

STORIES OF IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING IN JOS, NIGERIA.

Being a report of the international disaster response capacity building workshop

**ORGANIZED BY
GLOBAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT MISSION**



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Stories of Impact of the International Disaster Response Training in Jos, Nigeria.

Executive Summary

The International Disaster Response training workshop was organized through a shared collaboration between Global Relief Nigeria, HISG, USA (Humanitarian International Services Group), AAN USA (Angels Alert Network), NEMA North Central Zonal Office (National Emergency Management Agency) and Plateau State SEMA (State Emergency Management Agency)

Six modules were covered during the week long training which held from 26th – 30th July 2011 at the Conference Hall of Inter-gender Development Center, Rayfield, Jos plateau State. The modules covered include:

1. International Disaster Response (IDR)
2. Safety & Security
3. First Aid
4. Disaster Risk Reduction
5. Seeds for Sustainable Change (A model for personal Transformation)
6. HIST (Holistic Integrated Sustainable Transformation; an asset based model for community transformation)

93 participants attended the workshop representing 33 organizations from government and private sectors. See below a few stories of the impact of this training on some participants.

Project Activities

The major activities carried out to implement the project were as follows:

1. Mobilization and registration of Trainees: Global Relief facilitated delegate invitations to the workshop, coordinating with NEMA north central zone, Plateau SEMA and other civil

society and community organizations. In all 105 registered to be trained. 93 eventually participated.

2. Training of all registered Trainees: The training took off on Tuesday the 26th and ran through Saturday the 30th closing daily at about 4.30pm daily.
3. De-briefing and Evaluations: participants completed daily evaluation sheets as evaluation mechanism for daily learning. A final evaluation was also conducted on the last day of the training to assess the impact of the training on participants and also to draw recommendations for future trainings. As part of de-briefing, a 13-person post training communiqué committee was set up to develop a training communiqué detailing lessons and principles learned as well as recommendations for action. All participants trained were enlisted into the IDRN (International Disaster Response Network) and the ADRRN (Africa Disaster Reduction and Response Network).
4. Report writing: A narrative and financial report was also completed by Global Relief and submitted to HISG.

Training Methodology & Post training activities

Training methodology: The training was offered using highly interactive and participatory methods including:

1. Class coordination through a democratic process of electing class officials and setting of class rules and regulations. Dr. Rufus Okedare won the highest votes above two other nominees to emerge the class leader. The class succeeded in effecting many of the rules set up especially the rule on lateness to class.
2. Small group discussions and scenario exercises. This brought down home the lessons taught by trainers as participants engaged in various small group exercises.
3. Use of audio video aid and power-point presentations.
4. Participatory question and answer sessions. Questions were written out and passed on for answers after each presentation.
5. Completion of daily personal evaluation form to assess daily performance and make improvement for each training day. Participants completed daily evaluation forms. The evaluation forms helped provide feedbacks on what participants were learning and also helped improving the planning of each training day.

Post Training Actions: At the end of the training, the following were done:

1. Participants were mobilized into the IDRN (International Disaster Response Network). A Photograph of each participant was taken to make an IDRN badge.

2. Participants were also mobilized into an already existing local disaster reduction and response network, the Africa Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN) to provide local expression of networking for disaster reduction and response. International disaster response is not possible within experience in local disaster response.
3. A thirteen (13) man post workshop communiqué development committee was also selected by the class and mandated to develop a training communiqué detailing lessons and principles learnt during the training as well as recommendations for future trainings and the action steps to be taken to ensure the implementation of such lessons and recommendations made.

Story One: Training impact on Mrs. Vou Shom & The CBD-NGO Forum



Mrs. Shom taking a photo for IDRN badge



Mrs. Shom taking notes during a training session

Introduction:

Mrs. Vou Shom is the CEO of the Community-Based Development NGOs Forum, a leading national network of NGOs and Civil Society organizations in Nigeria. The forum is a multi-sectoral network of over 150 civil society organizations involved in community based and people centered development in the middle belt and northern region of Nigeria.

Here is her story of the impact of the IDRN training on her as a person, her family, the network she leads and the communities the member organizations work.

Some key lessons I have learned in the cause of the international Disaster response training are:

- 1. Disaster Management begins first with me, then my family and then the community.*
- 2. Successful management of disaster risk must make one to Be - Alert, Be- Aware and to have a Plan.*
- 3. Community development can be likened to the soil which provides structure for the roots, security for the plant and nurture which facilitates its growth. The lesson learned here is that we need each other in the family and community irrespective of our status and ability. Everyone has something they can contribute to develop their community. If only a few people are carried along, then the development process will fail.*
- 4. We must be prepared, have a plan and build relationships to be able to cope and manage disasters when they occur in our community.*

I have also been challenged by some of the following issues:

- 1. That I must consider my personal security first before I can help others during a disaster.*
- 2. Relief is good but people need to be taught how to fish and not just giving them a fish. Empowerment is very important.*
- 3. The BINGOs and NGOs have not helped communities in the past through poor development methods. We need to review our approach by building in sustainability and reproducibility into our projects and activities, not just in disaster management.*
- 4. Community development is not the issue of "I" or "Me" and "Myself". It is an issue of relationship, which is built before disaster occurs.*

Regarding her impression on the workshop, Vou says:

This workshop is timely and an eye-opener! It has helped us to look at community development and disaster management from a different point. CBD-NGO staff in attendance will have to step down this training for other staff and members of the network. This training should be replicated in other states of Nigeria.

On the value of the training and its worth if asked to pay a fee in the future to participate, she adds the following:

This training has increased our knowledge in disaster management, so paying a fee for it in the future would not be a bad idea. CBD-NGO Forum will be willing to pay a fee for staff and will also encourage member organizations to pay a fee for their staff to participate in future trainings. We also suggest that participating members should be made to pay a fee rather than making it free.

She concludes with the following recommendations to HISG, Global Relief & AAN:

We recommend that the three organizations should facilitate and coordinate the disaster response network. They should also help coordinate advocacy to government and other stakeholders for disaster management. We also recommend that all issues to be raised in the communiqué should be implemented. More organizations should be trained to become trainers within plateau state and outside the state. We also add that CSOs should be encouraged to create awareness and sensitization on disaster management and risk reduction in their focal project communities. CSOs should also mainstream DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and disaster management in the projects and policies of their organizations.

Story Two: IDR training impact on Mr. Peter Dungji & Pro-health International



Peter taking a photo for the IDRN Badge.



Peter in Brown short sleeve shirt on table one taking notes during a small group discussion session.

INTRODUCTION

Peter Dunji is the administrative officer of Pro-health International. Pro-Health was established 20 years ago and is a leading Christian medical relief mission providing qualitative and quantitative free healthcare services to poor communities around Africa. Pro-health is based in Jos, Nigeria.

Here is his story of the impact of the IDRN training in Nigeria on Peter Dunji:

The most strategic lesson I learnt is that relationships during disasters can ease the negative impact in any given society. When we trust each other to watch our back/each other's back, it goes a long way in attending to any kind of disaster that may befall us all.

Secondly, the creator created no "junk"! Everyone is valuable and important in every given community. All humans are assets in any given location on the face of the earth. For community development to be holistic, the nurturing components (ie love, encouragement, joy etc) should be employed.

Seeds will always produce after their kind.

Every community has an asset (SWOT concept)

On the most challenging issues encountered during the training, Peter outlines the following:

- 1. The phrase "do not expect help" is the most challenging issue to me during the training. During disasters, help that we so need should come from ourselves first not from elsewhere. For starfish network, there is need for us all to live our lives as a network. Disaster without a seed for sustainable change can lead to total breakdown of any community impacted by disaster.*
- 2. Knowing that poverty is a result of broken relationships globally.*
- 3. If we are donor driven, we will be driven by anything!*
- 4. Hand-up is far better than hand outs.*
- 5. People who want to nurture people should be in government.*
- 6. Me, myself and I attitude is unhealthy to a community.*

On his recommendation to HISG, Global Relief & AAN, Peter writes as follows:

HISG, Global Relief, AAN, NEMA and SEMA should concretize their network arrangements. National/State emergency bodies should educate people more on their activities to their

immediate communities. A lot of people including myself do not know anything about their activities if not for this workshop!

Peter concludes with the following remarks:

- 1. Thanks for the free, yet rich workshop. It has impacted my life positively and I made a lot of friends.*
- 2. Participation of participants was commendable but declined on Friday and Saturday ie the last day. Can the number of days in future be reduced to three?*
- 3. Punctuality of participants was commendable.*
- 4. Norm – you are a seed for sustainable change in this world. You have made my day by saying sorry concerning the wrongs on Africans by your fore-fathers.*

Story three: IDRN training impact on Mson Maclkpah



Introduction

My name is Mson Maclkpah, I am a production and marketing manager at Apurimac Onlus, a non-governmental organization that strives to improve the quality of life of the impoverished in our society by teaching youth and women skills that can make them self reliant such as computer skills, tailoring, catering, hair dressing etc...

One of the most strategic lessons I have learnt during this week is in the area of preparedness, being prepared and being well informed about possible solutions to certain situations before they happen.

Another strategic lesson I have learnt is my decision when faced with a particular situation, how I choose to let the situation affect me and how I effect change in that situation.

This may sound cunning but when Norm mentioned that money was not the answer to many of our problems, that hit me, because I always said to myself I'll effect change in certain areas when I have so much money but through this program, I have come to realize I can start right now.

The International disaster response workshop has been such an eye-opener. So many issues I thought were trivial were raised in this workshop in the area of security, response to situations and affecting change by going back to the root of issues. The workshop has been fantastic!

IDRN Nigeria Pictures



Outdoor group pictures of participants.



Participants hold hands in an indoor group picture demonstrating a commitment to networking for disaster reduction and response.



A participant from the Nigerian fire service raising issues during a question & answer sessions.



Time for small group brainstorming and exercise session



Brandon Hodges of AAN leads a class exercise for a car robbery scenario during a safety & security session.



Norm Brinkley, HISG International Director Africa/Middle East, teaches the “Rule of Threes” for surviving a disaster during the IDRN session.



Frank Fretzo of AAN teaching safety during disaster



Peter Akanimoh, Executive Director of Global Relief teaching integration of disaster risk reduction activities into all phases of the disaster cycle.



Participants present gifts to trainers in appreciation for their resourcefulness and friendship.



Class leader Dr. Rufus Okedare receives a certificate of participation.

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