DISASTER MITIGATION IN PUERTO RICO AFTER HURRICANE MARIA

C‌‌‌‍‍‌‍‍‌‍‌‍‌‍‍‌‌‌‌ase Study Assignment: Hurricane Maria Write a case study to analyze lesson learned from Hurricane Maria which was a major disaster in the [U.S](https://u.s/). Background This case study will be used to identify ways to improve the disaster management capacity in the [U.S](https://u.s/). It should allow the user to use information from this disaster to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current plans and activities in your United States. These Guidelines will help you research and write the case study. Case studies are a powerful tool for training and policy analysis. In training, case studies can encourage independent thinking and help the users organize and identify key facts and interrelationships and put themselves in the position of emergency managers. The case study approach can encourage team-work and group problem solving. As a policy analysis tool, case studies can suggest new hypotheses and highlight new areas for investigation. An appropriate level of detail and realism can help trigger sensitive and creative approaches. Case studies help users formulate their own responses to particular events and allow comparisons of alternative approaches to the same set of problems. Choosing the Disaster Disaster management therefore defines actions along the relief-to-development continuum with a special emphasis on mitigation. Therefore, choose a disaster which allows you to discuss more than just how relief was provided during the emergency phase. The disaster you choose should be of such a nature that information is available and accessible to you. Therefore, the first activity after selecting the disaster is to get as much background information as possible. This background information will allow you to become generally familiar with the event which will help you begin to identify the main points you wish to cover in the case study. You will probably find reports about the disaster in local newspapers. These articles will give you an overview of the disaster consequences and response, help you develop a specific chronology of events and will probably begin to highlight some of the main strengths and weaknesses of the response. To complement these articles, obtain any analyses that may have been conducted by disaster authorities in your country including government offices, NGOs, UN agencies, and bilateral donors. A list of possible background documents is included in Annex A. These background documents will help you develop a list of the persons and organizations important to disaster management in your country generally and the particular disaster you are researching specifically. These possible contacts are the persons with whom you will conduct interviews and from whom you will get other necessary documentation in preparing the case study. Annex B contains a list of possible contacts although, of course, each country and disaster are unique. Case studies must increase the learner’s familiarity with the context in which particular problems occur. Events should be described so that key issues are clear. The user should be able to analyze the material and decide how a particular situation might be managed and what the consequences of various decisions might be. Emphasize facts rather than opinions. Include multiple viewpoints to show how different agencies and groups perceive the same situation. Give a sense of the uncertainties, dilemmas, and ambiguities facing decision makers. When possible, link actions and decisions to consequences. The Case Study Outline Although the case study can take different forms and be organized in different ways, the following outline of topics is recommended based on the experiences to date with the DMTP. For each topic area possible discussion points are offered. These points are meant to guide you in completing the discussion and are neither mandated nor comprehensive. In general, information should only be included that is required for understanding disaster management issues connected with the chosen disaster. Don’t try to cover all the disaster management issues for the country. Concentrate on this disaster specifically. The following figures are symbolic representations of the disaster management cycle. Your narrative on the disaster should include information on each phase of that cycle as described below. Rapid onset disaster Slow onset disaster Figure One: Disaster Management Continuums 1. Describe the area of the country in which the disaster occurred. Characterize the community, citing population estimates and changes in population patterns over the last ten years. Describe the principal economic conditions. Include income generating activities, the industrial, agricultural and retail small business sector (with an emphasis on informal businesses). Identify religious and ethnic characteristics of the population noting any smoldering tensions between different population groups. Provide a map that details the general area where the disaster occurred and some summary information (usually brief) on the topography (rivers, land forms, etc.), climate, main towns, transport links, local government structure, and any special factors contributing to vulnerability or resulting in special capacities 2. Describe the disaster. Identify the hazard. Note any secondary hazards. In general it is best to avoid detailed scientific descriptions. Include damage and loss statistics across sectors. A list of UNDP sectors is included in Annex C. It is probable that you will not cover all sectors. Choose those which are most relevant for this disaster. Cite casualty statistics. Summarize the underlying reasons for particular casualty patterns. Epidemiological staff from the health ministry or WHO office may have this information. Describe damage to lifeline systems and critical facilities. Concentrate on serious damage with major secondary implications: blockage to a major access route; loss of broadcasting facilities; loss of broad band communications; widespread power failures; destruction of hospitals; damage to water systems in densely settled and poor urban areas, and so on. If known, identify the mid- to long-range economic effects of the disaster. Pay special attention to the housing and food related issues important to this disaster. Describe the disaster related health needs. 3. Describe the disaster preparedness and response organizational network. Provide as complete a description as possible of the formal disaster management system that the country uses, as it relates to this disaster. Describe which organization is expected to do what. Review how responsibilities were assigned to different departments at the time of the disaster. Include some description of the staffing levels, skills and training of staff, and the way in which different departments co-ordinate their planning and response functions. Cite enabling legislation. Include an organigram(s) of the system. Avoid, in this chapter, any analysis of how well the system actually performed. Limit yourself instead to description of the intended various roles and responsibilities and how the system was intended to function. In countries with little or no formal disaster management legislation and institutional capacity, this section might be quite brief. 4. Review the preparedness issues related to this disaster. Determine whether this disaster could have been predicted. Describe any previous disasters this area has experienced. Identify the consequences from the last disaster. Provide an overview of the lessons learned and actions resulting from them. Analyze preparedness planning for the disaster describing any plans that were in place. Summarize how well they function. Determine whether early warning systems, if available and appropriate, resulted in reduced damage, injury and death. If possible, summarize the decisions the authorities faced and what actions they finally took in the period immediately before impact. Determine what the UN system had done about disaster management prior to the disaster indicating whether disaster risks and vulnerability were addressed in country programs. Describe how UNDP’s policies and technical expertise assisted in creating linkages between disaster