Part II

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment for Floods in the Caribbean



Introduction

An Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment (EHRnA) is conducted to determine immediate resource needs of an affected area. The EHRnA is designed to provide a snapshot of the potential need for resources, so that decisions can be quickly made about how much and what resources should be activated. An EHRnA is undertaken, by a small team whose objective is, to provide information that will determine critical resource requirements to support emergency response activities.

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment tools are the basic operational data gathering instruments used by the EHRnA team to collect information in an uncomplicated but precise manner. The structure and design of the assessment forms must reflect this.

The EHRnA tools are used within an operational plan. This plan must include:

- Linkages and relationships with the national health sector disaster management plan and the national disaster response agency.
- · Primary and secondary target assessment areas
- Assessment of priorities
- Fastest method available for undertaking the assessment (e.g. air, ground)
- Identification of assessors
- Team roster
- Reporting timeframes
- Communications procedures
- Safety and security procedures
- Emergency action procedures
- Dispute resolution procedures

EHRnA TEAM OPERATIONAL PLAN TEMPLATE

Incident: Flood conditions – give quantitative and qualitative details where possible.

Include estimates of flood period, recovery period, aquatic vegetation develop-

ment etc.

Location: Give coordinates, dimensions of affected area. Ensure that there is an esti-

mate of the affected population - Description of Land use (housing, agricul-

tural, etc)

Date: Self-explanatory

Team: Indicate members and areas of expertise

Objectives: Determine primary and secondary targets after full consultation and agree-

ment with national disaster response agency.

Strategies: Designate lead assessors

Clearly identify assignments of the assessors

• Note method of transportation

Record reporting times

· Include safety and security concerns

· Document any unusual circumstances or instructions

EHRnA Team Reporting

Three reports are required for any EHRnA team. These are:

- 1. Assessment forms
- 2. Consolidated report
- 3. Final report

EHRnA Assessment Forms

The assessment form is the principal tool used to collect and relay information to decision makers who in turn will put into operation the mobilization of adequate resources to address the immediate needs of the affected area (s). It is vital therefore, that information in the assessment forms is complete and concise. Templates of these forms are included in this document.

EHRnA Consolidated Report

The EHRnA team leader and the coordinator of the National Health Sector have responsi-

bility for taking the information from the various assessor forms and collating the findings into a Consolidated Report. The Consolidated Report should provide an overview of the impacted area resource immediate needs and the issues faced by the flood-affected areas and must be directed to the appropriate body that will immediately mobilize resources as recommended. It is important that the reports be forthcoming within 24 hours of the occurrence.

EHRnA TEAM CONSOLIDATED REPORT TEMPLATE

Report Number:

Event:

Date, time and Location:

Reporting Period:

Overview:

Describe the area affected by the flood, indicating the boundaries of the most severely affected areas.

Situation Assessment:

This is a narrative that outlines the most critical issues, as determined by team leader and the National Disaster Response Agency designee. Some emphasis should also be placed of other imminent hazards that could exacerbate the situation and cause additional response requirements.

Key areas to be reported on include: Population affected, general health situation, basic health needs, (water, food).

Recommendations:

The recommendations are extracted from the Assessment Forms. The focus must be placed on the most critical issues identified during the assessment phase, clearly identifying the resources required.

Annexes:

Any addition information that would enhance the content of the report should be attached. The individual Forms should also be attached to this report.

Verification:

Team leader and the National Disaster Response Agency designee must sign the document.

Final Report

Each EHRnA Team deployed after the flood event must submit a final Report within the time frame specified by the Team Leader. The Team Leader compiles this report, which is used to assess how effectively and efficiently the assessment operation was undertaken. The report should seek to identify impeding factors to the deployment and suggest corrective measures for the future.

EHRNA TERMINAL REPORT TEMPLATE

Event:

Date:

Introduction: The following Final Report is that of the EH Rapid Needs Assessment

team that conducted an initial EH assessment following:

Issue: A one sentence statement

Background: Give a brief description of the issue, context, disaster response and list

of challenges - Public Health problems

Recommendations: Detail recommendations in relation to challenges outlined, specifically

the issues outlined below.

1. The activation process

2. The mobilization process

3. On-site operations

4. Reassignment and/or demobilization

5. Post-mission activities

6. Organisational effectiveness

7. An assessment of the EHRnA tools used

8. An assessment of policies and procedures

The Team Leader must sign the document

The EHRnA Team

An EHRnA team should be deployed immediately during flood event, as long as conditions permit (e.g. an approaching tropical storm) and immediately after the occurrence of a flooding episode. The team should be comprised of small groups of competent experts.

Each team may be comprised of three sections. Specifically, these are (1) a management unit, (2) an assessment unit and (3) a support unit.

Management Unit

The Management Unit supervises and coordinates the assessment and support units and bears responsibility for the coordination of the EHRnA. The unit comprises:

- A team leader, the chief officer responsible for environmental health
- A member of the National Health Disaster Management Coordination Unit
- The Environmental Health Officer with responsibility for the flooded region.

The team leader has overall responsibility for EHRnA operations and provides the linkages to the national health emergency response agency.

The Environmental Health Officer is responsible for providing local knowledge of the flooded area.

Assessment Unit

The Assessment Unit should include experts that can be drawn from a cross section of the society. These are the individuals that actually perform the EHRnA.

In each case the designated expert within the unit must determine or estimate the resources required to ensure the maintenance of acceptable environmental health standards.

The Assessment Team could be comprised of up to six persons:

• A water and sanitation expert

The water and sanitation expert assesses the distribution status and safety of the potable water supply where appropriate he/she will take water samples. In addition he/she is required to assess the status of excreta and solid waste disposal systems, as well as the number, type and capacity for disposal of dead animals and cadavers. He/she must clearly identify and estimate the immediate needs.

• A food safety and hygiene expert

The food safety and hygiene expert assesses the state of food supplies, availability, safety and distribution within the flood-affected region. In addition they are responsible for assessing the requirements for personal domestic hygiene and survival within the flood-affected zone. They must clearly identify and estimate the immediate needs of this sector and where necessary take samples for laboratory analysis.

• A vector and rodent control expert

An infectious disease professional or entomologist if possible holds responsibility for assessing the resource requirements for vector and rodent control in the immediate and near

future. They must clearly identify and estimate the immediate needs.

A hazardous materials expert

The hazardous materials expert assesses hazardous materials sites and facilities and their potential for impacting the public in the flooded area. This expert identifies the type of hazard, the contamination threat and the areas under threat. They must clearly identify and estimate the immediate needs.

Logistician

The logistician determines the immediate requirements for the provision of food, shelter, water and sanitary needs for displaced members of the affected population. In addition they assess the amount of relief and emergency first aid along with volunteer capacity. Logicians must also assess needs related to clean-up operations.

• A public health doctor, medical/epidemiological expert

The medical expert assesses all relevant health care infrastructure and primary care systems, emergency medical services along with any special medical requirements. They must be able to set up ASAP epidemiological surveillance system for affected populations.

Support Unit

The support unit provides both logistical and administrative support to the assessment unit.

Forms

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Drinking Water Quality and Quantity

Water Quality and Quantity	Type/Cause of Flood	Reporting Unit	Form
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations Period:	Date/Time Prepared:	Prepared by:
Location:	No. of Households	Est	. Size of Pop
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rural	[] Industrial
Observation Operation Agency/Organization: Survey Method: [] Aerial GPS Location:	[] Ground Surve	ey [] Interview	
Debris Removal Are areas where you need emels there local capacity to remove Have all emergency routes be Estimated quantity of debris to	en identified?	[] Yes []	No [] Unknown No [] Unknown No [] Unknown
Drinking Water Quality and Q	uantity		
Is distribution system operation Has water been contaminated Will potable water be required Is alternative water supply avails chlorine available for disinful Are field kits available for water How much potable water will Are tankers/trucks available to	? [] Yes ? [] Yes ilable? [] Yes ection? [] Yes er testing? [] Yes be needed? (20L/person/day) _	[] No [] No [] No [] No [] No	[] Unknown
Potable Water Systems			• •
[] Wells [] Springs [] Water Treatment Plant Number of facilities affected (Name of Facility: Location: Extent of damage: []	Most destroyed [] Mainor damage [] In [] High ———————————————————————————————————	ajor damage use [] Moderate [] Lo Days W. [] No [] Ur	ow /eeks
Response Actions			
Priority: [] High	[] Low		
Team Leader	Date	Time	stribution:

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Vectors and Vermin

Vectors and Vermin				_	
	Type/Cause of Flood	Reporting Uni	it	Form	
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations Period:	Date/Time Prepared:	a.	Prepared by:	
Location:	No. of Households		Est. Size		
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rural		[] Industrial	
Observation Operation Agency/Organization: Survey Method: [] Aerial GPS Location:	[] Ground Surv	vey [] Interv	view		
If yes, give details of most pre	usly present in the affected area? evelant locations and estimate no	umbers:		o [] Unknown	
Are flies, mosquitoes and other insect pests present in large enough numbers to cause concern? Flies [] Yes [] No [] Unsure Mosquitoes [] Yes [] No [] Unsure Other insect pests [] Yes [] No [] Unsure Identify "other insect pests": Recommend control measures for these insect pests, and provide details such as quantities of substances to be used where applicable and necessary equipment:					
Removal of Potential Vector H	labitat				
Is there significant water settlement in areas adjacent to or close to areas of human habitation? [] Yes					
Are there exposed piles of refuse, dead animals or putrescible material? [] Yes [] No [] Unsure If yes, estimate the amount of debris to be removed, and indicate below the resources required for such:					
Response Actions					
Priority: [] High	[] Low				
Team Leader	Date	Time	Distribu	tion:	

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Food Safety

Food Safety	T 10 (F)	5 II	_		
	Type/Cause of Flood	Reporting Unit	Form		
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations Period:	Date/Time Prepared:	Prepared by:		
Location:	No. of Households	Est. Size	·		
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rural	[] Industrial		
Observation Operation					
Agency/Organization:		nu [] I Indonvious			
Survey Method: [] Aerial GPS Location:	[] Ground Surve	ey [] Interview			
Food Handling Establishment	s				
No. storage sites []		Other processing site []			
	to any of the facilities? []		[] Unknown		
If yes, describe the extent of the	he damage:				
Can operations continue?		available? [] Yes [] No			
Requirements to optimize/res	sume operations?		<u>. </u>		
cc .ll	1.				
Est. quantities of food by weig requiring processing/heating		geration []			
ready to serve cold []		or storage/power failure []		
lost due to contamination [medial action is taken []			
	e number of persons requiring fo	ood assistance?			
Estimate food requirements if	• •				
Operations					
'	monitoring, have any critical poi	• •	No []		
Can remedial action be taken What would be required to ac		Yes []	No []		
Risk from Sewage/excreta					
Is there a sewerage system?	[] Yes	[] No			
If yes, has the system been da		[] No Unknow	n []		
Est. no. of houses with septic					
Est. no. of houses with pit latrines [] How many damaged? []					
Risk from Industrial Activity					
Is there industrial activity in the area? [] Yes [] No					
If yes, describe location and possible types contamination:					

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Food Safety (cont.)

Equipment/Supplies			
Are field kits available for analysis of floodwater?	[] Yes	No []	Unknown []
If no, what is required?			
Have food supplies encountered floodwater?	Yes []	No []	
If yes, is there equipment to ascertain contamination in the food?	Yes []	No []	
If no, indicate resources required:			
Are there adequate supplies of cleaning products and apparatus?	Yes []	No []	
If no, list requirements:			
Drinking Water Quality and Quantity			
Is there risk of microbiological contamination of drinking water?	Yes []	No []	
Is there risk of chemical contamination in drinking water?	Yes []	No []	
Is sufficient water stored (20L/person/day)	Yes []	No []	
Response Actions			
-			
Priority: [] High [] Low			
Team Leader Date Ti	me	Distribution:	

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Sanitation and Hygiene

Sanitation and Hygiene	Type/Cause of Flood	Reporting Un	it	Form		
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations Period:	Date/Time Prepared:	Prepared by:			
Location:	No. of Households	<u> </u>	Est. Size	of Pop		
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rura		[] Industrial		
Observation Operation Agency/Organization: Survey Method: [] Aerial GPS Location:	[] Ground Surve	ey []Inter	view			
Has the water been tested for:	Water Supply Management Is regular water supply present? [] Yes [] No Has the water been tested for: Residual Chlorine [] Turbidity [] Microbiological Quality []					
Indicate values:	Chlorine	Turbidity	MicroB			
Do values indicate acceptable If no, suggest disinfection me		[] No				
If there is no regular supply, how is water supplied? truck [] tanker [] Other [] Is a field test kit available for water testing? Yes [] No [] Water has been tested for: Residual Chlorine [] Turbidity [] Microbiological Quality []						
Indicate values:	Chlorine	Turbidity		MicroB		
Do values indicate acceptable quality? [] Yes [] No If no, suggest disinfection method:						
Are shelters being used/occupied? Have the water containers been examined? I yes I yes I yes I No Is volume adequate to supply 20 L/person/day? I yes I yes						
Response Actions Priority: [] High [] Low Distribution:						
Team Leader	Date	Time	Distribu	tion:		

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Sanitation and Hygiene

Excreta Disposal and Personal Hygiene	Type/Course of Flood	Demonstrate Units		Form		
Flood # (for area this year):	Type/Cause of Flood Operations Period:	Reporting Unit		Prepared by:		
· · · ·	No. of Households	<u>' ' '</u>		, ,		
Location:			Est. Size	·		
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rural		[] Industrial		
Observation Operation						
Agency/Organization:						
Survey Method: [] Aerial	[] Ground Surv	ey [] Inter	view			
GPS Location:						
Excreta Disposal and Persona	l Hygiene					
Is there a sewerage/excreta di		Yes [] No				
If yes, has the system been da		Yes [] No)	[] Unknown		
Est. no. of houses with septic		w many damaged?				
Est. no. of houses with pit late		w many damaged?				
Have existing toilets been rep		Yes [] No				
Have exposed pit toilets been	• •	Yes [] No				
Have damaged septic tanks b		Yes [] No				
Have chemical toilets been us		Yes [] No				
Are basic sanitation services a	commended for construction?	Yes [] No	0			
[] Individual [] Colle						
	ave the following been considere	.d.				
	graphical conditions [] Prox		nmont			
	ence of surface or groundwater	illility to coastal ellville	Jillielli			
Are the ground conditions sui			[] Yes	[] No		
If no, are latrines with remova			[]Yes	[] No		
	transport of the excreta to a suita	able site for burial?	[]Yes	[] No		
	for the no. of persons at the sh		[] .05	[]		
(1 latrine per 25 women; 1 latr	· ·		[] Yes	[] No		
Are basic handwashing faciliti			[]Yes	[] No		
	ssible or located within close pro	ximity to latrines?	[] Yes	[] No		
	equate for the number of people:		[] Yes	[] No		
	or washing, cleaning and bathing		[] Yes	[] No		
Is water available in adequate			[] Yes	[] No		
Are the shelters overcrowded?			[] Yes	[] No		
Response Actions						
Response Actions						
Priority: [] High [] Low						
Team Leader	Date	Time	Distribut	tion:		
learn Leader	Date	Time				

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Sanitation and Hygiene

Solid Waste Management	Type	:/Cause of Flood	Reporting Unit		Form	
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations	,	Date/Time Prepared:	1 0		
Location:		No. of Households	, ,	Est. Size	of Pop	
Type of Area: [] Urban		[] Sub-urban	[] Rural		[] Industrial	
Observation Operation						
Agency/Organization:						
Solid Waste Management						
Access routes been restored? Debris has been cleared from roadways etc.? Waste collection services are available? I yes I yes I No A public advisory been issued to provide guidance for waste handling? Shelters been assessed for requirements for waste collection and disposal? I yes I yes I No Are solid waste containers well placed in the shelter e.g. on a wooden platform? I yes I No Is garbage adequately stored in containers temporarily until the service resumes? Are all solid waste containers fitted with covers? I yes I No Are the containers of suitable size? Are the numbers of solid waste containers adequate? Have arrangements been made for the removal and disposal of carcasses? I yes I No An inspection been carried out to determine the presence of hazardous materials? I yes I No Have arrangements been made for refuse collection from the shelter/households? I yes I No If collection & disposal services not available, has temporary site been identified? I yes I No						
Response Actions Priority: [] High [] Low						
Team Leader	Dat	e	Time	Distribut	ion:	

Environmental Health Rapid Needs Assessment: Chemical Hazards

Chemical Hazards				_
	Type/Cause of Flood	Reporting Un	it	Form
Flood # (for area this year):	Operations Period:	Date/Time Prepared:		Prepared by:
Location:	No. of Households		Est. Size	<u> </u>
Type of Area: [] Urban	[] Sub-urban	[] Rural		[] Industrial
Observation Operation				
Agency/Organization:				
Survey Method: [] Aerial	[] Ground Surv	vey [] Inter	view	
GPS Location:				
Release Information Source				
[] Highway [] Air Trans	•	•		ipeline [] Fixed Facility
	ound Storage Tank [] Above	e Ground Storage Tank	[][Inknown
Name of Fixed Facility: Other:				
	<u> </u>			
Material Type: (indicate type o	of container chemical is contain Type of substance	ed in e.g. plastic, meta Type of Contai		State of Container
Hazardous Substance	Type of substance	Type of Contai	nei	State of Container
Oil				
Unknown				
Other				
Estimated Quantity: (categorie	es determined by criteria develo	ped nationally)		
[] Catastrophic [] Major	[] Minor []] Unknown		
Media Affected:				
[] Air [] Land] Unknown		
Type of water body (e.g. sea, f	reshwater lagoon etc.):			
Responders Present:	[] I Indonesian If			
[] Yes [] No	[] Unknown If	yes, whom?		
Release contained:	[] Unknown If	yes, how?		
	[] OTIKITOWIT	ycs, 110w:		
Response Actions				
* is container leaking				
* call authorities in charge * decontamination needs				
<u>accontainmator riccus</u>				
Priority: [] High	[] Low			
, , ,	.,		Distribu	tion:
Team Leader	Date	Time	2.5000	



A Cronyms S

CEHI Caribbean Environmental Health Institute

CP Contingency Plan

CPT Contingency Planning Team

EH Environmental Health

FPA Flood Prone Areas

FRU Field Reporting Units

HACCP Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points

NDMC National Disaster Management Committee

PAHO Pan American Health Organization