SOFADECCA\(^1\) appears in different publications with National and international appeal in regards to Disaster Risk Reduction namely:

- Kenya Disaster Management Policy
- Fire Manual
- UNISDR Training package on Natural Hazards and Early Warning OF Trainers of Trainers

\(^1\) www.sofadecca.org

Youths in Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental, Preparedness and Resilience Ambassadors (YDRR-EPRA)
WOMEN MOST VULNARABLE

Figure 1 - Sofadecca women youths taking a rest at Migori Municipal Stadium Nyanza Province Kenya after a long day training session. 3 Months intense training in Disaster management, Climate Change, Response to Emergency, Search, Rescue and Recovery processes. The Trained young women responders handle women and children matters and Disaster Risk Reduction education in their villages. They form part of SOFADECCA YOUTH MOVEMENT.

SOFADECCA is committed to ensure that communities’ awareness is taken to another level through engaging the youths. When communities are trained in probable risks, they will be able to identify the Hazards and its mitigations. Knowledge is to enhance preparedness and help build a resilient community.

Nairobi is not among 33 cities categorized as the most resilient by Rockefeller Foundation, in Africa only Dakar-Senegal and Durban-South Africa are categorized as safe in Africa. The main aim of making Nairobi resilient is to make its population safe and be a suitable environment for investment for sustainable development.

2 https://plus.google.com/107758474851169173359/posts/5o6TEEmsSPH

3 http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/blog/entry/33-resilient-cities-announced?fb_action_ids=779308042095582&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=aggregation&fb_aggregation_id=288381481237582
SOFADECCA
CITIES RESILIENCE TO DISASTER
Youths in Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Preparedness and Resilience
Ambassadors (YDRR-EPRA)
NAIROBI COUNTY DRR TRAINING PROGRAMME
5TH OCTOBER-5TH NOVEMBER 2014

SOFADECCA is a Society of Fire and Disaster Emergency Community Conflict Agency; we are registered under section 10 of the Society Act of Kenya. The organization is mandated with a responsibility to help build Disaster resilience and adaptation through, creation of awareness, Environmental preparedness and literacy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Fire Fighting both locally and internationally. Our activity is geared towards community capacity building through education and Training in line with Hyogo Frame Work for Action (2005-2015) in all 5 priority areas. We are members of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the organization General secretary Mr. Salim Juma Mirodho is the chairman of HFA priority 2 in Kenya. SOFADECCA appears in the proposed Disaster Management Policy in pg56 as the Co-Lead Agency in Fire, Accident and Public Safety which is headed by Co-Lead agency Ministry of Local Government.

Urban areas have different set up in terms of development, settlement, life style and governance. Within this setup there are a number of activities going on in government and private sector. While we appreciate the viability of Nairobi city and its strategic position in East Africa the challenges that comes with these activities is affecting our daily life either positively or negatively.

Nairobi like other cities across the Globe is facing various Disaster Hazards which are complex in nature. The interconnectedness and interdependent of these Risks identifies Nairobi as one of the cities most vulnerable to Disasters like Fire, Terrorism, Collapsed buildings, Petrol Tanks and intense pollution that results into complicated illnesses. There is need to understand these risks and how to reduce their effects if we want to continue living without fear. All our urban centers are facing surging population and settlement is not regulated the reason we have many slum areas with makeshifts all over without proper access roads and youths have been used in illegal allocation of small pieces of land known as “MRADI” making the already volatile situation more exposed to Hazards like fire. One major example of the incidents of fire that might have been avoided is Sinai Fire that claimed many lives and property of the most vulnerable poor. The majority of the victims were children, women and youths who comprise the bigger percentage of the informal settlements areas.

4 www.sofadecca.org
In building resilience, we have come up with a programme that is mainly targeting Youths all gender and children. The focus is on youths going by their vulnerability. Youths need to be fully involved in discussions on DRR and HFA2 as the successor frame work of HFA1. They are not only the future but represent the majority of the society in many parts in Africa (in future, the majority of the population in Urban areas in Africa will be below 25 Years of age). 

**CIVIL SOCIETY, YOUTHS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Disaster Risk Reduction is a responsibility of all stakeholders and SOFADECCA is bringing in the Youths in this discussion by equipping them with relevant education and training for proper understanding of Disaster Risk and Management. With proper training Youths will be able to help in identification of Risks and create awareness at the community where they live. Youths are dynamic in ways of thinking and creative and innovative. Our youths fits well in technological world than the elderly and educating them equals to teaching their respective parents unlike vice versa and besides they have the capacity to volunteer and respond.

Youths normally have the tendency of forming crowd around the scenes of crime and disasters; this is because of lack of knowledge due to marginalization. SOFADECCA as a civil society is breaking this barrier by reaching the youths through this programme and this will create awareness and the trend will slowly disappear. In order to effectively involve the public in participating in the policy framework for DRR, education and training is a must and informs the main objective of this programme.

The Local government lacks the capacity to carry out the Disaster Risk Reduction effectively and this has slowed down the capacity and resilience building both in the rural and urban areas. The Local government must encourage the participation of the youths in all areas and divert their attention from non productive to a more useful one.

SOFADECCA carried out the pilot programme so successfully in several districts in Nyanza and managed to train many youths in the rural areas and this is now extended to urban areas under the call “Cities Resilience to Disaster”.

Our youths are faced with all sorts of challenges while trying to make a living in the city. Some end up in drug due to peer influence and marginalization by the society. By targeting this population, SOFADECCA consider incorporating Youths in Disaster Risk Reduction and after training form them groups and opens an account for them where they can now start other economic activities and encourage the culture of table banking while at the same time remain active in response to Disaster through SOFADECCA well coordinated disaster response approach. This is one big call and a game changer for our youths and the general population and we are encouraging private entities interested to partner with us towards enhancing Nairobi city resilience to Disaster through this programme.
LESIONS FROM PHILIPPINE TYPHOON HAIYAN TRAGEDY

The tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan in Philippine is an eye opener for any Government across the Globe. The World is perturbed by the millions of deaths recorded so far and the degree of the damage caused by this unfortunate Disaster. The country response team is overwhelmed calling for external support in all areas of Response, Search, Rescue and there after Recovery.

In this very unfortunate happening we have learnt very bitter lessons and this is a wakeup call in order to realize where we are wrong. In this very unfortunate scenario of DEATH CRACKING WHEEP in Philippine, the world is learning from one unique area called Municipality of San Francisco. This is one region that was falling directly on the path of the Storm same as Leyte region where death scale was beyond imagination. San Francisco and tiny Island called Tulang Diyot recorded Zero casualties in a Typhoon in this scale.

We are learning that the reason of many deaths in Leyte was due to lack of understanding of what a storm surge is, so people were caught by surprise with the huge tidal waves that engulfed houses. The story of how San Francisco and Tulang Diyot survived the storm is good news. The 2 communities have been doing disaster preparedness drill since 2010 based on three main ideas;

- Awareness

5 https://plus.google.com/107758474851169173359/posts/5o6TEEmsSPH

6 communities are vulnerable and youths are the drive to reach out

7 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk11Y4l-rHg
The former Mayor of San Francisco Alfred Arquillano jr, award winning disaster Management Advocate of Sasakawa Award of 2011 by the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction for adopting international Standard of Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction, said “Teach people how to look after themselves and empower them, he added “We will also need assistance on livelihood and TRAINING because people need these opportunities to live sustainably.

Island of San Francisco and Leyte are like two sides of a Coin, whereby one is resilient to Disaster and the other is not and highly vulnerable while all face the same Risks. With this programme we are embarking on a JOURNEY of making the entire country and our cities to be the Island of San Francisco and Tulang Diyot of Kenya. It is very simple; we only need to adopt the three pillars of the two Islands through copying methodologies on these areas i.e.

- Awareness
- Information Dissemination
- Empowering the people.

SOFADECCA believe in PAMOJA TUNA WEZA (together we can) and is open to welcome any proposal for partnership with government, other organizations and private entities to make it possible. We may have different responsibilities and independent in our approaches which has brought us this far, but there is need to heed to the opening remarks of Secretary General of United Nations during the opening of High Level Event on the World Humanitarian Summit in New York on 26/09/2013 that “The only way to meet future needs is through effective and innovative partnership with government, nongovernmental organizations, local communities and new partner like the private partners and Philanthropy”. This is what SOFADECCA has already put in place and inviting all to join.

NOTE: The training Toolkit is developed by SOFADECCA and the National Risk Reduction Platform through the Ministry of State and Special Programme (now a department in Ministry of interior and coordination of government).

It is on this call that we are inviting International NGOs, Kenya Government, individual(s), Private sector(s) to come partner with us and those willing to support the programme financially can send their Donations to.

Bank-Cooperative Bank
Name-Society of Fire and Disaster Emergency Community Conflict Agency
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