

Looking Beyond Disaster Action Plan Evaluation and Update

Action Plan Theme

Safety Education

... disaster Risk Reduction Programme

Project Overview

The continuous occurrence of both human-induced and natural disasters gradually increased in the last decade. But more devastating is the impact of these disasters. Based on this, disaster risk reduction which is the approach to identifying, assessing and reducing risks of and vulnerability to disaster. This action plan is thus based on identified problems the impacts of disasters have posed to Africa and Europe.

Since there is high migration of disaster victims from Africa to Europe and within Europe, this project will attempt to increase awareness about approaches to reducing the risks of disaster and other human induced incidents. A sessional safety and disaster education programme has been put together to inform people of potential risks while simultaneously improving cross-cultural disaster risks reduction, knowledge thereby helping to increase personal, group and community resilience planning.

Objectives

- To understand and reduce individual, group and community risks
- To promote and catalyze change towards disaster and emergency risk reduction
- To encourage careful individual, group and community planning towards reducing risks
- To encourage, coach and train more youths into active and responsible roles for community disaster risks reduction
- Develop applicable Framework for sustainable development within each community

Project Activities and Engagements

The project activities have been carried out using the project delivery chart and timeline.

Between September – December 2012, project activities included:

- Identified and partnered with emergency agencies, organisations and individuals such as West Midlands Fire Service, Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership (CEMAP), The refugee centre, Coventry University, migrant community groups, international students from Africa especially Nigeria
- Deliver safety & disaster risk reduction sessions to groups and individuals through established and structured safety education programme put together by West Midlands fire service

- Mobilised and coached youths from Europe & Africa who have come to UK on safety and DRR education to study so that they can pass on safety education to their respective communities

Between January to April 2013, project activities included:

- Continued to recruit, train and develop more youths who could promote disaster risks reduction education in their respective countries of origin.
- Began to research, initiate and develop strategies for sustainable disaster education in Africa
- Delivered more sessions of safety education in partnership with West Midlands Fire service and via CEMAP's community advice project.

From April till date, project activities includes:

- Project evaluation
- Continue to monitor project and seek means of expansion
- Begin to avenues to deliver safety education and DRR education in countries in Africa and Europe who are particularly vulnerable to disasters and risks
- Train and coach more youths to deliver the safety/DRR education

Project Activities in Pictures



Results and Measurable Outcomes

Reduction in human-induced disaster: Although human-induced disasters have reduced in city of residence, there is need to deliver sessions of safety and DRR education directly in

more communities in Europe and especially Africa.

Increased and informed preparedness for natural disasters: while it can be said that attendees (of about 300) of the safety & DRR education sessions between this timeframe are more aware of the potential risks, there is need to teach approach to effective preparedness.

Youth Development: through this project, 100 youths have been informed and trained (& received certificates). But more importantly, 15 are willing to transfer knowledge gained from these sessions to their respective communities in Africa.

This project has not only created more awareness, but have also encouraged and mobilised more youths at attend more international forums and increased active involvement for resilience-building in Europe and Africa. International forums that have witnessed more involvement of youths from both Africa and Europe include, UNESCO youth awareness seminar held in Coventry (March 2013) with 40 youths in attendance, YPA in Thailand (May 2013), Global Peace Workshop in Turkey (July 2013) with close to 100 youths mobilised through this platform.

Challenges

Like every project, this one has experienced setbacks, disappointments and challenges. Firstly the initial approach to commence delivering this project abroad met with frustration, waste of money, time and disappointments.

But the approach was changed to starting locally and then gradually mobilise for national and international delivery. Despite this, challenges included:

- ▣ Difficulty raising funds for session logistics, but this was managed by partnering with organisations who had similar projects and objectives who had funding to cover expenses and partnered with organisations who could provide free venues and resources
- ▣ Difficulty in sustaining youths interests in carrying on with project activities in their respective countries voluntarily
- ▣ Low level of information and knowledge about the field which led to increased time in training, coaching and developing youths in the scope of project and mobilising for international forums

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