

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

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Resource Title: Session 1.1: Introduction to Disasters: Definitions and Concepts

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Introduction: All districts in the Eastern Africa are prone to a diverse number of disasters. Disasters arise from 'hazards', and the level of vulnerability of communities to these hazards is in many places very high. The effects of disasters can therefore be reduced if there is 'capability' at all levels for prompt response to disasters as well as capability for prevention and reduction in vulnerability of the population (risk reduction). In this session, we shall describe the meaning of each of these terms. We shall also discuss the classification of disasters and the public health consequences of disasters

General Objective

The general objective of this session is for the participants to understand the key concepts and terminologies related to disasters and the classification

Specific Objectives

By the end of this session the participant should be able to:

1. Explain the meaning of 'disaster' and related terms
2. Explain the relationship between risk, hazard, vulnerability and capacity
3. Classify disasters
4. Outline the main public health consequences of disasters
5. Describe the stages of the disaster management cycle and identify activities in each of these stages

Teaching and learning strategies

Presentation, brainstorming, sharing experiences

Resources Required

Training Manual, LCD projector, Laptop Computer

Scenario: Your District (Brainstorm for 5 to 10 Minutes)

You all come from one of the districts in Eastern Africa. Is your district at risk of a major disaster? Has your district experienced a disaster in the last 5 to 10 years? If so, can a volunteer share with us what happened and how the district responded?

Presentation:

Let us now have a presentation that will introduce us to key concepts and definitions related to disasters and disaster management

Group Activity 1.1: Public Health Consequences of Disasters

Procedure: Let us work in our 5 district groups. Each group should consider one type of disaster situation.

- Group 1: Floods
- Group 2: War and Conflicts
- Group 3: Disease Outbreak
- Group 4: Drought and Famine
- Group 5: Fire

Each group will answer 2 questions:

- Question 1:** What are the Public Health Consequences of this disaster?
- Question 2:** What factors are likely to aggravate the negative consequences of this disaster?

Duration of Activity: 15 Minutes, after which we shall have 3 Minutes of feedback per group