UNIT 8 ROLE OF MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Structure

8.0   Learning Outcome

Upon studying this unit, you should be able to

- Understand various types of international organisations in disaster response;
- Discuss their function and responsibilities;
- Outline the role of media; and
- Describe the common aspects of their coordination for disaster response.

8.1   Introduction

The world wide increasing in population and infrastructural growth has resulted in worsening the effects of disasters events, such as natural and man-made. The development of Information and Communication Technology as upgraded the awareness and sensitivity world wide irrespective of the location where the disaster occurred. After major disasters such as Bangladesh Cyclone, Bhopal Gas Leak and Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, it made the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution in 1989 to set forth an international framework of action at national and international levels and also provide an international structure with scientific, technical and financial support. The follow up of this is the launching of International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) (1990-2000) and Yokohoma Strategy 1994. In line with the thinking within UN, major international funding agencies increasingly recognise the benefits of funding disaster related projects. However, a critical fact to be recognised here is that it must be the prerogative of the recipient country to decide whether or not it needs international disaster assistance.

The International agencies provide assistance in following four stages: such as

   i)   pre-disaster assistance;
   ii)   assistance in response operations;
   iii)   assistance in recovery programmes; and
   iv)   assistance in future development.

In the present scenario the concept of disaster management is seen as multi-agency which is to be managed by various international organisations, United Nation Agencies, community based organisations and public and private partnership. In this unit we will be discussing such organisations in disaster response, their functions and responsibilities. We will be also understand the role of media in disaster response and common aspects of their coordination.

The concept of disaster management is seen as a multi-agency undertaking and it is jointly managed by various United Nations agencies, international organisations and NGOs. The need for cross-fertilisation and filing the gaps between these efforts is greater than ever.

8.3   INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

The global response should lead to sustainable human development with the involvement of both the national government and the community. These contribute to a long-term development objective consisting of the following components:
- Reduced incidence and impact of crisis and disaster occurrences in programme countries;
- A reduction of risks and vulnerability to such events;
- Effective national and regional strategies in crisis and disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, and
- Efficient co-ordination and collaboration at all phases of crisis and disaster management, between and among national and international partners.

Selection of particular countries for support by international agencies is based upon the following criteria:

a) Nature and extent of risk to crisis and disaster;
b) Overall level of development;
c) Extent of existing crisis and disaster management capacity;
d) Receptivity and commitment of host Government, and
e) Current capacities and commitment of these organisations.

Various international agencies are active in the country and some of them are as briefly mentioned below.

UN System in India. With 18 UN agencies, the UN system in India is one the largest country presence in the world. The agencies represented include APCTT, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNOPS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNODC, UNV, WFP and WHO. They have variety of activities across a range of sectors and geographic locations but coordinate the common functions. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets, all with a deadline of 2015, for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights that are the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security. These goals are:

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Invariably all the leading organisations have disaster management incorporated in all their programmes.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life The mandate is of being United Nation's focal point to support and strengthen national capacities related to disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness. The interventions in disaster mitigation within the framework of country cooperation programmes are aimed at ensuring a sustainable recovery in the aftermath of a disaster as well as reducing people's vulnerability to natural disaster. UNDP, in India is the convener for the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) India, which is an inter-agency working group comprising of FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNV, WFP and WHO. UNDMT acts as the coordinator for disaster-related response activities within the UN System and works in collaboration with the National Government to support disaster management activities in the country. UNDP has been supporting various initiatives of the Central and State Governments in India to strengthen the disaster management capacities. In India, the Disaster Risk Management Programme (2003-2007) provides support to set up an institutional framework for disaster preparedness, response, prevention and mitigation. It supports participatory multi-hazard preparedness, response and mitigation plans for disaster risk management at state, district, block, village and ward levels in 169 most multi-hazard prone districts of 17 selected states. Networking knowledge on effective approaches, methods and tools for disaster risk management, developing and promoting policy frameworks at state and national levels are some of the other desired outputs under the project. The programme emphasises on strengthening the community, local self-governments and district administrator's response, preparedness, and mitigation measures in the most vulnerable districts. Equally the focus is on improving on state and national-level response through capacity building and institutionalisation of the system for disaster risk management in the government.

United Nations Disaster Management Teams: These are well trained for addressing crisis and disaster management demands comprehensively with clear roles and functions.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): The ICRC has an important role in ensuring that parties involved in armed conflict respect international norms and has programmes specifically addressing the needs of civilians, displaced people, detainees and those separated from their relatives by conflict.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC): With its network of 181 national societies, the IFRC is acknowledged as a world leader in speedy disaster response. It has disaster management programme to prepare for and respond to both sudden and slow onset disasters.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Good information management is crucial in a crisis. It allows humanitarian actors to respond quickly and coherently, delivering aid where and when it is most needed. OCHA's information systems, including IRIN, Relief Web and its Humanitarian Information Centres, are important information sources for the humanitarian community. It is working in developing and strengthening its information management systems. This includes the development of a global disaster alert and coordination system (GDACS).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR): The world has around 19 million uprooted people and nowadays, they increasingly encounter problems while seeking international protection. They often face closed borders or forced deportation. They may suffer sexual assault or get caught up in violence with local communities. UNHCR provides protection, registration and emergency response mechanism, as its capacity to provide international protection to refugees and other persons of concern, in accordance with its mandate.

World Health Organisation (WHO): Health emergencies can throw up major challenges in respect of needs assessments, developing appropriate responses, convening partners, establishing joint action, identifying gaps and ensuring are filled. The WHO has an important role to play in the health sector in humanitarian crises. The organisation is in the process of strengthening its emergency capacity with support for the Health Action in Crisis (HAC) programme.

European Commission's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) helps the most vulnerable population in the main disaster-prone regions of the world to prepare for natural catastrophes. In the event of earthquakes, cyclones, floods, storms or volcanic eruptions, the most effective lifesaving effort are usually carried out by the affected people themselves both during and after a disaster. European Commission allocates funds for training of communities and local authority staff, capacity-building, awareness-rising, small-scale mitigation activities and early warning system. Since natural hazards cross borders, DIPECHO's projects are designed regionally. Ultimately, the goal is to integrate disaster reduction measure not just into humanitarian operations, but also into long-term development projects and wider national policies.

ECHO Flight: Since 1994, the European Commission has funded a humanitarian air transport service called (ECHO Flight) for NGOs operating in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. It has transported personnel and supplies to dozens of remote location that would otherwise be cut off from the outside world. In 2005 when the company providing the service went into liquidation, the Commission ensured the speedy resumption of air operations. These services were provided by its humanitarian partners ASF (Aviation Sans Frontiers), serving around 25 destinations. Such response initiatives need to be replicated globally.

UNICEF: UNICEF has been working in India since 1949 and is committed to ensure that each child born in this country gets the best start in life, thrives and develops to his or her full potential. It uses community-level knowledge to develop innovative interventions to ensure that women and children are able to access basic services such as clean water, health visitors and educational facilities, and that these services are of high quality. The organisation also works with an array of celebrities and volunteers.

8.4   NGOs

NGOs are loosely termed as various organisations from other then the government sector. There are many more NGOs working with deep commitment, dedication and transparency by involving the people and people's resources but they should be well directed. The NGOs are in a position where they can play a very important role not only in identifying and prioritising challenges of the local areas but could also examine and disseminate effectively lessons for action. Sector wise analyses of NGOs working in the broad spectrum of development are:

       (i)   Spiritual development

       (ii)   Economic and semi-economic development

       (iii)   Cultural development

       (iv)   Health and mass media

       (v)   Business development

       (vi)   Educational development

       (vii) Physical development

       (viii) Training research

       (ix)   Government propagated NGOs

       (x)   Rural/block development

       (xi)   Entrepreneurial - women empowerment

NGOs, due to their proximity to the people, society, environment etc. are in a better position to take effective steps for proper monitoring of various parameters of success. Voluntary agencies are essentially non-profit and non-partisan organizations. The criteria for identifying voluntary agencies for enlisting help in relation to the disaster management programme should be as follows :

(i)   The organisation should be a legal entity

(ii)   It should be based in a rural area or area of intervention and be working there for a minimum of 3 years.

(iii)   It should have broad-based objectives serving the social and economic needs of the community as a whole and mainly the weaker sections. It must not work for profit but on 'no profit and no loss basis.

(iv)   Its activities should be open to all citizens of India irrespective of religion, caste, creed, sex or race.

(v)   It should have the necessary flexibility, professional competence and organisational skills to implement programmes.

(vi)   Its office-bearers should not be elected members of any political party.

(vii) It declares that it will adopt constitutional and non-violent means for development purposes.

(viii) It is committed to secular and democratic concepts and methods of functioning.

Many organizations play a very useful role in disaster management being unencumbered by a large bureaucratic structure, they can offer rapid response and a willingness to adjust to the situation prevailing on site. They offer immediately available communications within the disaster affected community, technical

services, manpower, and financial support to categorize organizations by their operating behaviour and fields of expertise in this way:

a) NGOs with large resources: They have international support and can respond quickly with large amounts of supplies and services.
b) Registered local organization run by social workers addressing local issues related to development, agriculture, education children, women etc.
c) Religious bodies: they band on their faith generally organized around this temples for aid of a community, offering capabilities for shelter and mass feeding.
d) Development technology related: these are usually in their own commercial research and development, but their equipment and expertise can be used in time of need in such areas as sanitation building technology etc.
e) Occupation groups: groups such as medical association provide specialized services and generate specialized resources.
f) Residents' association: these are important means of mobilizing the local community. They generate community participation in disaster relief as well as planning and disaster mitigation efforts
g) Educational institutions: private and government educational institutions play a critical role in reaching large parts of the population with information about preparing for and recovering from disasters.3
h) Interest groups: groups such as the Rotary Club or the Lions Club make resource contribution during disaster events.

Some of the NGOs who are in this field are:

CARE is a relief and development organization addressing the problem of poverty. It began work in India in 1950, primarily been food related. The projects are currently in the sectors of health, nutrition, and population, girl's education, small economic activity development, urban development, tribal empowerment, agriculture and natural resources and emergency preparedness and relief and rehabilitation. It has been involved in various natural disasters.

Oxfam: Oxfam's programme in India includes work on livelihoods, gender equality, disaster preparedness and response, girls' education, response to conflict and peace building, and HIV/AIDS. It's humanitarian programme responds to disaster and builds a culture of disaster preparedness through a two-pronged approach:

❖ Integrating community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation with security of livelihoods for vulnerable communities.
❖ Strengthening skills and capacities for disaster preparedness and response at various levels by working with communities, local NGOs (non governmental organisations), local administration, state and national government as well as with international NGOs and donors.

Their programme:

❖ maps disasters on an ongoing basis;
❖ provides immediate relief to people affected by natural and man-made disasters;
❖ supports community-based disaster preparedness work;
❖ ensures gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of disaster preparedness and response;

- builds the capacities of civil society organisations and government for disaster preparedness and response;
- influences policies and practices on disaster preparedness and disaster response; advocates international standards of quality for humanitarian aid.

ActionAid: ActionAid is an international development agency that is presently working in 43 countries to fight poverty and injustice. ActionAid India was set up in 1972 with the **Vision** of an India and world without poverty and injustice, with the right to life with dignity by addressing the root causes of poverty, and not just the distress conditions. It network with regional and international alliances that are seeking food rights and food security for all, gender justice, right to employment and livelihood, education for all, care and protection against HIV and AIDS, to name a few. The focus is on people in vulnerable situations such as people living with chronic hunger, ill health, migrant and bonded workers, children out of education, urban homeless people, trafficked persons, persons with disability, displaced people and refugees, and people affected by natural and human-made disasters.

8.5   COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Local agency can look after the problems in context of local conditions and provide solutions within the existing circumstances. Analysis of response to past disasters has supported the view that communities play a major role in response. Local communities are the first responders and they also have contextual familiarity with the region and its problems. Knowledge of local traditions and cultures helps them in planning and executing immediate rescue and relief actions more effectively. Local bodies always get more acceptances when they offer help than the outsiders. Lack of an effective agency creates communication gap among various stakeholders of disaster management system of the community, resulting into various problems and shortcomings. In such circumstances, it is required that some local body with good organisational set up and understanding of the local physical and social conditions is given this responsibility of disaster management.

The vital strength of local bodies lies in their working at grass root level and providing ideal forum for decentralized planning and implementation of programmes in accordance with the people's needs and aspirations and this is really required for long term disaster management in the disaster prone areas. If slightly reoriented and given proper facilities and strength, Panchayats and other CBOs may work very effectively in managing disasters in the areas more effectively. A good strength of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Bodies may prove a good and effective human resource to tackle the problem in more scientific and effective manner at minimal cost. Communities must become more aware of natural hazards and demand that measures be taken to reduce their negative effects. The most effective management begins at the field level and is practiced by individuals as members of a community respecting their individual and community responsibilities. All of these are dependent upon communities working together towards common objectives and observing both individual and community constraints on the resources upon which all are dependent for their livelihoods. Self-confidence and self-reliance comes not only from material assets but also more importantly, gains from knowledge and understanding.

It is the local institution, which can play a pivotal role in the field of disaster management, especially in such areas, where democratic set up is very deeply rooted. The institutions like Panchayats can be very effective in performing major

functions in the field of disaster management i.e. resource mobilization, planning, provision and monitoring, integration of services and control.

On the state and district level, the Disaster Management Agency prepares a state-wide strategy to help cities and villages establish mitigation plans. Through this the state will work with all the districts to identify areas that are continually devastated during disasters and to tap funds to improve these situations. At the local level, the government helps the Municipalities/Panchayats to organize programs for mitigating the risks of natural hazards in the towns and villages. Local Disaster Intervention Teams are to be established, potential risks would be identified and monitored, mitigation measures be instituted, and systems for notification and evacuation will be put in place.

For the long-term success of a programme or project, it is the first requirement that the local resources are utilized in sustainable and economic manner. This is possible only when a local body for the developmental work carries out the resource mobilization. Along with the materials, the same is true for the human resource as well. Along with the Panchayats, the community organisations need to be involved in all activities at the grass root level and not leave things for the outsiders.

Mobilisation of people in Disaster Mitigation must be at the level of family and community. The types of tasks which a family and community can perform in mobilising people are as follows:

1.   Family
   - Awareness creation.
   - Disaster Mitigation education.
   - Motivation of people.
   - Corrective measures .
   - opening up opportunities.
   - Need assessment capacity of dangers

2.   Community

   - Creation of motivation.
   - Preparing community for coordinated action.
   - Attending to emergency needs like health care, supply of food and water etc.
   - Saving property and providing for its security.

8.6   MEDIA

Media is the organized means of reaching a large number of people. It could be print, broadcast on display type. Although it mainly reports about the event related to disasters but it has an important role in guiding, aiding and assisting in disaster management. Media covers disasters as:

- These are unusual events with huge losses and trauma.
- Plight of victims
- Faults and mismanagement in system.

- Help in fund raising and relief.

In disasters like floods and cyclones, which are to be predicted in time, media has been playing its role in spreading information to the concerned quarters in the past. However, there needs to be concerted activities to be taken up by media for the message to be received by all concerned well in time.

Role of Media: The following three broad classifications are there which include:

1. Informative – Mitigation measures, accurate and unbiased coverage, post disaster impacts and needs.
2. Suggestive – Options for public / governmental attention, expert opinion and solutions.
3. Analytical – Review and updating of existing disaster management plan for all stages viz. preparedness, mitigation, rescue, relief and rehabilitation.

Reporting of Disasters by Media: The media should:

1. Be unbiased
2. Be sensitive to social norms and not intrude privacy of individuals and families.
3. Avoid inciting one group against another.
4. Journalists should not be ill prepared to cover disasters and not add to confusion – develop disaster correspondents.
5. Make available greater space and broadcasts related to disaster aspects in the form of brief spots, interviews and full-length features.

Technology can help media throught (1) Space and satellite technology (2) High-tech computers (3) Sophisticated media techniques especially for weather forecasting and reporting.

Measures related to that can be taken by media could be grouped as:

Before Disaster:

1. Keep a check on various agencies.
2. Educate people on their activities that lead to disasters.
3. Sensitise policy maker to larger issues leading to disasters.
4. Suggest measures to prevent disasters and motivate people to act upon them.
5. Technique for permanent solution for weaker sections located in vulnerable spots.
6. Integrating disaster management with social and developmental activities.
7. Building partnership between media and other organizations.
8. Conduct studies and research on role of media in disaster management.
9. Develop training material, do's and don'ts, case studies, facilitate local prevention and mitigation projects.
10. Design an information campaign for local media with community involvement.
11. Enhance cohesiveness at local level between disaster management committee, government, institution, voluntary organization, community, corporate and the media.

During Disaster:

1. Scotch rumours to prevent panic and confusion, help in maintaining morale and self-confidence.
2. Establishing contacts.
3. Identify needy spots and assisting authentic and NGOs.
4. Appeal for assistance from outside.
5. Media organizations take lead in relief and rehabilitation projects.
6. Protect the people and resources from bogus individuals or organization indulging in nefarious or fraudulent activities.

Disaster broadcasting: The stage of disaster broadcasts should be considered in following:

Stage 1 damage is relatively light: Disaster Broadcasting commences when the disaster is expected to directly influence the area in the next two days, or if the Administration and other such agencies announce a storm or flood alert, and disasters in public facilities is anticipated. TV frequently broadcasts ways to avoid disasters in the form of scrolls and spots.

Stage 2 heavy damage is anticipated: Disaster Broadcasting commences when the disaster is expected to strike the same day, or if structures collapse, massive flooding, gas explosions and other large-scale disasters or accidents are foreseen; or when airplane crashes, train derailments and other large-scale traffic accidents have occurred on which news reports should be urgently broadcasted. "Breaking news" in the form a special broadcast, is organized to swiftly report disaster status. It may be of up to an hours duration.

Stage 3 massive damage is expected: Disaster Broadcasting commences when the disaster is expected to hit very soon. It commences in the case of cyclones, earthquakes, fire accidents, collapse of public facilities and other massive disasters in some regions or nationwide. In response, all regular TV and radio programs are immediately suspended, and "breaking news" is rapidly set up to provide in-depth reporting on the status of the disaster. For phase 3, a disaster broadcasting special coverage team is organized without delay. Moreover, disaster broadcasting at this phase is carried out without any restrictions on broadcasting time. The supplemental agencies have to be involved for disaster broadcasting and a joint press corps with other domestic broadcasting companies be organized to operate.

Early Warning

Value of timely and effective warning is critical and requires awareness of threat and consequences that needs to be communicated. It entails integrating education, sciences, culture, communication, infrastructure and information. These are to be aimed at a broad spectrum of several actors like governmental agencies, NGOs, corporate, institutions and the community. Improvement of weather presentations on TV and radio is essential so that specific valuable information like early pin point detection and forecasting of natural calamities are relayed to people.

Media must form part of the local warning system. The agencies involved in early warning operate with the media in a system for coordinating disaster related information among the institutions and organizations. The appropriate, judicious and helpful warning of any disaster is by itself a worthy objective in averting losses and protecting resources. It entails not only the detection and issue of alert but needs to specify responsibilities, ensure public understanding to generate desired response. Relevant warning is dependent on following abilities:

1. Technical: Receipt and analysis of data to identify a risk threatening a vulnerable population.
2. Sharing information among various expert groups.
3. Issuing alerts and commencement of specific activities by authorities based on forecasts.

To accomplish meaningful warnings, there is a heavy reliance on telecommunication and the media. This also requires assimilation of ready access to global, regional, national, state and local warning systems. For improvement in early warning measures, integration with following fields is required:

1. Global climate variation and change like El-nino.
2. Global environmental issues like regional consequence of fire, smoke and haze.
3. Collaboration on telecommunication.
4. Space technology applications.
5. Public private partnership at local community levels.
6. Social science and public information activities to increase local comprehension and response to warnings.

A forecasting and warning system would require close cooperation between the departments like metrology, hydrology along with administration, civil defence, fire brigade, etc. The media, especially electronic, can play an important role in dissemination of warning to the public. In a detailed scheme, importance of "switching on" the system by issuing first warning is to be stressed. This first warning must be sufficiently accurate and timely to achieve a successful alert and response of these authorities and the population. An inaccurate or delayed first warning could lead to panic and cause greater damage.

Mass media has an important role to play in disaster preparedness, disaster response, and disaster recovery. They have to be informative, analytical and suggestive. It is becoming important that special orientation programmes are conducted for the media persons in order to sensitise them with regard to various facets of disaster management. Both the print and electronic media have a rather qualitative role to play in preparing the community and other stakeholders for better management of disaster.

8.7   Public-Private Partnership

Civil society organisation, municipalities, financial institutions and private sector concerns have joined national authorities, business groups, international organisations and NGOs in assuming a growing role and interest in crisis and disaster response as well as risk reduction.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) is a system in which the government service and a private business venture is funded and operated. There may be various types of models with involvement of one or more of each. The government may use tax incentive for investment; provide agreed services or contribution in kind by transfer of assets. Similarly the private sector may provide capital or services. They may enter into a contract. In this manner the involvement of the stakeholders became more effective.

In the case of disaster management, such PPP should have involvement of the disaster management community with specific objectives and functions. Disaster

related PPPs would work to meet the needs of the participants at their level of activity or local, national or international. There success depends on:

a) Faster participation in decision making,
b) Share information,
c) Instil a corporate culture of community,
d) Participation and good citizenship,
e) Involve people who can bring critical stakeholders together,
f) Have clearly defined goals and flexibility short term achievement and continual growth for success.

Local disaster related PPPs could be successful if government and corporation have identified a common business interest, the disaster threat is closer and recognised, the decision-making process is short, legal and procedural constricts can be practically overcome.

8.8 Conclusion

Over the period, increased number and severity of disasters have drawn the attention and active involvement of a broader range of humanitarian actors. The complexity of these events, the need to consider a wider range of political, security and human rights issues and the addition of new participants highlight the need for co-ordination, joint strategies and collaborative action well beyond existing frameworks and capacities.

The non-governmental organisations and voluntary agencies can play an important role in disaster management and can provide a strong band of committed volunteers with experience in managing the disasters. Their strength lies in the choice of their manpower, the informality in operations and flexibility in procedures. These organisations enjoy a fair degree of autonomy and hence can respond to changing needs immediately. As and where possible, NGOs may also be able to improve the quality of delivery of welfare services in the camps organised and manned by administration. NGO participation forms a vital part of a Disaster Management strategy. This becomes clear from the multifarious functions the NGOs can be expected to perform before, during and after disaster scenarios. Characteristics unique to NGOs such as their short response time and close link with the community make them the most suitable agencies for specific activities of disaster management. Caution should however be exercised that the government and the NGO sector do not duplicate each other's efforts; rather they should complement each other.

8.8 Key Concepts

Agenda 21: Global action plan adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Agenda 21 contains principles and recommendations aiming at sustainable development for the 21st century.

European Environment Agency (EEA): The European Environment Agency, with currently 31 member countries, aims to support sustainable development and

to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy making agents and the public.

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO): UN specialised agency and lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development.

Global Environment Facility (GEF): Established in 1991, helps developing countries fund projects and programme that protect the global environment.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO): UN specialised agency promoting scientific research on the Earth's atmosphere and on climate change, and facilitating the global exchange of meteorological data.

8.9   References and Further Reading

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Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, 2001, National Disaster Response Plan : A Document prepared by the High Powered Committee on Disaster Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

http://www.unicef.org/india/overview.html
http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/NGO.pdf

8.10   Activities

2)   What are the Millennium Developmental Goals and what do they strive for?

3)   What are the functions of NGOs in disaster management? Discuss about two such NGOs

4)   What disaster related measures can be taken by the media?