

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

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Resource Title: Session 2.3: Rapid Needs Assessment

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Introduction: In this session, we shall look at how a district can conduct a rapid needs assessment of any disaster that occurs at the district level. We shall see that in a rapid needs assessment, we collect information.

General Objective

Participants should understand how to conduct a rapid needs assessment for a given disaster situation.

Specific Objectives

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

1. Explain the importance of a rapid needs assessment in disaster management
2. Outline the key steps in conducting a rapid needs assessment for a disaster at the district level

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.

What type of information would you be looking for when conducting a rapid needs assessment for this population?

Presentation:

Let us now have a presentation on Rapid Needs Assessment