

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

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Resource Title: Session 3.4a: Principles of Disaster Planning and Introduction to the District Disaster Planning Matrix

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Introduction: Planning should be an organised and repetitive process. However, planning is not an end in itself. The plan is only complete if it is implemented and evaluated. We can have a good plan but in actual implementation, the plan may not be feasible at all. In this session, we shall review the key principles of disaster planning. In particular, we shall review the disaster planning cycle and its components.

Districts often use a planning matrix to prepare plans. This matrix is usually in a tabular form. It usually has Objectives, Activities and allocation of responsibility. In this session, we introduce to you a format for Disaster planning for districts. You will use this format to prepare your individual district disaster plans.

General Objective

Participants should by the end of this session be able to explain the key components of the district disaster planning cycle and the District Disaster Planning Matrix

Specific Objectives

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

1. Describe the Disaster Planning Cycle
2. Suggest activities that could be implemented in each of these components at the district level
3. Explain the contents of the district disaster planning matrix
4. Use the matrix as a planning template

Teaching and learning strategies

Presentation, SPHERE Handbook

Resources Required

LCD and Laptop computer

Opening Statement: The 'All Disaster Approach' to Planning

There are two approaches to disaster planning:

1. The 'Hazard Specific Approach', where we plan for each type of disaster separately and
2. 'The All Disaster Approach', where we identify issues common to all disasters and make a plan that can address any disaster. This implies that if we plan properly for one form of disaster, we may be adequately prepared for all forms of disasters. This is because most disaster response situations tend to share similar characteristics.

Looked at another way: *Is it possible for a district to have a separate plan for all forms of disasters that can ever occur in the district?*

Scenario: The District Planning Matrix

Think about the general matrix that you use to prepare your Annual District Workplans and the 5-Year strategic plans and District Development plans. We would like to introduce to you a matrix that can be used as a template for disaster planning in districts, based on the 'all hazards approach'

Presentation:

Let us now have the presentation on the principles of disaster planning.