

DISASTER

- WHO - Any occurrence that causes ecological disruption, loss of human life or deterioration of health services on a scale sufficient to warrant response, from outside the affected area

Colin Grant Catastrophe causing injuries simultaneously to at least 30 people, who requires an emergency treatment

Disaster risk $\text{Hazards} \times \text{Vulnerability Factor}$

Hazards - has potential to cause damage or disruption

World Disaster Reduction Day - 2nd Wednesday of October

- Levels of disaster - 4 levels - 1st
- Manmade disasters 1. Sudden

disasters

a . Bhopal gas tragedy

Normal Scenario District level State level
National level (NDRF) 13 dec 1984 at
Union Carbide pesticide plant Released-Methyl
Isocyanate

6 Chernobyl nuclear power station in Soviet
Union

26 April 1986/Released - Iodine 131, Cesium
134 & 137 & Strontium 90. Insidious
disasters - Global warming, Wars or in
Research labs or Chemical plants

- Disasters in India-Northern mountain region
Snow storms, landslides, earthquakes

Eastern coastal region - floods & cyclones

Western desert areas - Droughts/super cyclone
in

Orissa-1999

Severe earthquake in Gujarat 2001

Tsunami in Indian Ocean 2004

Major earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir 2005

- Post Disaster phase.

Diseases common in post disaster phase

- Gastroenteritis (most common)
- ARI (Pneumonia)

◦ Leptospirosis/Rickettsiosis/Rabies/Equine encephalitis

WHO recommendation of vaccines in post disaster areas

Health workers - Typhoid, Cholera & Td

General population - NONE

- Most practical & effective strategy of disease prevention & control - supplying safe drinking water & disposal of excreta

Foremost step of disease prevention & control-

chlorination of all water bodies

level of residual chlorine maintained > 0.7 mg/l
Most common micronutrient deficiency -
Vitamin A (as relief diets are deficient in
Vitamin A)

Measles is the highest priority vaccine for
children in disaster affected areas as
measles can deplete vitamin A stores (which
is already deficient in disaster relief diets)