

## ***African Disaster Handbook***

In keeping with the Centre's belief that community participation in disaster preparedness activities is critical to successful disaster mitigation at the local level the Centre has completed a manual entitled *African Disaster Handbook*. The manual, geared at the community level, contains useful and practical guidelines for actions before, during and after a disaster event. The actions prescribed are simple preparedness measures that may be adopted by an individual, family or community. The guidelines are accompanied by extensive illustrations.

The disasters included in the manual are floods, hurricanes and storms, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic

eruptions, fires, chemical and industrial accidents, nuclear accidents, epidemics, and drought and famine. The communicable diseases covered by the manual are cholera, typhoid fever, meningococcal meningitis, viral haemorrhagic fevers, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The disasters are described in a simplified manner, their main effects listed and followed by guidelines on how to avoid or minimize these effects.

The manual is being printed courtesy of the printing unit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The first edition in English is expected to be followed by French and Arabic versions.

## ***Record of Disasters in Africa***

This ongoing project at the Centre aims at compiling data on disasters occurring post-1980 in Africa. The database includes information on the following: location, type of disaster, date disaster occurred, mortality and injury statistics, figures for affected and homeless, appeals made and received and other relevant information. The sources of information have been

expanded and now include eighteen different sources. Acknowledging the difficulty of obtaining accurate and reliable data the Centre aims to cross-check and validate data emanating from different sources on particular disaster events. A second printout of the information was produced in March 1990; an updated one is planned for the near future.

## ***Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Handbook for Africa***

It consists of *modules* that scan basics of disaster preparedness and response management in reference to health. As a training manual, its targets include: national authorities (policy makers), EPR programme managers (administrators) and the communities (for public action at the implementation level). To make reading easy, summaries are included as graphics. These can also serve as teaching materials if used as overheads, slides, posters or charts.

The handbook discusses and explains questions posed under the following headings:

Concepts - definition, causes, why a national EPR programme, local, African and international views.  
Policies - why and which policies for the EPR programme.

Organization - who and which roles and possible organograms for EPR programmes

Planning - why, which phases, issues, evaluation

Activities - when, where, how and by whom

Examples of activities include: the management of famine, epidemics, public awareness, involvement and training

Evaluation - possible indicators

Appendix - African natural disaster risk map, disaster glossary, and references

The handbook is still in the preparation stages by the Panafrican Centre for EPR and will soon be available. Initially limited copies only will be in circulation.

### **Educational Videos available at the WHO Panafrican Centre for EPR**

- Refugee health programme
- Refugee community health care
- Water treatment techniques
- Issues in emergency management
- Camp planning techniques
- Logistics
- Needs assessment
- Emergency planning
- Assistance to nearby villages

- Camp planning
- Logistics for people movement
- Refugee assistance strategies for mass emergencies
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes
- Nutrition
- Myths and realities of natural disasters
- Health for all - all for health

- Disasters
- Sudan television coverage of Khartoum floods
- Seeds of despair
- Media management
- Help - water and sanitation
- Fighting for a future
- Beating drought
- Preparing for disaster

**publications available upon request from  
Panafrican Centre for  
Emergency Preparedness and Response, Addis Ababa**

*African Disaster Handbook.* 1991. 63 pp (6389-72)

*African Workshop on Health Sector Management in Technological Disasters-Conclusions and Recommendations.* 1990. Available in English (6389-70a), French (6389-70b), Arabic (6389-70c)

*Annual Report of the WHO Panafrican Centre for EPR.* 1989. 50 pp. (6389-17)

*Approach to Emergency Code.* UNDP-EPPG Ethiopia. 1990. 73 pp. (6389-3)

*Disaster Training Curriculum in Health Emergency Preparedness and Response* 1988  
18 pp. Available in English (6389-5a) and in French (6389-5b)

*Disasters in Africa: Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness and Response.*  
1990. 23 pp. plus annex. Available in English (6389-2a), French (2b), Arabic (2c) and Portuguese (2d)

*Documentation Centre Catalogue of the WHO Panafrican Centre for EPR.* Publications acquired in the Panafrican Centre, for Emergency Preparedness and Response. Update December 1990. 386 pp. (6389-14)

*Drought and Famine.* Article by Dr. Mesfin Demisse. 1986. 3 pp. (6389-46)

*Educational Package.* set No. 1, 1989, 27 pp. (6389-6a) and No.2, 1990, 51 pp (6389-6b)

*Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Handbook for Africa* 1991. 88 pp. (6389-73)

*Glossary of Disaster Related Terms.* 4 pp. (6389-7)

*Guidelines for a Plan of Action for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in African Countries.* 1990. 9 pp. Available in English, French and Arabic. (6389-8)

*Health Aspects of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Emergencies.* 1990. 11 pp plus annex. (6389-9)

*Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in African Countries.*  
Periodic publication on disaster reduction management, training and planning in Africa.  
Vol. 1. 20 pp. (6389-10) Vol. 3 50 pp. (6389-57)  
Vol. 2. 30 pp. (6389-11)

*Health for All When a Disaster Strikes.* Brochure containing basic information on the  
Panafrican Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, aims and activities. 8 pp (6389-12)

*Health for All When Disasters Strike: Towards Disaster Reduction Planning in Africa.* 1990. 13 pp. (6389-13)

*Information and Training on Environmental Health Management in Emergencies.* 1989. 15 pp. (6389-44)

*List of Publications available upon request from Panafrican Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response - Addis Ababa.* 1990. 3 pp. (6389-4)

*Main Documentation on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-1999.* 1990.  
58 pp. plus annex. (6389-39)

*Mission Report on Seminar on Africa's Role in Nuclear Science for Peace and Development.* 1990 35 pp. (6389-49)

*Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection in African Countries: Nuclear Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response* 1990 11 pp plus annex. (6389-15)

*OAU Council of Ministers Resolution on Disasters in Africa.* 1990 3 pp (6389-16)

*Panafrican Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response off the Ground Series* of six articles by Mekonnen Hailu on WHO Panafrican Centre for EPR, Addis Ababa, 1989. 14 pp (6389-43)

*Programme of the International Course on Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.*  
1989 Brochure 8 pp (6389-18)

*Rapid Health Assessment Protocol* 1990 9 volumes. (6389-66)

*Record of Disasters in Africa 1980 - March 1990.* 58 pp (6389-1)

*Selected Press Clippings Resulting from Media Outreach of the Panafrican Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response.* 1990. 30 articles published by international media on WHO / EPR activities in Africa 37 pp. (6389-19)

*Séminaire OMS sur la Préparation aux Situations d'Urgence, l'Organisation des secours et la Prévention, Appliquées en Particulier à la Lutte contre les Epidémies de Fièvres Hémostatiques virales en Afrique de l'Ouest.*  
1988. 29 pp (6389-41)

*The New Emergency Health Kit.* 1989 Draft 18 pp plus appendix. (6389-40)

***The Public Health Effects of Situations of Insecurity, Wars, Civil Strife and Political Violence in Africa.*** 1990. 11 pp. plus annex. (6389-42)

***The Ark. African bulletin of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response***

Quarterly periodic publication 30 pp.

Issue No 1. May. 1989. (6389-20) Issue No 4. May. 1990 (6389-38)

Issue No 2. Sept. 1989. (6389-21) Issue No 5. Sept. 1990. (6389-59)

Issue No 3. Feb. 1990. (6389-22) Issue No 6 Jan. 1991 (6389-71)

***To Support the Poorest of the Poor*** Two articles by Mohamed Abdelmoumene and Michel Jancloes. March 1990. 5 pp. (6389-47)

***Training and Information Exchange on Environmental Health Management in Refugee Areas.*** 1990. 11 pp. plus annex. (6389-55)

***Report on the Meeting of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Technical Group on Emergencies.***

No 1. 2nd Meeting 1989. 24 pp. (6389-56) available in English only.

No 2. 3rd Meeting 1990. 21 pp. (6389-45) available in French only.

***WHO Action in Emergencies and Disasters.*** 1990. Extract from WHO Manual. 20 pp. (6389-23)

***World Health Assemblies: Resolutions, Decisions, Annexes, Summary Records of Committee on Health Assistance in Emergency Situations and General Assembly Resolutions on Disaster Relief Assistance.*** 1988. 78 pp. (6389-56)

**Project series:**

***Consultation on Epidemic Group A Meningococcal Meningitis. Peoples Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.*** 1989. 12 pp. (6389-24)

***Definition and Monitoring of Interventions in Areas Affected by Health Emergencies in Large Populations, Eritrea, Ethiopia*** Draft. 1989 22 pp. (6389-25)

***Establishment of an African Documentation Centre on Health Emergencies in Large Populations and the Health Consequences of Disasters.*** 1989. 10 pp. (6389-53)

***Establishment of Warehouses for Emergency Medical Supplies in Africa*** 1989. 5 pp (6389-26)

***International Course on Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.*** Main lectures, curriculum, evaluation. 1989. 33 pp (6389-27)

***Mapping Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in Large Populations in Africa. 1989***

1 Project (6389-28)

2 Possible development (6389-29)

3 Methodologies (6389-30)

4 Progress report and map outputs (6389-31)

5 Test of the Reliability of the Mapping Methodology at Local Level

(6389-58)

***Panafrican Epidemic Project.*** 1990.

1 Project Proposal 43 pp. (6389-54)

2 Country Assessment-Ethiopia (6389-67)

3 Country Assessment-Nigeria (6389-68)

4 Country Assessment-Tchad (6389-69)

***Plan of Action 1990-1991 of the WHO Panafrican Centre for EPR.*** 1990. 17 pp, plus annex. (6389-32)

***Proposal for a Support Programme for Emergency Management in Angola.*** 1989. 34 pp. (6389-48)

***Publication of a Panafrican Disaster Preparedness Bulletin The Ark.*** 1989. 6 pp (6389-33)

***Report of the Mission to Sudan to Assess EPR Needs in Flood Stricken Areas*** 1989 104 pp (6389-34)

***Seminaire/Atelier Sous-Regional de Formation des Personnels de Sante sur le Renforcement Institutionnel des aspects Sanitaires de la Preparation aux Catastrophes Naturelles ou non.*** 1989

15 pp. plus annex. Available in French only (6389-50)

***Strengthening of the Capacity of the Sudanese Ministry of Health in Emergency Preparedness and Response.*** 1989. 20 pp plus annex (6389-51)

***Study on Vitamin A Deficiency in Emergency Areas.*** 1989 46 pp (6389-36)

***Summary of WHO/EPR Extra-Budgetary Projects.*** Nos. 1 - 5. 1989 5 pp (6389-37)

***Un Deuxieme Stage International sur les Dispositions que Doivent Prendre les services Medicaux et Autres Mesures Immediates en Cas D'Urgence.*** 1990. 3 pp. (6389-52)

***UNITAR's In-service Training Programme for Relief Management in the Sahelian Countries.*** 1991. 6 pp. plus tables. (6389-74)

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## **Meetings and Conferences**

**1990**

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*DISASTERS SHALL continue to have drastic effects on the lives of many people until there is a joint effort on the part of developing and developed countries to plan together to build the road to disaster preparedness.*

**Emergency  
Prevention  
and  
Preparedness  
Group /  
Ethiopia**  
*Two Weekly*

The Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Group (EPPG) Ethiopia is made up of representatives from various United Nations organizations comprising mainly of the following UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, WHO, WMO, IBRD, WHO/EPR, WTOE. Meeting are held every two weeks in the UN offices at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa to discuss the situation of refugees, crop and food assessment, the country situation reports and any other business related to emergency preparedness. Dr Amin Salama is a member representing the Panafrican Centre. Following the meetings the necessary actions are taken to avert emergencies.

**A Disaster  
Plan for Africa**  
*Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia - February*

From the 19-24 February, the OAU Council of Ministers studied and made decisions on a Disaster Plan for Africa having first circulated a draft background document. It called on Member States and international organizations to work towards the prevention of disasters in the African Region.

**Africa's Role  
In Nuclear  
Science for  
Peace and  
Development**  
*Kampala, Uganda  
March*

This conference on Africa's Role in Nuclear Science for Peace and Development was held from the 12-16 March. Dr A. Salama, Deputy Director of the Panafrican Centre for EPR presented "Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection" - Nuclear Accident, Prevention, Preparedness and Response. A number of recommendations have been made to OAU for adoption and implementation by Member States.

**Children in  
Emergency  
Situations**  
*Cairo, Egypt  
March*

A two day consultative group meeting was held from 24-25 March, on Children in emergency situations. This was a preparatory meeting to prepare for an Interagency meeting. The Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD) in collaboration with WHO/EMRO are organizing an Interagency meeting with the view to working out how best agencies can operate a system for coordinating efforts for the welfare of children in emergencies in the Arab countries.

The meeting concluded the following: to protect and assist children at all times, to give priority to child welfare and to meet the child's developmental needs. The Interagency meeting which was planned for September had to be postponed and as of now has not taken place. The Panafrican Centre has prepared a document on Children in Refugee Camps, situation analysis and recommendations for improvement, to be presented at the Interagency meeting.

**Disasters in Africa**

*Geneva,  
Switzerland - April*

The second Interagency meeting on Disasters in Africa was held at the WHO Headquarters from 25-27 April at the invitation of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The main components addressed at the meeting included: implementation of the relevant parts of the OAU Resolution CM/Res - 1253(LI) on "Disasters in Africa", sensitization of the people of Africa, governments and donors on disasters in Africa, and finally addressing the issue of the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The representatives attending elected Dr O. Elo, former Chief of Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO Geneva as the chairperson of the meeting.

**OAU/UN System Cooperation for African Development**

*Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia - April*

The jointly organized OAU/UN System Cooperation meeting for African Development was held from 2-5 April. The framework chosen for cooperation between the OAU/UN included the following six priority areas: economic cooperation and integration with special focus on the African economic community, food and agriculture, refugees, displaced persons and emergencies, environment and development, human resources development and science and technology.

**Special Needs of Children in Disasters**

*Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia - May*

A one day seminar on Special Needs of Children in Disasters was organized by Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA). The workshop confronted the special needs of children within an Ethiopian context. People involved in past disaster situations within the country shared their experiences in the light of creating an awareness and to seek ways of avoiding undue trauma to children.

**Refugee Emergency Management Training**

*Nairobi, Kenya  
June*

UNHCR organized a seven day Refugee Emergency Management Training Workshop from the 19-27 June. The content included introduction to emergency management, social aspects in emergencies, emergency preparedness planning, early warning systems, protection issues in emergencies, needs and resource assessment, operation planning, health and nutritional issues in emergencies, media management and site planning. The above topics were tailored with special emphasis on refugee situations.

**The Third International Course on Health and Disasters**

*Brussels, Belgium  
July*

The third international course on Health and Disasters (of eleven days duration) was held at the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). The objectives included: a) to develop in participants a thorough understanding of the critical need for disaster preparedness and management, to develop in participants a comprehensive appreciation of various disciplines that are basic for optimal planning towards preparedness and management of disasters, and to give the participants practical experience using the various techniques offered by the disciplines presented

**Health and Nutritional Aspects of Disaster Preparedness and Response**

*Lusaka, Zambia  
September*

The workshop on the Health and Nutritional Aspects of Disaster Preparedness and Response was organized by the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies for the technical staff of the Anglophone African national societies and health and nutrition delegates. Special emphasis was placed on the health and nutritional aspects of refugees and displaced persons in relation to the information provided and an outline to appropriate strategies for the development of National Societies.

*"Chance fights ever on the side of the prudent" Euripides*

**Regional  
Committee for  
Africa**  
Brazzaville, Congo  
September

The Fortieth Session of the Regional Committee for Africa was addressed by the Director-General of WHO, who identified five areas of priority for global emphasis in the coming biennium. These consist of 1) the health of each person in a changing environment, 2) proper food and nutrition for a healthy life and a healthy development 3) integrated disease control as part of the overall health care and human development 4) dissemination of information for advocacy, and for educational, managerial and scientific purposes; and in all these areas 5) intensified health development action and support to countries, especially the most in need, and the most adversely affected by current economic conditions. The Regional Director went on to stress the fact that the African disaster reduction plans are among the best in the world.

**International  
Conference  
for Disaster  
Management**  
Cairo, Egypt  
September

This International Conference for Disaster Management (Present and Future) Emergency 90 took place from 24-27 September, it is one in series which began eight years ago and takes place every two years. The aim of the conference was to strengthen the transfer of technology and to improve available procedures that are common use for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response particularly in developing countries.



*An enormous – and hidden – tragedy.*

*"A country, or a village, or a community, cannot be developed; it can only develop itself. For real development means the development, the growth, of people. Every country in Africa can show examples of modern facilities which have been provided for the people - and which are now rotting unused. We have schools, irrigation works, expensive markets, and so on - things by which someone came and tried to 'bring development to the people'. If real development is to take place, the people have to be involved.... For the truth is that development means the development of people. Roads, buildings, the increase of crop output, and other things of this nature, are not development; they are only tools of development. A new road extends a man's freedom only if he travels upon it".*

*Freedom and Development, Julius Nyerere*