination, strategic planning and programming. It utilizes a logical framework approach to ensure a rational and logical consistency between strategic priorities, sector objectives and monitoring indicators.

**Q(C) Using examples explain five types of emergencies.**

Emergencies may be due to natural occurrences or man- made, they may be rapid or gradual. There are different types of these emergencies and they include the following:

**(i) Geophysical emergencies-** These consists of earthquakes**,** landslides, volcanos, sinkholes and tsunamis. These strike without prior warning and therefore people are caught unaware which leads to massive destruction and loss of lives and livelihood. Earthquakes for instance, are as a result of forces deep within the earth’s interior; sudden break of the upper layers of the earth lead to surface vibrations which may be strong enough to cause buildings to collapse. Consequently, the vibrations can trigger landslides and tsunamis which worsen the situation.

Earthquakes are measured in Richter scale where level 6 magnitude and above cause significant effects. Thus the higher the magnitude the severe the effects. Earthquakes occur as a result of movement of tectonic plates in the earth’s crust which makes seismic waves, hence ground vibrations.

Several countries in the world are prone to earthquakes. They include: Japan. Pakistan, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey, Philippines. For example, in 2011 an earthquake in Japan led to Fukushima nuclear accident which was the largest in Japan’s history. A large population of people was forced to move away in order to avoid risk of radiation. To date, the area remains unsafe for settlement. In 2014, earthquake struck Mexico which led to massive casualties in Guerrero.

**(ii) Biological emergencies-** These can occur naturally like disease epidemics and insect infestation or can deliberately be released to make people suffer from certain disease. Some of the epidemics include cholera outbreak which occurs due to water and food contamination, measles, bird flu and plague. The most recent disease outbreak is Ebola Virus Disease in West and Central Africa especially The Democratic Republic of Congo, which is a deadly hemorrhagic disease.

Biological emergencies can also be in form of bioterrorism agents, where bacteria, viruses, fungi or toxins are released to people as a weapon. They include: anthrax, botulism , ricin. For example, in 2001 about 22 people contracted anthrax and 5 of them died.

**(iii) Meteorological emergencies –** They include storms, hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones. These emergencies are on the rise owing to human activities that are leading to environmental degradation. The most recent is hurricane Florence in California in August 2018.

**(iv) Hydrological and climatic emergencies –** They include floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme temperatures (very hot or very cold). For example flush floods in Kenya in November 2018; California wildfires in November 2018.

**(v) Complex emergencies -** These are man-made activities which involve violence that lead to loss of life environment and property destruction and displacement of people. This violence is as of internal conflicts within a country due to uneven social economic development, religious identities or political influences. For example Post Election Violence in Kenya in 2007/2008 which led to massive property destruction, loss of many lives and displacement of population where most people are still in the camps.

**Q (D) Highlight the two principle functions and two Auxiliary Functions of Humanitarian systems. Support your answers with relevant examples.**

**(i) Principal functions of humanitarian systems**:

* Humanitarian systems meet basic needs of populations that have been affected by natural disasters, conflicts or poor governance in a particular country. For example provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) in drought stricken region of Northern Kenya in particular Turkana County, Provision of food, shelter and health care services to post election violence victims living in the Camps in Kenya .
* The systems also respond promptly to provide relief when a sudden disaster overwhelms the state’s capacity to act and save lives and property. For example, The Kenya Red Cross is always alert and it is all over the country where it is able to offer relief services in case of an emergency, like the most recent dam collapse tragedy that led to death of over 60 people; Red Cross was able to act swiftly to salvage the situation.

**(ii)Auxiliary functions of humanitarian systems**:

* Humanitarian systems play a role capacity building to local population vulnerable to disasters. They do this by helping them learn about disaster preparedness, how to act when a disaster strike, recovery process and rehabilitation. For example Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Kenya through the ministry of Agriculture is able to transform Arid and semi-arid areas into alternative farming of drought resistant crops like cassava and sorghum to deal with famine.
* Humanitarian systems as well advocate for the affected population to have access to humanitarian assistance. They do this by surveying and doing needs assessment in order to prioritize these needs. For example through the UNAIDS or USAIDS, funds are sourced via donations to help the needy people in the camps, like in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya.

**Q (E) Explain the Six facets of coordination as highlighted in the Humanitarian practice**

(1) Avoiding duplication - Different Humanitarian organizations should seek for accurate information about a particular area of concern in order to avoid doing the same activities and overlooking other urgent relief activities.

(2) Taking coherent approaches - This is done by bringing together different humanitarian actors in order to assist people when they most need relief and protection.

(3) Efficient use of resources – This entails first use of the population’s available resources to help themselves. At the same time , priority of needs should be determined so that very urgent needs may not be by-passed. Equal distribution of these resources and fairness must also be done. At the end of the day, accountability of these resources should be achieved by the actors.

(4) Direction- Humanitarian actors provide an overall strategic direction to the humanitarian community in support of national response. Offering direction ensures roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and duplication eliminated.

(5) Leadership – A conducive environment is important for an effective leadership to take place. Therefore leaders will be able to deliver on their mandate. Leaders need to be empowered by ensuring they have the required information and resources.

(6) Strata ( local, sub-national, international) - The coordination between the local, sub-national and international organizations has several benefits to include : awareness raising and mutual capacity building; they share insight into working with key stakeholders like donors, government or private sectors; there is an opportunity for trust building, networking and community building; there is debate and agreement on practicing common humanitarian principles.