



# Disaster Preparedness

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# Introduction and mini-presentation 30 minutes

- A. Present the purpose and the general procedures for this session
- B. Pose the question, “Can we, mere human beings, withstand the force of natural disasters?” Answers will be both “yes” and “no”—and both are right. For the most part, humans are powerless against the occurrence of natural hazards that cause disasters. However, human intellect, creativity and diligence give us the opportunity to prepare for and reduce the effects of these hazards on our lives, livelihoods and environment.
- C. Give examples, or ask participants for examples, of situations where humans are powerless against disasters, and where they are active in mitigating their effects. (Refer to the Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction modules for ideas and examples.)

- D. Explain that hazard occurrences by themselves do not constitute automatic disasters. A landslide in a remote uninhabited mountain region affecting no one's life or livelihood is not considered a disaster. Stress that for there to be a disaster, the hazard must adversely affect people's lives and livelihoods.
- E. Explain that disaster preparedness must begin with a proper assessment of the hazards and the elements which make certain people and structures particularly vulnerable to hazards.
- F. Ask participants to share the types of main hazards in their area, and to identify those people and structures that are most vulnerable to each type.
- G. Explain that disasters can be divided into two main categories: rapid onset and slow onset. Rapid onset disasters occur suddenly and include, for example, earthquakes. Ask for examples of others.
- H. Slow onset disasters evolve over a lengthy period of time and include, for example, drought.

# Mini-presentation: disaster preparedness framework 30 minutes

- A. Ask participants the following two questions: “What is disaster preparedness?” “What are typical disaster preparedness activities?”
- B. Present and discuss the meaning of the following description and objectives of disaster preparedness, which are provided in the module. Ask participants to identify the key elements or points made in the following statement. The key points are underlined in the module

- C. Explain that disaster preparedness is comprised of nine main activities that are presented in the module.
- 1. Hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments
- 2. Response mechanisms and strategies
- 3. Preparedness plans
- 4. Coordination
- 5. Information management
- 6. Early warning systems
- 7. Resource mobilisation
- 8. Public education, training, & rehearsals
- 9. Community-Based disaster preparedness
- D. Provide a brief description of each of these nine activities, emphasizing what each is, why it is important and using specific examples to illustrate each activity.

# L CERT Role 45 Minutes

- It is important to show the specific role and responsibilities of the L CERT in disaster preparedness during different stages (before, during and after disaster occurrence) and at different levels .It is also important to identify the need for interaction between L CERT, state structures and the population to arrive at solutions to the different problems of disaster preparedness. The instructor can refer to the operational manual.

# Group exercise: disaster preparedness measures 45 minutes

- A. Divide participants into small groups and ask them to imagine that they are part of a disaster preparedness committee responsible for planning disaster preparedness in their region or town.
- B. Each group has 30 minutes to make a list of specific and necessary actions that would improve the state of disaster preparedness in their region or town. Avoid providing too much guidance since you want participants to show maximum imagination.
- The ideas generated should then be categorized and given a title or heading.
- C. Each group has 5 minutes to make their report back to the larger group.

# Wrap Up 10 Minutes

- A. At the end of the study it is necessary to make conclusions. Compare their category headings with the nine provided in the "Disaster Preparedness Framework."
- B. Ask participants if they have any final remarks or comments on the topic.
- C. Summarize the main points, and conclusions arrived at during this session