EMERGENCY HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAMME

TRAINERS' GUIDE

OVERVIEW

1. Definitions

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1.1. Definitions

Objective: to develop common understanding and common language in the participants.

(Knowledge)

Key-message: Hazard plus Vulnerability make a Disaster. Classification of disasters is in fact a classification of hazards. There are events, agents, which have the potentiality of doing harm, i.e. hazards. Even if these hazards materialize one has not a disaster if the community is not vulnerable, i.e. has the capacity to respond or adjust.

OHT:
1. Worldwide, Number of People Affected by Disasters
   Discuss. More and more people seem to be affected by disasters, partly because the population is increasing, people live more and more in urban settings with overcrowding and poor living conditions. Also, reporting is more accurate. The peaks of 1966 and 1972-3 are related to the conflicts in Biafra and East Pakistan.

2. Disasters, Definition
   Underline. Stress the three conditions to have a disaster: 1. disrupting the normal conditions, 2. exceeding the local capacity, 3. affecting people (show OHT 3.: People matter most).

3. The People Matter Most
   Discuss. Without people, there would be no disaster, just a physical phenomenon. An earthquake in the middle of the desert where no people are involved, is not a disaster but only a geological incident.

4. The Disaster-Development Continuum (DDC)
   Present. The drawing shows the different phases/stages of disaster management. It is called the disaster-development continuum because disasters disrupt development, and the way to get out of this vicious circle is development. The DDC forms the basis for any analysis, and it can be developed for any type of disaster.
5. Relief-Development Continuum
Discuss. Go statement by statement, if everybody agrees with the first statement, go to the next. What is the main vulnerability: poverty. If many people die in plane crashes, the airplane industry or the security of airports are flawed. Stress the inter-dependence of disaster management and development.

6. DDC, Disasters and Crisis, Statement
Discuss and give examples. If states give more money for warfare and neglect development, when disasters strike these states cannot respond; if states invest in disaster prevention, they will cope better when an emergency happens and their susceptibility will be higher.

7. Western Governments Spending
Discuss. Examples of government subsidies that strengthen certain economic sectors but increase hazards and vulnerability.

8. Disaster Mortality in Relation to Development Status
Discuss. The more one spends on development, the less people die because of disasters.

9. A Disaster Occur When Hazard and Vulnerability Meet.
Present. Show how disasters are a combination of vulnerability and hazards. Here one gets clear examples of vulnerability factors and hazardous events. One can combine any vulnerability factor, add a hazard and understand that a disaster is created. E.g. poverty + landslide = a disaster for poor people whose house is destroyed and who have no means to build it again.

10. Hazard, Definition
Present. Hazards have the potential to cause disasters. Hazards cause disasters only when they meet with vulnerable people: when affecting 1. human life, 2. property, 3. human activities.

11. Hazards and Disasters Classification
Present. There are many ways of classifying hazards and disasters, this is one. When there is no sufficient response to the hazard, one gets a disaster.
12. Vulnerability, Definition
Present. Predisposition: tendency, inclination. Damage: to humans, property, activities. External events: hazards. The poorer one is, the more one is predisposed to suffer damage when an event occurs.

13. Susceptibility and Resilience, Definition
Present and ask for examples. Show the two concepts separately. Susceptibility is the fact of being exposed. You can be susceptible but not vulnerable. E.g. a landslide threatens a house but the owners have build a wall to protect and divert the landslide. Resilience is the higher capacity to recover and adapt to a new situation. E.g. the owners of the house threatened by a landslide have a second house in town. One can be susceptible but if one’s resilience is high, one is not necessary vulnerable.

Present and discuss. Population growth is a major factor of vulnerability. Let the participants identify hazards and factors of vulnerability in the drawing.

15. Emergency, Definition
Underline and discuss. The definition of 'Emergency' has administrative implications: normal procedures are suspended, other measures are put into place to control a situation, avert a disaster, respond to a crisis. The emergency is declared. CAUTION: another definition of emergency is 'a sudden and usually unforeseen event that must be countered immediately to minimize the consequences', but 1. not all emergencies are 'sudden' and 2. there are ways (see Risk mapping) to ensure that they are not 'unforeseen'.

16. Disaster-Development Continuum
Present. "Disaster management", is better split up in two: ‘disaster prevention’ and ‘emergency management’. By definition, disasters cannot ‘be managed’. One prevents a disaster and manages an emergency. Emergency management (EM) deals with all activities from preparedness to rehabilitation. Recovery goes from impact to reconstruction, Risk Reduction goes from reconstruction to preparedness. Relief is all what is on the right side of the cycle while development is all what is on the left side.
17. Aims of Disaster Management
Discuss. Explain, give examples and ask the participants to give examples.

18. Capacity, Definition
Present and give examples. The first line is given by the dictionary. Capacity goes beyond this when one analyses it. Without all the components, one has not a complete capacity, e.g. if you have the information but you don't know what to do with it, if you have a plan but not the authority to implement it, etc.

19. Mitigation and Prevention, Definition
Present and explain. In these modules, Mitigation and Prevention are used as synonymous. Some expert prefers to drop the term Mitigation and use only Prevention. Mitigation means to reduce the severity of the human and material damage caused by the disaster. Prevention is to ensure that human action or natural phenomena do not result in disaster or emergency. Primary prevention is to reduce - avert - avoid the risk of the event occurring, by getting rid of the hazard or vulnerability. E.g. primary prevention is to avoid overcrowding, deforestation and to provide services: healthier people in a healthy environment will be less vulnerable to most hazards; immunizing people against smallpox made them less vulnerable to the virus, and slowly eradicated the disease. Secondary prevention means to recognize promptly the event and to reduce its effects, e.g. by staying alert to possible displacements of population; by being ready to provide immunization, food, clean water, sanitation and health care to refugees: healthier people in a healthy environment will also be more capable to overcome the emergency.

20. Preparedness, Definition
Present and give/ask for examples. Preparedness includes all the measures that can ensure an effective relief. Stress the note on 'a safe environment': relief must not cause secondary risks to others and to oneself. “Don’t Make Things Worse”
21. Response, Definition
Present and give/ask for examples. *Response includes all activities that can tackle an emergency.* Other terms that are widely used are Relief and Humanitarian Assistance, but they have slightly different meanings. Response means more than Relief, which usually targets immediate and short-term needs. Humanitarian Assistance includes certain aspects of protection and promoting, disseminating humanitarian laws aspects.

22. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Definition
Present and give/ask for examples. *Rehabilitation is restoring the basic function; Reconstruction is restoring to full resumption.*

23. Elements of Disaster Management
Present. *It is a list of the elements and the place of the different assessments.*

24. Disaster Management, Leading Activities and Related Terms
Present. *Disaster prevention and emergency management diagram, showing all the elements and phases as in the DDC in a different way.*

25. Comparing the Natural History of Diseases and DDC
Present and discuss. *For health professionals it is interesting to compare the evolution of a disaster with the evolution of a disease. The agent is the hazard, the impact is the moment of infection etc.*

Stand-alone.

Essential WHO or WHO/PTC Reading:
Disasters and public health. Descriptive models for EPR. 1993
*Stop propagating disaster myths*, C.De Ville, 1999
Other readings: *Prometheus Unbound* Challenges of Risk evaluation, Risk Classification, and Risk Management, A.Klinke, O.Renn