

Knowledge Building Workshop
on
Disaster Risk Reduction in Health Sector

24-26 February, 2009
Juba, Southern Sudan

1. Background

Today's development scenario poses serious challenges to governments, national and international INGOs, research and academic institutions, individuals, and anyone else concerned with development. The severity of recent disaster- both natural and man-induced – impede the process of recovery and development and increases poverty world wide. Analysing the current global scenario, one now finds a paradigms shift in disaster **response** to from relief and rehabilitation to **disaster risk reduction** through prevention, preparedness, and mitigation approaches. Restoring the situation alone will not be sufficient and hence warrants addressing continuing vulnerabilities.

The North – South Sudan war has dominated the country's history since independence. The signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on the 9th of January 2005 brought about a historic opportunity to turn the devastation of war, displacement and underdevelopment into a new era of peace and development. The country however continues to experience complex emergencies where conflict, natural disaster and extreme poverty overlap. This emerging interrelationship provides new challenges for the effectiveness of the programmes of GOSS and the donor community.

Southern Sudan is highly prone to natural and man-made disasters; conflicts, droughts, floods and epidemics are recurrent phenomena that held back development and sometimes erase little gains made in development and livelihoods. The government of Southern Sudan on the other hand is currently formulating a coherent set of development strategies that link emergency response to the goal of reducing predisposition to natural disaster risks. The country's national and regional disaster risk management is somewhat fragmented with various actors whose actions need to be coordinated for maximum impact. In addition, South Sudan has not yet evolved the required legislative and institutional frameworks and capacities, coordination mechanisms, an information management system and it has a weak resource base.

In recognition of the need to respond effectively and in a proactive manner to natural disasters, the Government of South Sudan (GOSS), through the Office of Special Programme of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs (OSP-MOPA) initiated consultation with donor agencies for support in evolving a disaster risk management policy and strategy. The first consultative workshop was organized in April, 2008; bringing together all stakeholders from the government institutions, INGOs, UN agencies and civil societies.

During the workshop the Ministry of Health and WHO presented papers outlining the disaster risk reduction a perspective on health sector. At the end of the workshop,

the disaster risk reduction framework for Southern Sudan was developed. The health sector through the Ministry of Health will then develop a specific national disaster risk reduction policy which in turn will be adapted and being operationalized at state level.

There are existing preparedness plans for specific diseases in southern Sudan. These plans were developed based on the epidemiological trend. The current challenge however, is to develop a "all hazards approach" as this will be the only way to enhance capacity of the health sector to face all types of major risks from epidemics to conflicts, threats, natural disasters to technological accidents, risks to new or emerging threats such as influenza pandemic.

2. Objectives

- To build capacity in risks reduction and emergency preparedness and response in health sector
- In-depth understanding of the correlation between vulnerabilities, risks and hazards
- Develop a "all hazard approach" Disaster Management Program for Southern Sudan focusing emergency preparedness.

3. Methodology

- Technical presentations on terminology and the science of disaster management.
- Group work
- Video documentaries focusing operational issues.
- Role Play

4. Expected Outcomes

As this is a TOT course, the participants are expected to have the in depth knowledge on disaster management in the health sector focusing risk reduction and emergency preparedness operational issues including:

- the basic concepts of emergency preparedness and response.
- learn to conduct risk assessment and vulnerability analysis.
- Know about the various tools available for emergency preparedness, like e Atlas
- develop health sector risk profile and a framework for Disaster Management Program for Southern Sudan

5. Participant

A total of 30 Participants will attend the workshop. Participants will be drawn from the Ministry of health Government of Southern Sudan and States, INGO representative, WHO and other line/ sister Ministries.

- MoH GoSS- 9

- MoH State-1 at each State-10
- WHO-3
- INGO representative- 2
- Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries- 1
- Ministry of Education-1
- Organized force (Fire brigade)- 1
- Ministry of Internal Affairs- 1
- Ministry of Defence (SPLA Affairs) -1
- Medical corps- 1

Dates:

Three days training; tentative dates for the workshop are 24 to 26 February, 2009

6. Venue

Home and Away- conference centre; Juba Southern Sudan

7. Resource Person / Facilitators:

- MOH Southern Sudan
 - WHO
 - Unicef
 - UNFPA
 - UNOCHA
 - CDC (proposed)
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