

Economic and social impacts of landslides in the regions affected

Landslides in Kenya have been on the increase in the recent past. This has both social and economic impacts mainly loss of life, agricultural land and crops as well as destruction of infrastructure. Landslides tend to burry all that is their way.

resulting in destruction of life and property. They may burry or sink buildings, rubble and boulders moved to block roads, railways, and lines of communication or waterways. They may destroy all property along their way and render agricultural land unproductive. The casualties of mudflows, massive boulders, rocks and all that can be moved by the landslides may be thousands of people and animals.

Personal reflection

1. Identify any three recent disasters in your country and outline their impacts

ROLES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Introduction and overview

Disaster management is a complex process involving international, national and local organizations each with a distinct role to play. To respond to disaster situations a coordinated effort is required.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this topic the learner is expected to:

1. Identify different organizations involved in disaster management
2. Outline the roles played by each organization

Organizations

The United Nations and its Organizations

1. *The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the arm of the United Nations responsible for bringing together national and international humanitarian providers to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures that a framework is in place within which each provider can contribute to the overall response effort. It also advocates for people in need, promotes preparedness and prevention and facilitates sustainable solutions.

2. *The Food Agriculture Organization* of the UN (FAO) provides early warning of impending food crises, and assesses global food supply problems.

3. *The International Organization for Migration* (IOM) is an intergovernmental agency which helps transfer refugees, internally displaced persons and others in need of internal or international migration services.

4. *The Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (OHCHR) provides assistance and advice to governments and other actors

on human rights issues, sets standards and monitors rights violations.

5. *The United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) assists disaster-prone countries in contingency planning and with disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness measures.

6. *The United Nations Commission for Refugees* (UNHCR) provides international protection and assistance for refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons, particularly in conflict-related emergencies.

7. *The United Nations Children Fund* (UNICEF) works to uphold children's rights, survival, development and protection by intervening in health, education, water, sanitation, hygiene and protection.

8. *The World Food Programme* (WFP) is the principle supplier of relief food aid.

9. *The World Health Organization* (WHO) provides global public health leadership by setting standards, monitoring health trends, and providing direction on emergency health issues. WHO's role is to reduce avoidable loss of life and the burden of disease and disability? A range of technical guidelines for health action in crisis and pre-deployment training courses are available.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world's largest humanitarian organization made up of 186-member Red Cross and

Red Crescent Societies. The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.

The IFRC coordinates and directs international assistance to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It combines its relief activities with development work to strengthen the capacities of National Societies and through them the capacity of individual people. The IFRC acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies, and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programmes (UNDP).

The International Committee of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a Swiss-based humanitarian organization and founding member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement(1863). It is mandated by the international community to be the guardian and promoter of international humanitarian law, working around the world to provide assistance to people affected by violence. The ICRC provides physical rehabilitation to people injured by explosive weapons or other types of incident. ICRC organizes, in collaboration with WHO, the Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) course to upgrade professionalism in humanitarian assistance programmes.

International non-governmental agencies

Leading international non-governmental agencies work through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. Their strong role in development works side by side with the recovery from a disaster and prevention and preparedness for any future disasters. CARE is a humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. CARE also delivers emergency aid to survivors of war and natural disasters, and helps people rebuild their lives. CARE works alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty.

Personal reflection

1. Identify any five relief agencies in your country stating the activities they carry out.

Course Assignment

Question: Using relevant examples, analyze future trends of disasters in your country