

## **Topic #1 DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- Disasters strike in every corner of the world, during every season, and on different scales throughout the year.
- These events are often unexpected by their very nature, leaving little time, if any, to prepare.
- There are many ancient historical events where natural calamities nearly wiped out human civilization. Theorists such as Jared Diamond (2005) and Dr Floyd McCoy (Cecil 2011) expressed that many of the great civilizations in history, such as the Mayan, the Minoan and the old Egyptian Empire, were ultimately brought to their knees not by their enemies but by the effects of floods, drought, famine, earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunamis and other widespread disasters.
- We cannot avoid disasters but can make attempts to minimize its impacts. Therefore, it becomes necessary to develop a comprehensive system towards a better management of disasters.

## **WHAT IS MANAGEMENT?**

- Management consists of decision-making activities undertaken by one or more individuals to direct and coordinate the activities of other people in order to achieve results, which could not be accomplished by any one person acting alone.
- Management is required when two or more persons combine their efforts and resources to accomplish a goal, which neither can accomplish alone.

## **DEFINING DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

- Disaster Management is the discipline of dealing with and avoiding risks. It is a discipline that involves preparing, supporting and rebuilding when natural or human made disasters occur.
- This discipline involves preparing for disasters, responding to them, and finally supporting and rebuilding the society after initial disaster relief operations have ended.
- Disaster management has to deal with the situations that occur prior to, during, and after the occurrence of the disaster.

- Disaster Management can be defined as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters

( International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent )

- It is the range of activities designed to maintain control over disaster and emergency situations and to provide a framework for helping at-risk persons to avoid or recover from the impact of the disasters.
- Disaster management is a set of **processes designed to be implemented before, during, and after disasters** to prevent or mitigate their effects.
- Disaster management is how we deal with the human, material, economic or environmental impacts of said disaster, it is the process of how we “prepare for, respond to and learn from the effects of major failures.
- Disaster management aims;
  - ✓ to reduce, or avoid, the potential losses from hazards,
  - ✓ assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims of disaster,
  - ✓ achieve rapid and effective recovery.
- Disaster management includes administrative decisions and operational activities that involve:
  - ✓ Prevention
  - ✓ Mitigation
  - ✓ Preparedness
  - ✓ Response
  - ✓ Recovery and
  - ✓ Rehabilitation.
- Disaster management involves all levels; Government, non-governmental and community-based organizations play a vital role in the process.
- Modern disaster management goes beyond post-disaster assistance. It now includes pre-disaster planning and preparedness activities, organizational

planning, training, information management, public relations and many other fields.

### **PRINCIPLES OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

Disaster management is a complex multidisciplinary approach to tackle to pre and post disaster effects in a particular area or region.

There are following principles for disaster management plans –

- a) It should be comprehensive
- b) It should be progressive
- c) It should be Risk Driven
- d) It should be integrated
- e) It should be Collaborative
- f) It should be Coordinated
- g) It should be flexible
- h) It should be Professional.