

Part 1: Disasters and Hazards

Learning Objectives

This session is designed to enable you to:

- *define the key terms of disaster management*
- describe the causes of disaster vulnerability
- *reproduce the disaster management continuum diagram*
- identify the most important hazards and how they affect society
- *identify at least two ways that development can lead directly to a disaster*
- describe at least four ways that disasters disrupt development

Definition of Hazard

a rare or extreme natural or human-made event that threatens to adversely affect human life, property or activity to the extent of causing a disaster

Definition of Disaster

a serious disruption of the functioning of a society, causing widespread human, material, or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using only its own resources

Definition of Emergency

an extraordinary situation where there are serious and immediate threats to human life as a result of

- disaster
- imminent threat of a disaster
- a cumulative process of neglect
- civil conflict
- environmental degradation

THE PROGRESSION OF VULNERABILITY

1

Underlying causes

- Poverty
- Limited access to
 - power structures
 - resources
- Ideologies
- Economic systems
- General pre-conditioning factors

2

Dynamic pressures

- Lack of
 - local institutions
 - education
 - training
 - appropriate skills
 - local investment
 - local markets
 - press freedom
- Macro-forces
 - population expansion
 - urbanization
 - environmental degradation

3

Unsafe conditions

- Fragile physical environment
 - dangerous locations
 - dangerous buildings and infrastructure
- Fragile local economy
 - livelihoods at risk
 - low income levels
- Public actions

HAZARD

Trigger events

- Earthquake
- High winds
- Flooding
- Volcanic eruption
- Landslide
- Drought
- War, civil conflict
- Technological accident

DISASTER

VULNERABILITY

HAZARD

Impact of poverty

