

ABSTRACT

Conflict is a very serious hazard in Africa. Many people are dying everyday but it's not commonly recognised as a disaster hazard unlike the conventional hazards of floods, earthquakes and volcanoes. The study sort to identify the prevalent types of conflicts, their indicators, the role played by these indicators and how conflict undermines Disaster Management activities in the continent.

The objectives of the study were to - (1) identify the main types of conflict in Africa, (2) Establish their trend in relation to each country, (3) identify the most prevalent conflict types and prioritise them, (4) identify the indicators for these conflicts, (5) explain the role of conflict indicators in Disaster Management, (6) explain how conflict is undermining disaster management activities in Africa.

The historical method of data collection was used. Data collected included both primary and secondary data. This was meant to compliment each of the data types. Collection involved the researcher visiting various web sites on the internet and various published works, which had information on conflicts in Africa. The study population comprised of 52 African countries which were all evaluated.

The results show an identification of the following six types of conflict, armed conflict (divided into major, intermediate and minor), boarder disputes, food riots, political violence, targeted attacks and inter-communal strife. Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya were quantitatively identified as high conflict areas in the continent. Armed conflict came out as the high priority conflict type that needed urgent attention. Various types of conflict indicators were identified and their role was explained as that of providing early warning to Disaster Management. Conflict was seen as undermining disaster management activities through retarding, stopping and stalling access to victims and many more other issues. The study recommended various ways to deal with conflicts, all directed towards the search for peace and security that requires the mobilization, coordination and cooperation of all states, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society, community leaders, the community and others to participate in efforts of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.