

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT

WHAT IS A DISASTER?

Disaster is defined as a situation that is caused by a naturally occurring event such as a cyclone, earthquake or tsunami or from human activities such as fire, plane crash, chemical spills or terrorism which causes extensive damage to the people, goods, services and the environment. In that situation Samoa might need international and regional help if it does not have the resources to save lives and minimize damages to properties.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

All aspects of planning for and responding to a Disaster Manage both risk and consequences of an event.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS

- Hazards, Vulnerability, Risks
- Public & Government
- Legislation / Plans Programs
- Organizations / People / Resources

RESULTS

- Mitigation Measures
- Effective Preparedness
- Planned Responses
- Durable Recovery
- Evaluation
- Feedback

DEFINITIONS:

Hazard

Natural or human caused event to occur with negative consequences

Emergency

Situation generated by the real or imminent occurrence of an event that requires immediate attention (national / community / individual)

Assessment

Evaluation to determine facts

Analysis

Synthesis of facts into a conclusion / recommendation

Vulnerability

The extent - likely to be damaged / disrupted by the impact of an event

Kinds of vulnerability - Tangible and non tangible

Contributing factors - Poverty / population growth / urbanization / geographic isolation / lack of awareness

Risk

Probability of loss as a result of an event given the hazard and vulnerability

Disaster Management Cycle

- Before
- During
- After
- Development

Emergency and Disaster Management System

Planned arrangement of agencies with a designated focal point for the purpose of preparing and implementing plans related to all stages of the Disaster Management Cycle.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT

- Hazard
- Frequency
- Severity
- Location
- Time period / location
- Speed of onset

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- People
- Property
- Economy
- Environment
- Society

HAZARD X VULNERABILITY = RISK

Key Factors affective coping: Experience / preparedness / resources / scale / duration

DISASTER MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Loss Reduction
- Effective Response
- Durable Recovery

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE

3 phases 6 stages

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
Prevention	Response	Rehabilitation
Mitigation		Reconstruction
Preparedness		

THE 4 Rs OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Management is characterized by 4 Rs which are:

R - Reduce (actions taken to prevent or reduce the impacts of disasters)

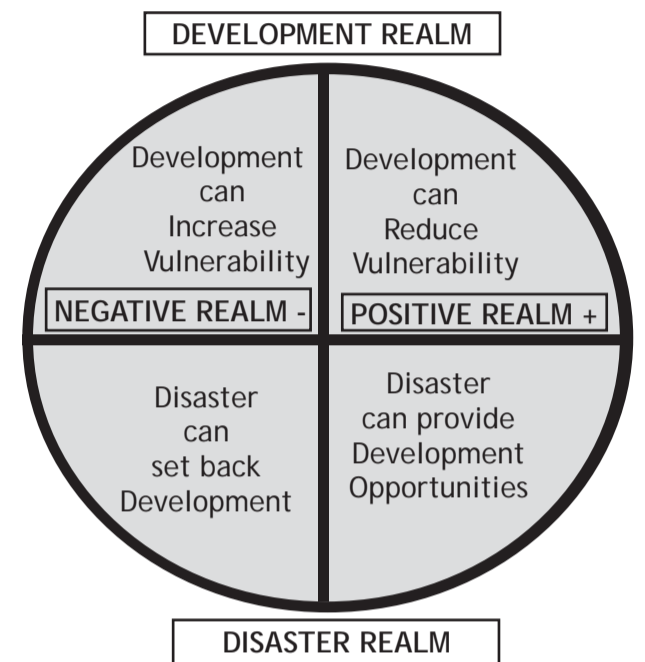
R - Readiness (actions taken to prepare for a disaster before it happens)

R - Response (actions taken to protect life and property during a disaster)

R - Recovery (actions taken to repair any damage or reconstruct whatever has been damaged during a disaster)

DEVELOPMENT

Cumulative and lasting increase tied to social changes in the quantity and quality of a community's goods services resources with the purpose of maintaining and improving the security of human life without compromising future generations.



WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?

An emergency is a situation which is more serious than a disaster. It could result or resulted in causing widespread human, property or environmental losses throughout Samoa or any part of Samoa. Such situation might require substantial amount of resources to save lives and reduce damages to properties and developments. Emergencies require immediate attention and Response Agencies must deal with it as soon as it happens.

Table 1: Highest risk hazards for Samoa

Hazard	Level of Risk
Cyclone 1)	Extreme
Volcanic Eruption	Extreme
Tsunami	Extreme
Urban Fire (Apia)	Extreme
Public health crisis	Extreme
Environmental crisis - invasive species	Extreme
Flood 2)	High
Earthquake	High
Landslide	High
Forest Fires	High
Aircraft emergency (airport)	High
Hazchem incident - marine	High
Lifeline Utility Failure - water	Moderate
Agricultural crisis - animal or plant disease	Moderate
Civil emergency - external	Moderate
Lifeline Utility Failure - telecommunications	Low
Lifeline Utility Failure - electricity	Low
Single asset infrastructure failure - building collapse	Low
Single asset infrastructure failure - dam	Low
Drought	Low
Aircraft emergency (other location)	Low
Maritime vessel emergency	Low
Hazchem incident - land	Low
Terrorism	Low
Civil emergency - internal	Low

1) Includes storm surge causing coastal inundation and high winds
2) Inland flooding due to heavy rain

For more information contact our:
Meteorology Division - Disaster Management Office at Mulinuu
 ph# - 20855 / 20856

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Children's Corner



Children aged 9-15 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "2008 Young Environmentalist Star Awards" will be given to 10 students with top total scores at the end of the year.

Fill in the missing gaps

Cumulative and lasting increase tied to social _____ in the quantity and _____ of a community's goods services resources with the purpose of maintaining and improving the security of _____ life without compromising future generations.

Disaster is defined as a situation that is _____ by a naturally occurring event such as a cyclone, earthquake or _____ or from human activities such as fire, plane crash, chemical spills or _____ which causes extensive damage to the people, goods, services and the _____. In that situation Samoa might need international and regional help if it does not have the resources to _____ lives and minimize _____ to properties.

Can you find the 6 differences?



Maze

Start



Unscramble the following words

- 1) erdecu _____
- 2) sesradine _____
- 3) personse _____
- 4) coverery _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following companies for sponsoring our children's corner prizes

- STRICKLAND BROS
- DIGICEL 
The Bigger. Better Network.
- McDONALD'S RESTAURANT
- BUSINESS SYSTEM

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