

RF/DM-2/DR-7/sudha 32

DISASTER RELIEF THRU' VOL. AGENCIESIntroduction:

RF/DM-2/DR-7/SUDHA

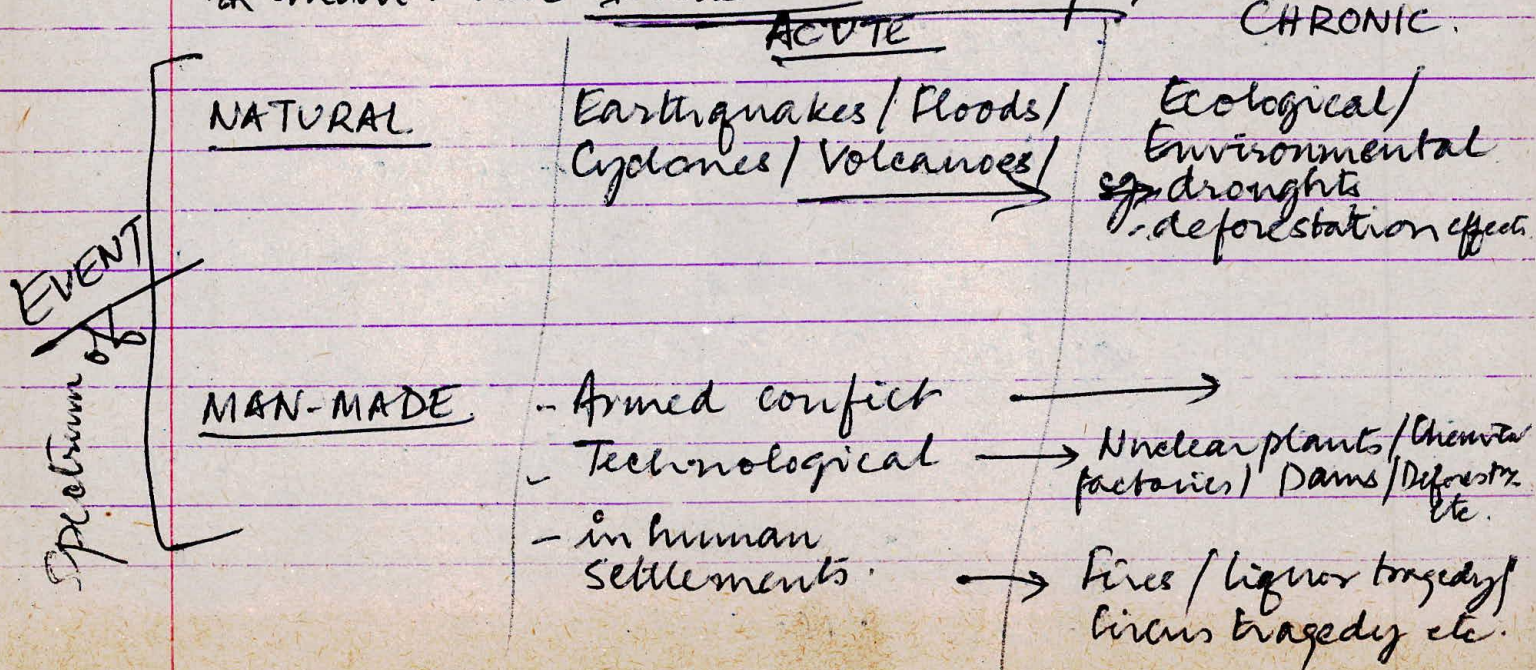
'Disaster' ~~is~~ defined by the Oxford dictionary is a "sudden, great misfortune". (7)

Disaster is not the event itself.

It is the situation arising from an event which produces a disruption of a great magnitude in human, animal and plant life, ~~as well as~~ ~~especially~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ life supporting systems.

What separates a disaster from an accident or incident is its ~~of~~ magnitude of need and victims involved.

Disasters could be natural or man-made, and result in acute or chronic ~~situations~~ ^{states} of disruption. Most acute states also ~~lead to~~ ^{have} a ~~chronic~~ long-term or chronic phase. Also, the inter-relation between natural & man made Disasters is complex.



Spectrum of
EFFECTS
on NATURE

ACUTE

CHRONIC

on MAN

Recent Experience in B'desh cyclone:

Bangalore phase:

- 1) Volag response - meetings
- 2) Forming a team
- 3) Training / background for team
- 4)

B'desh phase:

- 1) Nature of Volags in action.
- 2) Case study GK versus ADAB/Other.
- ~~2~~ 3) Responses.

Some Other Volag involvement in the past Experience

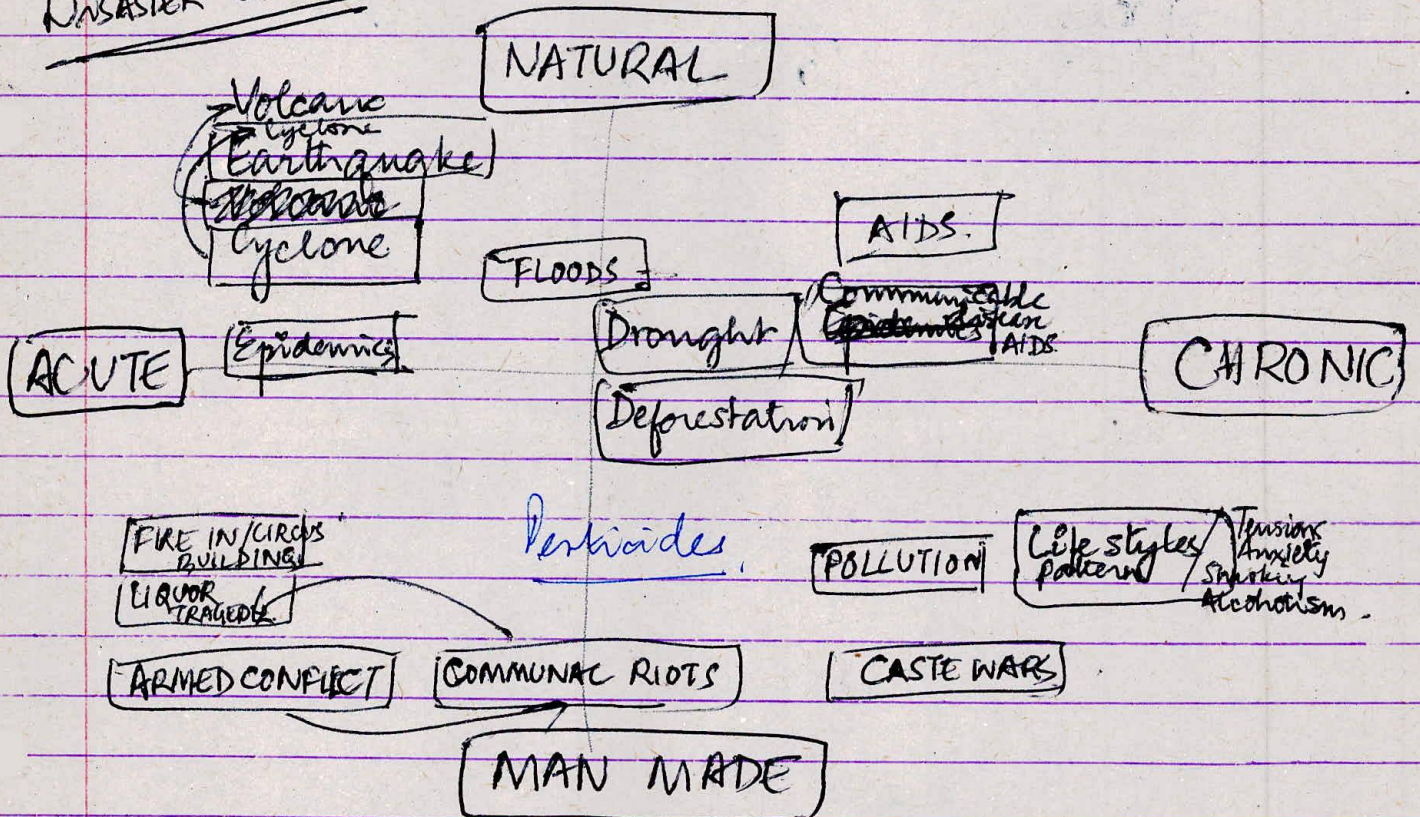
- Bhopal.
- Andhra Cyclone.
- Andhra floods. etc.
- Drought Karnataka

Lessons learnt:

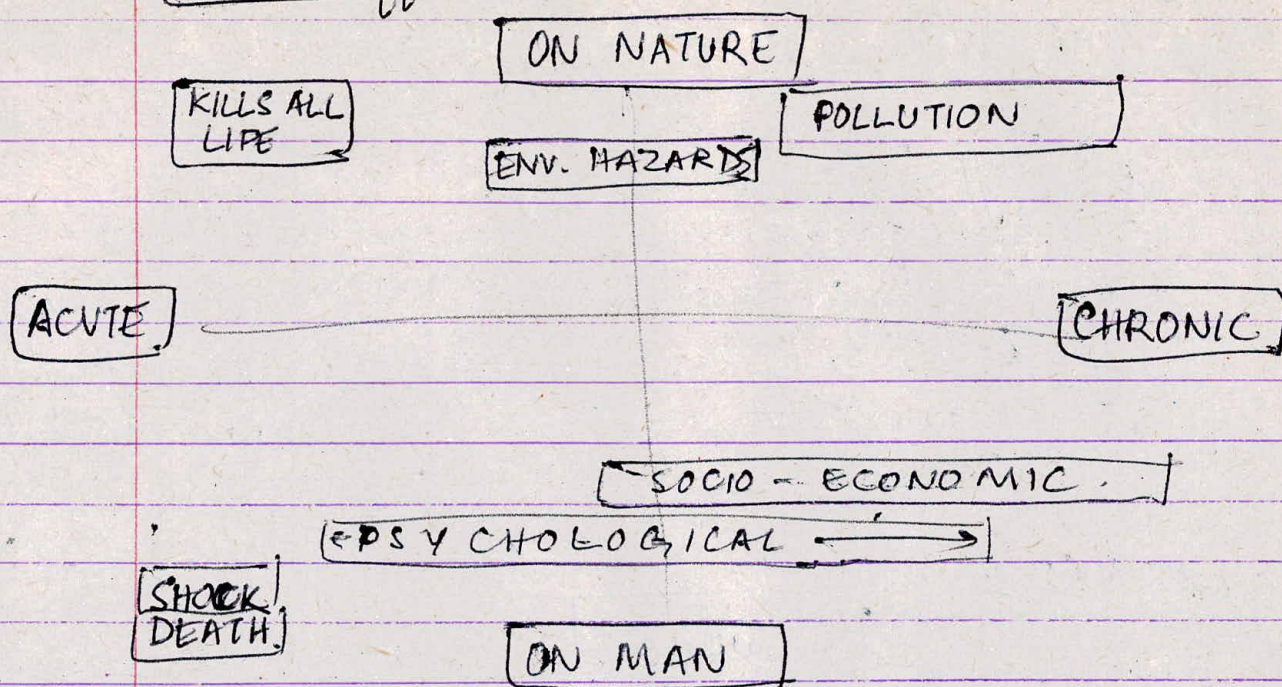
Essentials of Volag response

- 1) Types.
 - 2) Background
 - 3) Capabilities seen.
 - 4) Activities. ——— Phase
 - 5) Potential
 - 6) Constraints.
- Pre disaster
Disaster
Post disaster

DISASTER EVENTS



Disaster effects



DISASTER RELIEF THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Introduction:

The Oxford dictionary defines 'Disaster' as "a sudden, great misfortune."

A disaster is not the event itself. It is the situation arising from an event where **DISRUPTION** of a **GREAT MAGNITUDE** occurs in human, animal and plant life as well as in life-supporting systems.

What separates a disaster from an accident or incident is its magnitude of need and victims involved.

Disaster could be 'natural' or 'man-made' and result in 'acute' or 'chronic' states of disruption of life and life processes.

Most acute states lead on to a ~~phase~~ long-term or chronic phase, while the relationship between natural and man-made disasters is complex. This could be classified rather unsatisfactorily into a spectrum of events and its equally diffuse spectrum of effects as below:

Spectrum of Events

Natural

to

Man made

Time phase

Acute

to

Chronic

Earthquakes
Volcanoes
Cyclones
Floods

Ecological
Environmental
eg:- droughts
- effects of deforestation

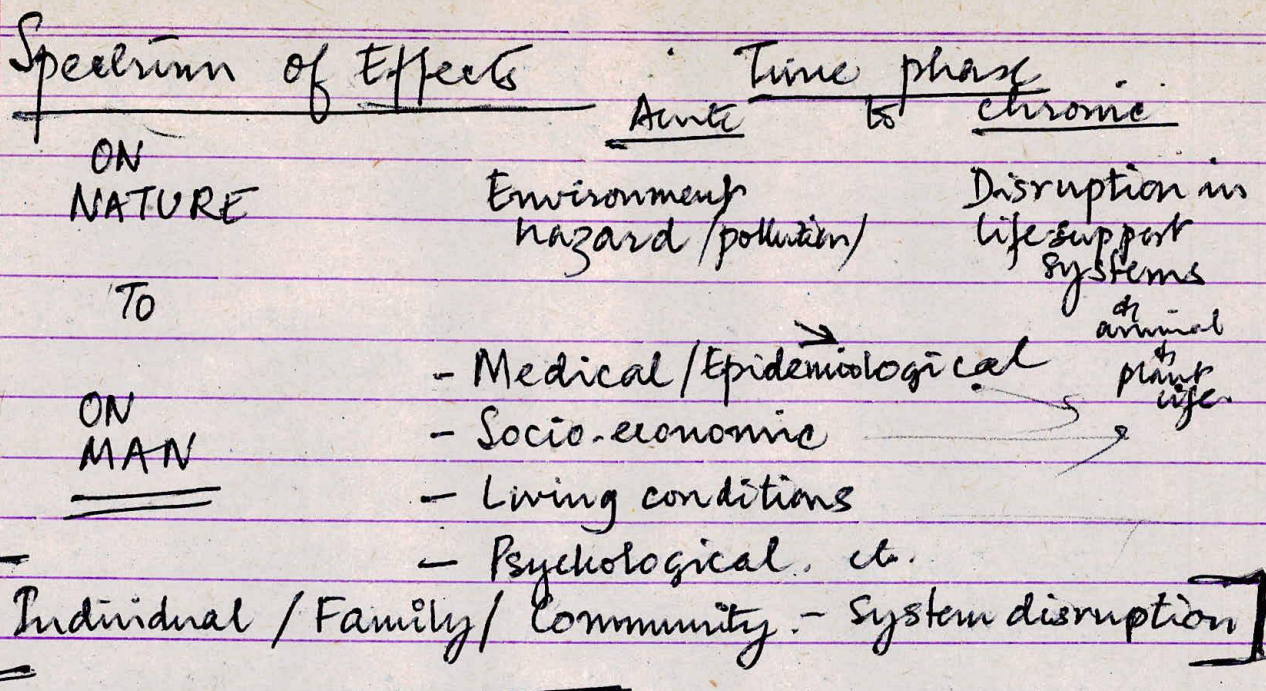
in Human settlements →

Technological
Communal Riots / Caste-wars
Armed conflict

Fires / Liquor / Drugs / Pesticides
Nuclear plants
Chemical plants etc.

Epidemics // Life styles
Communicable diseases / AIDS

DISASTER EVENTS
Simplified classifier, misleading
- Components
Study each disaster by itself



A review of a recent experience.

- The Bangladesh Cyclone disaster 1991.

On ~~May~~ April 29th / 30th Bangladesh faced one of the most devastating cyclones in history hitting the ~~south western~~ Southern & south-eastern ~~areas~~ coasts ~~where~~ consisting of numerous islands ~~and~~ in the delta region. ~~of which has~~ The density of population here is one of the highest in the world, and most of these areas are at or just above sea level. The loss of human life is put at 5 to 6 lakhs and the other damage still being estimated.

As we heard of these events on ~~Apr~~ May 1st & 2nd on TV, radio and in the newspapers, the enormity of the tragedy moved some of us to start some action from Bangalore

For convenience of study the volag response to the Bangladesh cyclone

can be & considered in 2 phases

- 1) the local preparatory phase at B'ore, and
- 2) the Volag response at Bangladesh.

At Bangalore :-

a) Evolving a Volag response

- ringing up / meeting people who showed concern (~~4th May~~)

- meetings - Volags - two.

b) - forming a team from volunteers

c) - preparing the team - TB/Chol. Shots.

- B'desh info.

- learning from others.

- team building.

- training etc.

- travel to B'desh

At Bangladesh:

- a) Types of Volags in action.

- Students

- Volag Feder'n ADAB/VHSS/

- Individual Volag (GK)

c) Case study of Volag GK versus ADAB (Feder'n)

→ b) Response of Volags

- 1) Rescue & Relief - Food/Water/Shelter/Medical relief.

- 2) Communication.

- 3) Co-ordination.

- 4) Evolution of phases of future action

- viz - short term rehab.

- long term rehab.

Some experiences of involvement of Volags in the past.

- Bhopal gas disaster 198
- Andhra cyclone 1979
- Andhra Floods
- Drought in Karnataka.
- Refugee camps Bangladesh 1971
- liquor tragedy / Verma circus tragedy /

~~LESSONS~~

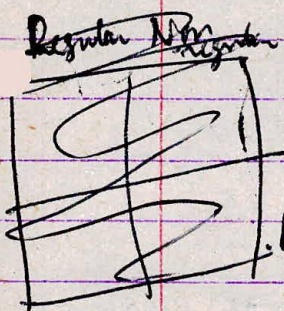
ESSENTIALS OF VOLAG RESPONSE :-

- FROM THE HEART. / to mitigate human suffering.
- 1. Types of Volags involved.
 - ~ size - small to big / diff activities.
 - ~ past involvement
 - ~ local / non-local.

essentially 4 types

a) Co-ordinating agencies

- established organisations locally / elsewhere
 - carry out tasks they are ~~expected to~~ ^{familiar with} do.
- Red Cross / Red Crescent / Hoops / Dispensaries etc.



b) Local agencies

- expanding - hosp. / disp etc.
- do ~~regular~~ ^{familiar} tasks.
 - Community orgs
 - water mgmt
 - shelter / relief.

c) Agencies

- extending
- doing non-~~regular~~ ^{familiar} tasks

d) Emergent organisations. doing non-~~regular~~ ^{familiar} tasks.

Potential :

1) Know the

Strengths & Weakness Volags

- Upgrade in strengths.

Steady Calcutta - Refugee
Delhi - Cholera epidemic
Govt.
Army.

Try

Skills Medical -

Sociological
Mental.

Epidemiological / Public health.

Psychological - Team building, etc.
Team skills

Volags

Strengths

- ① Small / focussed /
- ② Already working in areas of deprivation / e people / organisations
- ③ Working e activities needing commitment /
- ④ Innovating / Adapting / Improvising / Experimenting /
- ⑤ No bureaucratic trappings.
- ⑥ Training - non conventional type.
- ⑦ Considered part of people - not official machinery.
- ⑧ Participatory.
- ⑨ In Education
- ⑩ Mobilising public opinion
- ⑪ Informal
- ⑫ Sensitive.
- ⑬ Appropriate tech.
- ⑭

Weaknesses

- 1) Small
- 2) Creditability & Govt.
- 3) Individualistic
- 4) Economic constraints
- 5) Idealistic?
- 6) May not be replicable.
- 7) Busy & activities / short on documents.

	Functions (familiar Old tasks) Used to	(Non-familiar) New
<u>STRUCTURES</u>		
Old Structures	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>EXTENDING</u>
<u>New</u>	<u>EXPANDING</u> GK	<u>EMERGENT</u>

Responses

- 1) Rescue & immediate relief
- EXT. AGENT
- ~ mobilizing of resources
 - ~ adequate reach to needy
- Censuses,
 Food
 Water
 Shelter
 Clothing
 Emergency medical aid,
 Communication

2) Short-term rehabilitation.

EXT. AGENT
+
Community

- Food for work
- Money for work
- Help in Shelter reconstruction / Schools / Bonds
- Help in Env. sanitiz. / water / sanitiz.
- Search & find members of family.
- ~~com~~ Economic reconstruction.

3) Long-term rehab

COMMUNITY

- Community organisation
- Opportunity for rational use of resources.
- equity
- Social reconstruction.

- 1) Deaths or injury disease
- 2) Community disease
- 3) Mental health
- 4) Environmental hazards
- 5) ~~Physical hazards~~

Effects of Disaster on Health

Other functions

- issue raising
- keeping the issue 'alive'
- research of causes / effects for long term activity.
- lobbying for equity.
- planning for future disaster management.

Situational characteristics of a disaster

- A. Great uncertainty
- B. Urgency
- C. Need for adaptability
- D. loss of autonomy
- E. Changing basis of participation.

Trg area

Constraints:

- Resources
- Co-ordination of responses.
- Govt! interaction.

A review of Volag experiences:

Recent : Bangladesh Cyclone 1991

Bangalore phase

- (a) Evolving Volag response
contact / meet / act.
- (b) Team formation
- (c) Team preparation
Info. / training / learning /
team building

Bangladesh phase

↓
Types of Volags active

- (1) Students
 - (2) ADAB.
 - (3) VHSS.
 - (4) G.K.
- } differences & similarities

Past experiences:

- Refugee camps in Bangladesh.
 - Bhopal Gas Tragedy
 - Andhra Cyclone
 - Andhra Floods
 - Drought in Karnataka
 - Bhopal: Liquor Tragedy
 - Circus Tragedy
- Bangalore

Essentials of Volag response:

- ✱ - from the heart → motivated to mitigate human suffering.
- ✱ - Involvement in all phases of dis. relief mitigation.

Strengths:

- a) Commitment to working & deprived.
- b) Informal - no red-tapism/bureaucracy.
∴ considered part of people / acceptable.
- c) Sensitive to issues affecting people.
- d) Innovate / Adapt / Improvise / Experiment for survival.
- e) ~~Considered~~ Participatory working methods.
- f) ~~Basic~~ Unconventional training methods designed to suit their needs / Appropriate tech.
- g) Basic focus on EDUCATION / INCREASING AWARENESS of people.
- h) ∴ can easily mobilise public / public opinion.

Weaknesses:

- 1) Small in size / reach / focus of activity.
- 2) Ideologies / Individualism.
- 3) Economic ~~constraints~~ / Resource constraints
- 4) ~~Weak~~ Credibility ~~functions~~ $\rightarrow$ Govt
- 4) Relationship $\rightarrow$ Govt.
- 5) Activists approach to problem.

★ Additional functions to relief measures

- 1) issue raising - dams / silent valley / etc.
- 2) keeping issue alive - Bhopal.
- 3) Research of causes / effects - Bhopal.
- 4) Lobbying for equity.
- 5) Planning for future disaster mgt. - ARDC eg.

Some lessons learnt:-

1. Disasters affect - deprived / repeatedly / worst affected are worst off.
2. Disasters are great 'levellers' of people. The exploitative ^{embryonic} structure emerges quick & stronger than before.
3. Public awareness: - aims at people living in a hazard prone area are ~~aware~~
 - aware of the risk
 - know ~~of~~ what to do to mitigate loss.
 - build their own process to face future hazards.

Characteristics are,

- a) Process - ongoing
- b) Participatory
- c) Community specific.
- d) Risk specific
- e) Target population specific
- f) Integral part of warning & response system

eg
Dianhos
in
B'desh
 $\rightarrow$

4. Training has to be in areas of skills & attitudes.
eg Medical

- First aid
- Epidemiol.
- Public health
- Psychological

Sociology

- Team building skills

Attitudes to
Tackle situational characteristics of a disaster.

5. Disaster related behaviours patterns,

MYTHS:

- a) Panic flight
- b) Helplessness
- c) Paralyzing trauma
- d) Anti-social behaviours
- e) Shattered Community.

FACTUALITIES:

a) RESPONSE TO DANGER — people seek safety.
— behaviours adaptable.

b) IMMED. RESPONSE TO DISASTER

- personal } quick adaptive. / Except
- social } response / those severely injured.
- community }

c) FAMILY — Most basic coping mechanism.

d) PSYCHOLOGICAL RESPONSE — Majority — Stress reactions
— Stress in majority / — not incapacitated
— no long-term impairment.

e) NEED FOR INFO. — intense pressure from people
for immed info. — victims
— secondary threats
— emergency needs
— " activities"] want to
reduce
uncertainty
of events/its
consequences &
personal actions to
be taken.

f) THE CARRY-OVER:

Post-disaster problems (or their absence)
are closely related pre-disaster problems (or their
absence). Behavioural patterns, social issues
or processes which existed before an emergency
are likely to exist afterwards.

6. Pre dis — dis — post dis. continuum.

Medical interventions

PRE-DISASTER

Structure

- Community Health Services
- Epid. data collection centre/staff
- Public health data
- Health workers
- Supervisory Med. pers.

Functions

- Public awareness
- General H.E
- Env. Sanitary
- Preparation/Planning for disaster
- Knowing area well
- Epid. data collection
- Admin. Vaccines

DISASTER

Recon/Relief

- H.Ws. /
- Ext. agencies
- mobile hosp.
- Field hosp.
- i spec

Water & Sanitary units
(Short term Rehab)

Vaccines.

- First aid
- Est. communications for casualty evacuat.
- Disposal dead bodies ^{human} _{animal}
- Safe water / sanitary.

POST-DISASTER

Pattern of Medical problems seen.

1. ↑ G.I. / ~~Dysentery~~ / Amoebiasis / Helminths.
2. ↑ Resp. Inf. - Air Pollution
3. Acute Malnutr. or Chronic.
4. Injuries - minor / major
recognised / unrecognised.

5. Skin infections.

6. Psychosomatic. - Role of placebos / talking to.

7. Stress reactions - phy / mental.

Women / Children / Lower Socio-eco. strata more affected.
