

DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND EDUCATION CENTRE FOR AFRICA

“Art on Disasters”

Disaster Management is a continuous and integrated multi-disciplinary and multi – sectoral process of planning and implementation of various measures so as to protect communities. Such measures are prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, response to disasters, recovery and rehabilitation of communities affected. For this project, rehabilitation is the main outcome of the project; it is a process of restoring individuals, communities and the environment after the impacts of disasters, to its normal condition through therapy, education and counseling.

Disasters have a devastating effect on societies which bring fear, uncertainties and usually post-traumatic stress disorders. Most survivors and the affected seek comfort in art. Furthermore, Humanitarian Workers are at war with man-made and natural disasters, sometimes they win and sometimes they lose. In loss, the art seeks to console the Humanitarian Workers as a reminder of the struggle and continuous efforts to alleviate pain and suffering. Art has served as a memorial and healing process, it has helped affected communities interpret their emotions. “Art on Disasters” is a project on collection of all categories of art which seeks to educate people about the risks and impacts of disasters through art. It will help advocates of humanity to communicate peace and safety of communities more effectively.

This project will be highly beneficial to the South African community and beyond because everyone is at risk and disasters affect anyone despite your financial background, gender or status in the community. With this, peace and reconciliation amongst affected communities will be achieved, especially in conflict stricken events. As a way of improving quality of life, community members will be educated about their risks as well as rehabilitate them through participation in projects like art therapy.



Different categories of art related to all forms of disasters will be collected and developed, such as (Paintings, Photography, Sculptures, Poetry, theaters and short stories).

Stephanie Peters, Thomas Hart Benton, Tania Kovats and Medhi Naimi are just a few of the many artists that paint on man-made and natural disasters. They are artists that believe in art therapy as a form of self-expression, well-being and a recovery process.

Aims of the project

- To develop dramas, theaters, poetry and music in collaboration with relevant artists, these productions will then be presented to communities affected by disasters and at risk, so as to create awareness and educate them about the risks they are exposed to;
- Exhibit paintings, photographs and sculptures in a gallery at disaster management or relevant conferences as part of the conference proceedings;
- Conduct research on rehabilitation of disaster-affected communities through art as a form of therapy;
- Co-ordinate rehabilitation experts to assist in communities affected or at risk;
- To incorporate Art on Disasters in schools curriculum as a way of instilling knowledge and resilience in communities;
- Some of the artwork collected or developed will be sold or auctioned with the aim of raising funds that can then be donated to a cause as part of DiMTEC's community service.

Target audience

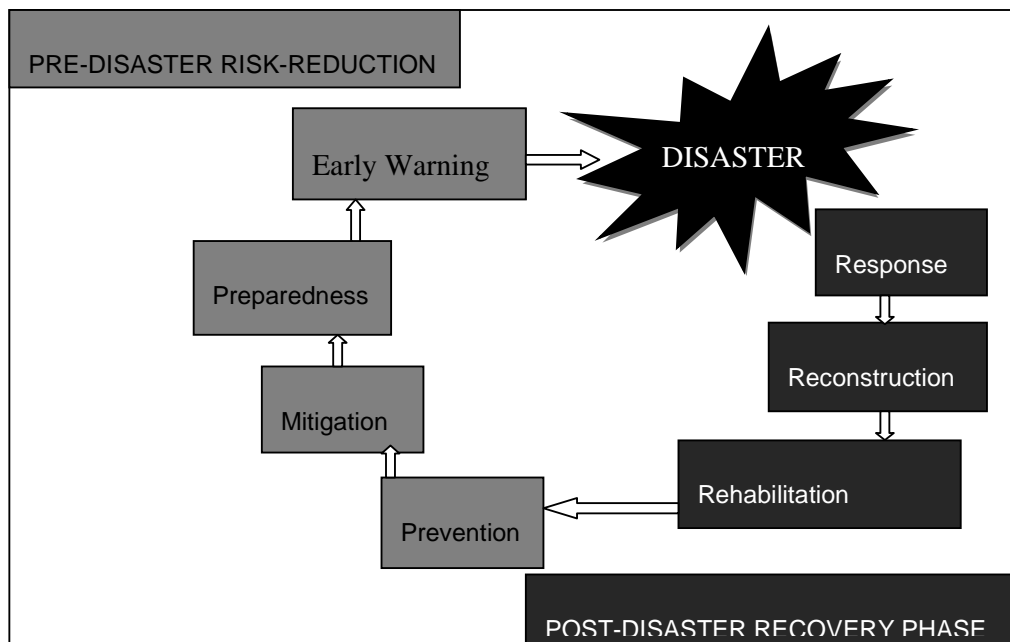
- **Humanitarian workers** - (Government, Non – governmental organizations, Private organizations both national and international levels as well as individual private collectors will be targeted). These are the customers expected to buy the artwork as office and home displays. The art works will also help humanitarian workers advocate for disaster risk reduction.
- **Affected communities** - (These are community members of all different age groups and backgrounds who have been affected by disasters or are at risk). The money collected will be used to help restore these communities back to normality. Psychological debriefing or trauma counselling will also be provided to humanitarian



workers.

- **Students in humanitarian studies** – (These are students studying humanitarian courses and students studying arts) Art work will form part of the curriculum for practical exercise and better understanding of the risks and impacts of disasters.

Explaining disaster management (Traditional process) to artists



Above is the Traditional Disaster management model which consist of two phases namely pre-disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery phase. In the pre phase, are all the activities that are carried out before a disaster strikes thus prevention (*outright avoidance of disaster affecting a community*), mitigation (*Lessing the impact of the disaster*), preparedness (*State of readiness of a community*) and early warning (*Pointing out a potential danger*). The post-disaster phase entails activities such as response (*reacting to the disaster*), reconstruction (*building destroyed infrastructures to be in working condition again*) and rehabilitation (*Restoring to normal mental and physical health of affected community members*). These are activities carried out after the disaster has been experienced within a community. The problem that exists in the disaster management fraternity is that rehabilitation of affected communities and humanitarian workers is usually a neglected phase. Disaster management activities



end at the response and reconstruction phase. The media also rarely makes a follow up on the affected communities and without such a broadcast the world will see the disaster as a won battle. Hence through this project, communities will be consoled, healed and made resilient. For affected communities that will participate, they will be able to interpret their emotions. Humanitarian workers will be able through this project to advocate for disaster risk reduction and motivate for rehabilitation of affected communities. It will also be psychological debriefing for humanitarian workers after attending to the affected communities.

Collecting the art work

- Art competitions open to art students, professional artists and upcoming artists;
- Donations from artists;
- Direct purchases of art pieces;
- Collaborating with theater productions to develop plays that will be launched in theater houses around South Africa and abroad;

Period of the project

Proven the viability and success of the project after the first implementation and the project being DiMTEC's community service, the project aims to be permanent.

Contact Person

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