

The TorqAid Online Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Program

TorqAid – www.torgaid.com offers an accredited online Disaster Risk Management (DRM) program¹, which can be taken either as a self-paced study, and/or as a twelve week intensive. A total of **six** modules (ie Mods 1, 2, #a, 3b, 4, 5) are offered. Students who wish to claim Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for accreditation purposes need to complete all of these modules plus the assignment². Individuals not interested in RPL, can choose any number of modules (ie from 1 to 5) to suit their professional needs. The *Intended Outcome* of the complete DRM program plus assignment is therefore:

To provide the required understanding and skills across the Disaster Risk Management Cycle to enable the global humanitarian and development practitioner to better understand, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, a range of natural disasters and complex emergencies.

DRM Details

The six key DRM modules are outlined below.

- **Module 1: Key Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Issues**
- Module 2: The Disaster Risk Management Cycle (DRMC)
- Module 3a: The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) diagram
- Module 3b: Risk Management
- Module 4: Participatory Project Management (PPM)
- Module 5: Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (CHEs)

Module 1: Key Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Issues³

This first module by looking at key issues which tend to be common in any disaster situation. A number of the examples given relate to the Rohingya situation in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where Chris carried out a three month Redr Australia deployee supporting UNDP. At an early stage we introduce the DRM diagrammatic framework⁴, which includes four key TorqAid diagrams which have been developed, with input from DRM workshop students, over the years. We stress the importance of placing the role of the affected individual and community at the heart of any intervention; and we then include a couple of sections dealing with key humanitarian and development guiding principles, these including the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). We then take a bit of time to get an overview of the historical context of humanitarianism, this including the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, and the 'Grand Bargain' which flowed out of this.

¹ See blog at www.torgaid.com/online-drm-program which includes the DRM brochure; a summary of each of the six modules; the assignment details; and a registration form

² The assignment can be accessed from www.torgaid.com/online-drm-program

³ A summary of the subject material covered is included at Appendix A

⁴ www.torgaid.com/drm-framework

Following this somewhat generalised ‘macro’ approach, we then focus in on some of the



more specific issues which tend to occur in any disaster situation. We look at the challenge of authorities attempting to coordinate the large numbers of stakeholders which become involved in disaster situations. We review the key basic needs which tend to occur in any evolving disaster situation, and the requirement to protect particular vulnerable groups of people. We stress the fact that to effectively respond to disasters, involved stakeholders need to quickly assess the key spatial, geographical climatic conditions which exist; and to subsequently develop strategies for dealing with the inevitable logistical and communications challenges which quickly evolve.

We then turn to the importance of understanding the context of any disaster, this including the background economic, social and political, built, and natural environments. We review the role (both potentially positive and negative) of the media, which increasingly involves a plethora of social media channels. We also note the strong link between positive media reporting and funding opportunities.

We complete this first module by reviewing key disaster statistical trends as reported in the annual Red Cross World Disaster Report (WDR)⁵. We then apply a number of the key issues covered in this first module by referencing these to a number of key recent global and Australian disasters which have occurred over the past 20 years.

Registration

People interested to enrol should complete the registration form⁶ which can be found at www.torqaid.com/online-drm-program. Note that there are discounts offered to a range of stakeholders.

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⁵ The key WDRs over the past decade are included in the DRM bibliography at www.torqaid.com/humanitarian-development-bibliography

⁶ Which can be found on the blog www.torqaid.com/online-drm-program

MODULE 1 KEY DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) ISSUES - DETAILS

Summarised below is the subject material covered in this Module 1. .

Module 1: Key DRM Issues

- 1.0. The DRM Diagrammatic Framework
- 1.1. Humanitarian and Development Guiding Principles
- 1.2. Historical Background to humanitarianism
- 1.3. Humanitarian Laws, Standards & Codes of Conduct
- 1.4. Key Stakeholders, Coordination, Clusters
- 1.5. Basic Needs, and Vulnerability Issues.
- 1.6. Spatial Dimensions and Maps
- 1.7. Geography, Climate⁷ and Logistics
- 1.8. Understanding the Background Context
- 1.9. The Role of the Media and Social Media in Disasters
- 1.10. Funding Issues
- 1.11. Overview of Global Disaster Statistics from Past Decade
- 1.12. Examples of recent disasters include:
 - 1.12.1. Tropical Cyclones (TCs), Hurricanes, Typhoons
 - 1.12.2. Earthquakes
 - 1.12.3. Tsunamis
 - 1.12.4. Volcanoes
 - 1.12.5. Flooding
 - 1.12.6. Bushfires/Wildfires
 - 1.12.7. Drought

⁷ This including El Niño and La Niña events which are a natural part of the global climatic system