Social Protection and Climate change in the SADC 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Social Work Preparedness for displacement in Botswana

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INTRODUCTION

Social work practice with individuals, groups, and communities is meant to enhance their social function and reduce related barriers. by the assessment of individual, group, and community factors that contributes to their vulnerability to disaster threats.

Disasters unless mitigated, have the tendency to damage infrastructure, homes, injure people or cause death (Maripe, 2016). Recent Idai, about 400,000 were internally displaced. A national state of emergency was declared.

SW must provide measures by which social work practitioners would adopt to manage evacuations and displacement of any nature (Maripe, 2015). This process of temporal or permanent evacuation must adhere and promote human rights of the affected individuals and communities.
Community based social work is part of the generalist social work practice works to improve, restore, maintain, or enhance the social functioning of clients (Ambrosino et al, 2012).

Therefore, community based social work must engage communities to identify hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks.

Community development process must not ignore disasters and related consequences, including displacement. The prevalent disasters and the frequency of exposure have to be assessed by the community.

Assessment enables communities to prioritize and design relevant response measures to contain disaster episodes and related threats, including displacement.
Community based social work practice

The target is to enable communities to generate income, resources, and social support development to cushion in times of displacement or emergencies.
In 2009 about 800 persons were displaced which kept on raising to 2000 in 2014 then declining to 200 in 2015 (World Bank, 2016). Disaster displacement puts pressure on those already under difficult conditions. The fear of loss of life, property, and discomfort associated with being forced out of normal habitation is painful and stressful on the affected and displaced.

**DISASTER** refers to a “serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.” (UNISDR, 2019).
Types of Disasters

The rapid onset disasters are the most pronounced in terms of displacement.

**SUDDEN-ONSET DISASTERS** comprise hydro meteorological hazards such as flooding, windstorms or mudslides, and geophysical hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis or volcano eruptions.

**SLOW-ONSET DISASTERS** relate to environmental degradation processes such as droughts and desertification, increased salinization, rising sea levels or thawing of permafrost (UNISDR, 2019). These are projected to increase because of climate change and populations affected will increase by 2050 in Africa.

Climate variability and change related extreme events, have resulted in increased livestock, crop and human diseases; crop failures and reduced crop production, livestock deaths, displacement, and land degradation.
Social Work Preparedness

Social worker must identify and map the hazards, risks, and vulnerability, work with communities to develop an emergency response plan for evacuation and displacement.

It should specify the lineaments of action, collaboration, command, and communication during a civil contingency such as a disaster or major event; in other words, it is the framework for emergency response (Alexander, 2015).

Although the internally displaced are accommodated in classrooms, community halls, and given tents, the preparedness to manage displacement is inadequate.

This must reduce the effects of the drivers of vulnerabilities and ensure the safety of community members and the displaced.
SW preparedness must deal with vulnerability

Drivers of vulnerability are Frequent hazards* (droughts, dry spells, floods);

Environmental and land degradation; animal and crop diseases and pests that negatively impact on production; Human disease (e.g. malaria) that lowers labour availability for production and food utilization;

High population density increasing demand for food compared to production potential; eroded livelihoods and increase in urban population and slums; malfunctioning markets, trade policies and high food prices; poverty; weak institutional capacity and low access to basic services; conflict resulting from political differences and trans-boundary competition over resources; and impacted by climate.
References


Reference

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THANK YOU!

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