

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

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Resource Title: Session 2.3: Complex Emergencies

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Introduction: Complex Emergencies are a common occurrence in the Eastern Africa region and they affect not only countries but the service delivery systems in districts. In this session, we shall look at the key considerations in response to complex emergencies.

General Objective

Participants should understand the key issues involved in setting up a response mechanism for complex emergencies.

Specific Objectives

At the end of this unit the participant should be able to:

1. Define a complex emergency
2. Outline the key considerations in responding to a complex emergency

Teaching and learning strategies

Scenarios, Brainstorming, Presentation, discussions

Resources Required

Before we make the presentation, let us first look at this scenario:

Scenario 1: Internal Displacement due to Civil Strife

(A Volunteer Reads for the Class)

There has been a major incidence of ethnic violence and tribal clashes in a certain district X. This arose as a result of a 6 month period of drought. The nomadic people in the area have attacked the neighboring communities; the neighboring communities have decided that enough is enough and are in retaliation. As a result, over 2000 people have been internally displaced from their homes in just one week. However, rowdy tribal 'militias' have blocked off

the main access road to the displaced people's camps, and a means of stopping the much needed relief from reaching them.

- a. *Assuming you are the District Administrator and you have to respond to such an emergency, on which side will you be?*
- b. *What challenges are you likely to meet and how do you think they are likely to differ from a flood disaster that has no political issues?*

Presentation:

Let us now have a presentation on Complex Emergencies