Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

Organization: East Africa HEALTH Alliance, 2009-2012

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Resource Title: Extension Activity 1.5: Further Issues in Hazard and Vulnerability Analysis

Additional Notes:

The first part of the analysis (Hazard Analysis) tells us the priority hazards, without considering the vulnerability of the population. It tells us their likelihood of occurence and their scale. From this we are able to know the priority hazards based on probability that they will occur.

There is additional information that this can tell us:

1. If done properly, and using a uniform standard, the hazard scores can be used to compare districts in the country. It can help the country to know which districts are more disaster prone
2. The score itself can also warn us on the alert level to which we should be prepared.

Score Range	Implication
7.5 to 9.0	Districts should be on maximum alert for these hazards
5.0 to 7.4	Districts should be on high alert for these hazards
2.5 to 4.9	Districts should be prepared for these hazards
0.0 to 2.4	If districts are prepared for other hazards, they are able to address these ones

In the second part of the analysis, we include a component of vulnerability. If disasters strike a prepared community, even the worst disasters casn result in minimal loss of property and lives. The vulnerability analysis therefore helps us to determine whether our population is highly vulnerable and is most useful for risk reduction. Participants should also know that when we combine both risk and vulnerability, the overrall ranking of priorities can change, especially for districts that have high levels of vulnerability to specific hazards.

Please also note that these computations and scoring systems are mainly useful for prioritisation and cannot be interpreted as the actual situation. They are used as estimates.

Capacity assessment: Capacity assessment involves an analysis of the ability of the district to handle a disaster in case it occurs. In the prevous exercise, some elements of capacity have been covered during the vulnerability analysis.