

Impact of Red Cross on Disaster Management in Gambia: A Contemporary Study on Natural Disaster. January 2018-December 2020.

Esther Aristides H.; Nwele, J Obasi

*Faculty of Law, University of "Gambia;" MDI Road, Kanifing Estate, "Gambia."
Faculty of Law, University of "The Gambia;" MDI Road, Kanifing Estate, "Gambia."*

Abstract

The growing record of natural disasters due to harmful impact caused around the world has prompted a paradigm shift in order to prevent and minimize such impacts and related catastrophes. As necessary actions are taken to provide a sufficient degree of response to natural disasters and other emergencies. Gambia is also vulnerable to a variety of dangerous events that, in most circumstances, necessitate immediate action in terms of both controlling and preventing/reducing the impact of such events before and during their occurrence. In Gambia, however, a fundamental issue is a lack of capacity to undertake catastrophe risk reduction strategies. This study is a review of the activities of the Red Cross Society and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) with emphasis on the challenges they encounter in relation to natural disaster management in Gambia, all from a humanitarian point of view from 2018-2020. The study also borders around the investigation of the existing level of the international human rights and humanitarian activities and the view of natural disaster management from the perspective of the international human rights /point of law rules. The study found that the current institutional structure of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) should be enhanced to promote more efficient and effective management practices. This is a detailed report of what is done based on the researcher's proposal, approval, and roadmap or plan as submitted and approved, and according to the general principles of academic research analysis.

Keywords: *Gambia/ International Red Cross, International Human Rights, Natural Disaster, Disaster Management, Gambia.*

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I. Introduction

The devastating effects of disasters (fires, flooding, and pandemics, as well as a variety of other hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis) on human health and to the environment are frequently featured in the news. Recently large-scale events have drawn much attention to the recovery of complex nature of disaster¹. Individuals, governments, and agencies provide some level of help to those affected by disasters, with some agreement on basic exclusions and limits of assistance supplied by provinces or localities.

The "Red Cross and Red Crescent" is one of the worldwide humanitarian movement whose mission and constitution is to alleviate and prevent human suffering wherever it may be present. Inclusively, their mission entails respect for 'human being,' protection of lives and health, particularly in times of armed conflict and other emergencies, prevention of diseases, provision of social welfare, ever ready to render help and solidarity by the members of the movement to those in need of its protection and assistance.²

Until recently, Disaster Management Strategic Action was thought to be a post-disaster response with a focus on rescue, relief, and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on state-centric approaches.³ As a result of

¹ Brooks, L. (2020), "Scottish hotel sacks 12 staff over coronavirus making them homeless", The Guardian, 20th March, available at: www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/20/scottish-hotel-sacks-12-staff-over-coronavirus-making-them-homeless (accessed 20th March 2020).

² Nwele, J. "Red Cross and Red Crescent" is one of worldwide humanitarian movement whose mission and constitution is to alleviate and prevent human suffering ..., Unpublished Seminar Paper presented at PhD research class, International University, Bamenda 2014.

³ <https://en.haberler.com/gambia-s-health-system-near-collapse-amid-pandemic-1491474>

10.08.2020 13:56 News >> Gambia's Health System near Collapse amid Pandemic Country's leading child, maternal care hospital in Bundung shut down for fumigation. Gambia has seen over a 70% rise in coronavirus cases last week, and its health ...

challenges posed by the paradigm shift from rescue and relief operations to disaster management and prevention, there evolved the need for policy controlled deliverable development objectives.

Disaster Management is an important issue that cannot be addressed by the government alone, and calls for convergence of efforts from agencies, institutions and individuals to undertake various types of tasks at the various stages of disaster management cycle.⁴

Historically, the Red Cross was born from the desire to render non-discriminatory assistance to the wounded on the battlefield in its international and national capacity and also to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its goal is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human, and human existence.⁵The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.⁶ It strives to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress. The Gambia Disaster Management Agency in its endeavors, work to bring assistance without discrimination to those in need of it in its national capacity.

Constitution of the Republic of Gambia 1997

In the event of life-threatening circumstances or disasters, Gambia was clear on the functions and powers of village Disaster Committees, Chairpersons, and Regional and District Disaster Coordinators. The NDM Act specified, the integration and coordination of special provisional activities that focus on the prevention, and the management of natural disasters and/or their effects.⁷

The efforts employed by the government to manage disaster include protection of employees who assist in emergency situations, to guarantee resilient communities by enhancing the use of and access to knowledge and information in disaster prevention and management at all societal levels.⁸

According to Jason, Atta, Ceesay, Aminata and Sillah in an article.⁹ Over the last two decades, global disaster events have placed a heightened emphasis on disaster risk management and, the reason for this emphasis is based in the expanding frequency and scope of disaster events throughout the world. The situation has become ever more important in sub-Saharan Africa. The importance of disaster risk management and planning in sub-Saharan Africa is more pressing than in other regions of the world because the countries that compose this geographic area are typically more limited in their ability to dedicate resources to disaster prevention and management activities in comparison to other nations throughout the world. Gambia shares from this phenomenon and finds it difficult to deal with issues of disaster prevention and management. This is associated with the capacity of the country to deal with future disaster situations which become more complicated, and can be partially attributed to changes in climate and variability in the types of disaster experiences. This research highlights that there are a number of factors that relate to the persistence and effect of disasters, which include weak government capacities at the national and local levels, a lack of effective national institutions, in addition to a reliance on vulnerable natural environments. Then the need to train personnel to understand processes that generate vulnerability and reduce resilience to disasters as a means of reducing harm to life, property, and the environment.

However, before a government can begin developing or enhancing a framework in line with a particular national disaster management system, develop assessments tools of the effectiveness of the system's structure in addition to the capacity of the government to respond to disasters, there should be high academic knowledge based on accurate perspectives and political will.

Involving local communities in the management of projects in Gambia

It is essential that local communities be able to manage installations themselves. They are working with the regional water board to support the creation and training of technicians and water point management committees. People are unable to maintain some installations, because they lacked the funds, the know-how or quite simply the time. Most of the projects take account not only of the villagers' needs, but also of their capabilities. They often opt for manual pumps, because they have lower operating costs.

⁴National Disaster Management Policy https://www.preventionweb.net/files/10881_Gambia... PDF file

⁵Fundamental principles of the movement (red cross) <https://www.redcross.org.ls/about-us/>> accessed 10 march 2021.

⁶ Impartiality. <https://www.redcross.ie/about-us/seven-principles-of-the-red-cross/>> accessed 10 march 2021 also in the conventions and protocol.Art.3, GCI-IV;Art.9, GCI-III;Art,10,GCIIV; Arts.5(3)-(4) and 16(1),Art.18(1),AP II

⁷ National Disaster Management Act of thegambia2008

⁸<https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/gambia>

⁹ Jason R. et al. Challenges to disaster risk management in Gambia: A preliminary investigation of the disaster management system's structure. (2020).

National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA) this project specifically works to aid women and young adults in Gambia and reduce poverty rates. By implementing sustainable land and water management practices, productivity will increase among this group.¹⁰

The main goals of NEMA include addressing the proper use of farmland and the development of domestic markets. These goals will be met by enhancing the usage of watershed areas, which are key to many ecosystems and usable for crop production, and by making agriculture profit-oriented, which gives an income to these women and young adults.¹¹

Role of the Senegalese Red Cross Society

Its' network of volunteers makes the Senegalese Red Cross Society our natural partner, especially when it comes to raising awareness and promoting hygiene and sanitation.

2019 was a year of extremes. They celebrated 100 years since the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), at a time when humanitarian needs have never been greater. Throughout 2019, the world faced interconnected and compounding emergencies, driven mostly by extreme climate related disasters and conflict that resulted in highest number of internally displaced people on record.¹²

World Disasters Report 2020

The impacts of climate change are already devastating lives and livelihoods every year, and they will only get worse without immediate and determined action. The World Disasters Report 2020 analyses climate disaster trends and shows how we can tackle the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis together.¹³

Geneva, 22 June 2021

The humanitarian sector has a key role to play in addressing the climate and environment crises that affect people's lives and livelihoods around the world every day. This means walking the talk in terms of integrating climate smart approaches into its work and greening its own operations. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement invites all humanitarian organizations to sign the climate and environment charter for Humanitarian organizations, already adopted by 25 organizations since its launch a month ago.¹⁴

The Charter, which aims to foster a strong commitment to climate action across the humanitarian community, is designed for all humanitarian organizations – large and small. It was developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with the support of an advisory committee and in consultation with the humanitarian sector. It intends to guide both the humanitarian sector's approach to the increasing risks resulting from climate change and to address its own carbon and environmental footprint.¹⁵

"Climate change change is an existential threat to humanity, and the entire humanitarian sector needs to take it very seriously. Climate-affected communities across the world understand the scale of the threat, and so do the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff who work alongside them every day. Much more needs to be done to reduce the risks communities are facing, to help them to build their resilience and adapt to climate shocks and to ensure that humanitarian organizations are reducing their own environmental impacts," said MrJaganChapagain, Secretary General of the IFRC.¹⁶

Today's climate and environmental crises affect all dimensions of our lives, from our physical and mental health to our food, water and economic security. While the crises are affecting everyone, those hit the hardest are the poorest and most marginalized communities, whose capacity is already strained and who have often contributed least to the problem. And the situation is only getting worse.

"We have no time to lose. We have a responsibility to come together, as a humanitarian community, to strengthen our expertise and develop adequate responses to the climate and environmental crises. Joining forces is critical if we want to reduce their impacts on the most vulnerable people," said ICRC's Director General Robert Mardini.¹⁷

¹⁰ Personal interview conducted by Associate professor James Obasi at Banjul North Bank. Nema area.

¹¹ In Kandonko village in the Fonis, Gambia Red Cross Society has a project that focuses on helping women and their gardens through the construction of a solar-powered water supply system. Filed work visited by Esther on the 28th April 2021

¹² Annual Report 2019 | IFRC <https://www.ifrc.org/annual-report-2019>.

¹³ <https://www.ifrc.org/document/world-disasters-report-2020>.

¹⁴ Red Cross Red Crescent: Humanitarian sector joins forces to tackle 'existential threat' of climate change [EN/AR/PT/RU/ZH] <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/red-cross-red-crescent-humanitarian-sector-joins-forces-tackle-existential-threat>

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ <https://www.ifrc.org/secretary-general>.

¹⁷ www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-directorate> Accessed November 2021

Radical transformation is urgently needed to prevent further death and suffering. Analysis by the IFRC.¹⁸ 97.6 million People were affected by climate- and weather-related disasters in 2019. Protecting the lives and rights of present and future generations depends on political action to cut emissions, halt environmental degradation, and adapt to increasing risks.¹⁹

*“The climate crisis is impacting humanitarian action around the world, and we must urgently step-up and increase our collective efforts to address this challenge. As a network, at ICVA’s 18th General Assembly, we signed on to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. ICVA encourages others to sign and implement jointly as our ability to partner is our most strategic capability,”*²⁰

The *Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations* is a document for and by humanitarian organizations, intended to help them play their part and highlight their relevance in responding to the climate and environmental crises.²¹

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement aims to gather a large number of signatures ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021 to signal the strong commitment of the humanitarian community to scaling up its response to the climate and environment crises.²²

The Charter was developed for the humanitarian community, by the humanitarian community, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and an advisory committee bringing together climate, environment and humanitarian experts. It is guided by the latest scientific evidence and the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other relevant international law and standards, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international environmental law.²³

Principles

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance abides by the following principles to fulfil its mission:

- i. All persons affected by disasters are entitled to receive assistance, according to their needs and priorities.
- ii. Respecting the dignity of all people affected by disasters, including their meaningful involvement in decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.
- iii. Committed to protecting people affected by disasters, particularly those made vulnerable by any form of discrimination.
- iv. The duty to bring humanitarian assistance to those in need and in partnership with states, whose primary responsibility is to meet the needs of disaster-affected people in their countries.
- v. To stand in advocacy for risk laden and disaster affected people, for increased action in addressing all vulnerabilities and unmet humanitarian needs.
- vi. To increase and extend assistance through the mobilization of its network, under the commitment and assurance that all international assistance provided by a National Society or the International Federation is done with the consent of the National Society of the disaster-affected country.
- vii. Red cross centres are each other’s primary and preferred partners in pursuit of operational partnerships with external actors, in consistency with the Fundamental Principles, to further increase operational reach, scale and effectiveness.
- viii. Red cross centres ensure that assistance is appropriate, efficient, effective, and accountable, as they support the transition from relief to recovery for disaster affected people.
- ix. Disaster management bodies also provide assistance that builds upon local capacities and complements local response mechanisms, contributing to preparedness for possible future disasters and strengthening long-term resilience.²⁴

“The national chapters of the Red Cross Society often referred to as National Societies, principally uphold the general objectives of the mother society within their local territories. As per the Federation’s Constitution, the National Societies have created the International Federation among other functionsto, “act as a permanent body of liaison, co-ordination and study among National Societies”, “assist National Societies in risk reduction, disaster preparedness, in the organization of their relief actions and the relief operations themselves” as well as

¹⁸ Ibid. <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/world-disaster-report-2020>.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ignacio Packer, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/red-cross-red-crescent-humanitarian-sector-joins-forces-tackle-existential-threat-climate>

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Principles_Rules_Red_Cross_Red...

“bring relief by all available means to all disaster-affected persons” and “organize, coordinate and direct international relief actions” in accordance with these Principles and Rules. “Saving lives and changing minds”²⁵

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through its 187 National Societies member. These member societies jointly operate before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people without any preference to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.²⁶

History

The Red Cross is an international humanitarian network founded in 1863 in Switzerland, with chapters worldwide that provide assistance to victims of disasters, armed conflict and health crises. The Red Cross’s roots dates back to 1859, when businessman Henry Dunant witnessed the bloody aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in Italy, in which there was little medical support for injured soldiers. Dunant went on to advocate for the establishment of national relief organizations made up of trained volunteers who could offer assistance to war-wounded soldiers, regardless of which side of the fighting they were on.²⁷

“Gambia Red Cross Society has been in existence since 1965, and have been involved in a lot of projects designed to help people in crises.”²⁸ In Kandonko village in the Fonis, the Red Cross Society in Gambia has a project that focuses on helping women and their gardens through the construction of a solar-powered water supply system.²⁹

Gambia Red Cross Society recently embarked on a 5-day monitoring site visit to assess ongoing development at its project sites such as; the Covid-19 response activities (surveillance, RCCE, contact tracing) women’s garden project in the Lower River region as well as bore hole drilling and construction in Central River and Upper River regions of the country. .

Ebrima Cole, managing director of Swe-Gam and contractor for the Kandonko and Kanilai projects in the West Coast Region, said, the solar water system in the two villages was signed in October 2020 and the contract will finish in January 2021.³⁰

AlasanSenghore, secretary general of Gambia Red Cross Society, acknowledged that, they are a humanitarian and development organization, which aims to identify and solve the needs of the people with projects funded by the Japanese Red Cross.³¹

The Alkalo of the village appealed to the volunteers of Gambia Red Cross Society to help them with water for household consumption, saying the already existing one is small and serves fewer compounds.^{32, 33, 34}

Gambia Red Cross Society also known as **GRCS** was founded in 1966. It has its headquarters in Banjul.

Despite being a Muslim majority nation, it uses the Red Cross as its symbol for the society.³⁵

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The increasing occurrence of natural disaster is a worrisome problem to the government.³⁶ The Red Cross’s role in recovery is yet to be clearly defined, despite the fact that Natural disasters can and do have a life-altering impact on the individuals and families fortunate enough to survive them.³⁷ The effect of natural disasters can be felt at the community, city and state level and often times by the entire country.^{38, 39}

²⁵ International federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies <https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/movements>

²⁶ International federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies [https://daleel-madani.org/civil-society-directory/...](https://daleel-madani.org/civil-society-directory/)

²⁷ MOOREHEAD, Caroline: *Dunant's Dream - War, Switzerland and the History of the Red Cross*, (2010).

²⁸ GRCS visits project sites and operations - The Point newspaper.

the-point.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/grcs-visits-project-sites-and-operations

²⁹ <https://the-point.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/grcs-visits-project-sites-and-operations> > Accessed 15th April 2021

³⁰ The point for freedom and Op democracy newspaper. Nov 24, 2020, 12:11 pm “Gambia Red Cross Society has been in existence since 1965. Since then, we have been doing a lot of projects like helping to curb and help disaster victims and people in crises and now working on the water and garden projects.” article by : Emmanuel Adomaka

³¹ *ibid*

³² *ibid*

³³ <https://www.fte.org/.../lesson-3-when-disaster-strikes-what-can-government-do>

³⁴ <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/gambia>

³⁵ Gambia Red Cross Society .From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.28th march 2021.

³⁶ IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies). 2000. *World Disasters Report 2000: Focus on Public Health*. Geneva: IFRC.

³⁷ Peter Losi Vice President, Response Government Operations March 2007. *The Role of the Red Cross in Emergency Management*.

³⁸ The Impact of Natural Disasters <https://sciencing.com/impact-natural-disasters-5502440.html> > Accessed 21th August 2021.

On 19th June 2019, a windstorm surge that affected 67 communities with over 900 families (8,100 Pax) and caused internal displacement, injuries and 4 deaths (3 in URR and 1 in CRR), hit through five (5) regions in the Upper River Region (URR) namely; Jimara, Tumanna, Wuli East, Wuli West and Sandu districts as well as two districts of Central River Region (CRR) namely Upper Fulado East, Upper Fulado West and Niani, of Gambiawith over 15,000 people affected, including 1,425 people displaced .⁴⁰, many . (IFRC, 27 Jun 2019).⁴¹

However, with the modernization of many societies worldwide and the changes our industrial activities have brought to the environment, many weather related natural disasters have spread in both frequency and intensity. This translates into increased global impact of natural disasters at all levels.⁴²

At the individual level, the impact can often be felt physically, mentally and emotionally. Natural disasters cause destruction of property, loss of financial resources, and personal injury or illness.⁴³ The loss of resources, security and access to shelter can lead to massive population migrations in lesser-developed countries.⁴⁴

After experiencing a natural disaster, many individuals develop severe post-traumatic stress disorders or withdraw into states of depression. Others develop negative associations with the environment, in more developed nations; this can also lead to significant population migrations.

Communities that have experienced a natural disaster must also absorb the impacts of these destructive events. Many local communities lose so much in economic resources that recovery becomes difficult, if not almost impossible. Some communities find opportunity in the aftermath of a disaster to rebuild better and stronger communities than before. Communities must often recognize population, demographic, and cultural shifts as a result of the impact of the natural disaster on their individual citizens.⁴⁵

On a larger scale, the debate regarding how to address global climate change and the resulting natural impacts is further punctuated by estimates of sea level increases that will completely swamp some island nations. Furthermore, the rapid desalination of salt water oceans caused by melting glaciers could deprive the world of 30 percent or more of its edible fish supply, and the loss of coral reefs from the same cause would put numerous coastal regions in jeopardy of tidal waves and surges.⁴⁶

The Key factors affecting the nature and extent of the Red Cross disaster assistance include its standard set of services and the unique needs of affected communities. The Red Cross is involved in three phases of emergency assistance: immediate response, longer-term recovery, and preparedness. For response, it has a standardized set of services and procedures which may be adjusted based on unique local needs or to avoid duplicating other work.⁴⁷ In recovery and preparedness, officials said decision-making has historically not been as standardized. In recovery in particular, the organization's services have been significantly influenced by the amount of donations received following particular disasters. However, the Red Cross is implementing a more standardized approach in both of these areas.⁴⁸

The Red Cross and the Government coordinate in disasters largely by sharing information. For example, the Red Cross and National disaster Management Agency (NDMA) share information on the resources available for the response to major disasters, and on where assistance is needed during recovery. While coordination in response to disasters is clearly established in written agreements, the Red Cross's role in recovery is yet to be clearly defined.⁴⁹ No regular, independent evaluations are conducted on the impact or effectiveness of the Red Cross's disaster management services. While not a national agency, the Red Cross is an instrument of Global importance and has a critical role under the nation's disaster response system. Consistent

³⁹ Geology The Impact Of Natural Disasters <https://geolnew.blogspot.com/2011/05/the-impact-of-natural-disasters.html>> Accessed 22th august 2021

⁴⁰ Gambia: Windstorm Surge - Jun 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/vw-2019-000069-gmb>> Accessed 22 August 2021

⁴¹ Situation analysis, Description of the disaster <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MDRGM012do.pdf>> Accessed 23th august 2021

⁴² Ibid. <https://geolnew.blogspot.com/2011/05/the-impact-of-natural-disasters.html>

⁴³ What Are the Negative Effects of Natural Disasters? Updated April 19, 2018 By Malik Sharieff <https://sciencing.com/impact-natural-disasters-5502440.html>.

⁴⁴ Why natural hazard dangerous <https://r4dn.com/why-are-natural-hazards-dangerous/#:~:text=Natural%20disasters%20cause%20destruction.>

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Arnell N, Cannell MG, Hulme M et al. (2002) .The consequences of CO2 stabilization for the impacts of climate change. *Climatic Change*, 53:413–446.

⁴⁷ Disaster Assistance Would Benefit from Oversight through Regular Federal Evaluation <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-15-565> .

⁴⁸ ibid

⁴⁹ ibid

with National internal control standards on analyzing and managing the risks associated with achieving national objectives, the national government has a clear stake in ensuring a proper oversight of the Red Cross activities.⁵⁰

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research is to determine the impact of the disaster management activities of Red Cross in Gambia and to suggest possible ways of improving or strengthening its functions.

In order to achieve this aim, the research has the following objectives:

1. To determine the status-quo of the information related to the functions, roles and activities of the Red Cross in Gambia, especially in relations to disaster management in the current and available literature.
2. To characterize international standards put in place by the international humanitarian law and The Constitution of Gambia, and other agencies to realize these functions.
3. To determine what the challenges of the Red Cross, and Disaster Management Agency in Gambia are, in relations to disaster prevention and management

Research Questions.

1. To what extent are the volunteers of the Red Cross/Red crescent committed in achieving the said goals (implementing the roles/functions) of the organization in Gambia, especially to impacting positively on the people?
2. What recognition has the Gambian government offered in the constitution to promote and protect the aims of the red cross/red crescent objectives?

II. Methodology

The researcher adopted an analytical frame work for legal evaluation of the impact of international conventions of the Red Cross Society in Gambia. The formulation of rules that will encourage the government to abide by the rules established by the convention. The primary sources relied upon, is the relevant charter, international conventions, and other instruments that were carefully examined. In addition, secondary sources which include text books, journals and policy document were scrutinized.

The test retest method of was employed to establish the reliability of the instruments. Respondents' responses were noted and the data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical approach which comprises the use of table, simple percentages and t-test.

Research Design

The study design is an analytical and cross-sectional study of the Red Cross impact on disaster management in Gambia.

The study adopted a survey method of research. Data were obtained through the use of questionnaires, personal interviews, text books, journals, internet, and investigative survey. This is because a study of this nature requires an in-depth inquiry, which can only be conducted/undertaken among the beneficiaries, participants or stakeholders in the operational fronts of international law and other laws.

Primary and secondary data were used for the study. The instrument used in order to get the primary data was the questionnaire, and in questionnaire administration, 300 copies of questionnaire were administered to the designated persons/groups in the selected areas/organizations and 200 copies were collected after several weeks, the questions in the questionnaire were drawn with the direction of the information obtained through the review of the related literature in order to objectively answer the research questions.

Area of Study

The researcher however focused on required coherence in the activities of red cross and disaster management bodies in Gambia. *Covering Banjul, North Bank, Kanifing Municipal Council, West Coast Region, East Coast, including Brikama, Tanji, Coastal Road/New Town, Upper River and Lower River, Pantanyima, Gunjur, etc.*

Population of the Study

The researcher used a given population of selected respondents that are adjudged to have good knowledge of the required coherence in the activities of Red Cross and disaster management bodies in Gambia – 300 chosen randomly to represent the over 2.4 million estimated population of Gambia.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria: inclusion criteria were based on knowledge of the existence of Red Cross and disaster management in Gambia; while exclusion criteria were based on no knowledge of Red Cross and disaster management existence in Gambia. And the general qualification was that a person must be eighteen years and above to qualify for inclusion.

⁵⁰ ibid

Sample and sampling techniques

The study employed simple random sampling spread across the geopolitical zones as a technique to give every territory of the population equal chances of being selected.

III. Results

Demographic Data

Table 1: Analysis of response from respondents on Red Cross and Disaster Management

Response Variables	Number of Respondents	%
Age group (years)		
21-30	34	17
31-40	45	22.5
41-50	43	21.5
51 and above	28	14
Total	200	100
Marital status		
Number of wives (if male)	8 (3 wives)	4
Number of children	22(2,3 4 &5)	11
Education		
No education	13	6.5
primary education	19	9.5
secondary education	61	30.5
university education	16	8
Adult education	11	5.5
Total	200	100

Source: Empirical Analysis of Data August 2021

TABLE 2: Response from Respondents on Red Cross on disaster Management

Response Variables	Number of Respondents	%
Strongly Agree	20	10
Agree	140	70
Neutral	12	6
Disagree	21	10.5
Strongly Disagree	7	3.5
Total	200	100

Source: Empirical Analysis of survey Data August 2021

Table 3: Analysis of response from respondents on Disaster Management Agency

Response Variables	Number of Respondents	%
Strongly Agree	125	62.5
Agree	49	24.5
Neutral	7	3.5
Disagree	16	8
Strongly Disagree	3	1.5
Total	200	100

Source: Empirical Analysis of Survey Data August 2021

Table 4: general comment/ additional information from respondents on activities of Red Cross and disaster managements.

Response Variables	Number of Respondents	%
They are not doing anything	10	5%
Red cross is impacting well by being responsive to the needs of the society.	60	30 %
Disaster management supply food and shelter during crisis	58	29%
I don't know much about them	14	7%
No comment	8	4%
total	200	100

Source: Empirical Analysis of Survey Data August 2021.

Table 1 Demographic Data of the Respondents.

The study population comprised of both men and women. A total of 200 respondents participated in the study and data analysis was done for the 200 respondents. The minimum age of the respondents was 20 years and the maximum age was 51 and above. In this bid 17% of respondents were from the ages of 21-30, 22.5%

were from ages 31-40, 21.5% ages 41-50 and 14% are 51 and above. The results indicate that more of the respondents had either completed primary school or gone to secondary school. Education is an important component to determine the level of Red Cross impact and disaster management in Gambia also impacted on the people and progress of the economy of Gambia.

Analysis of Table 2

It is possible to conclude that there is inference in this situation because the average weighted response is bigger than the neutral point; in this bid, 10% of respondents strongly agreed, 70% agreed, 6% were neutral, and 10.5 percent disagreed, while 3.5% strongly disagreed; that the red cross activities in disaster management in Gambia has impacted on the people and the progress of the economy of Gambia.

Analysis of Table 3

It could be inferred in this case that there is inference that is due to the fact that the average weighted response is greater than the neutral point, in this bid 62.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 24.5% agreed, 3.5% were neutral, 8% disagreed, while 1.5% strongly disagreed; that the disaster management agency activities in disaster management in Gambia has impacted on the people and the progress of the economy of Gambia.

Analysis of Table 4

Generalcomment/ additional information from respondents on activities of Red Cross and disaster managements.5% responded they are not doing anything, Red Cross is impacting well by being responsive to the needs of the society 30% responded, Disaster management supply food and shelter during crisis the response was 29%, I don't know much about them 7% and 4% gave No comment .Invariably, disaster management agency and red cross activities in disaster management in Gambia has impacted on the people and the progress of the economy of Gambia.

Reliability of Instrument

In the course of the study a test and retest method of reliability ascertainment employed to establish the reliability of the instrument to validate were chosen from a specific sample, made up of two respondents from each of the earlier selected areas of study. The research instrument was administered for the first pre-testing to them and their responses were noted, after four weeks of the end of analysis of the first (questionnaire) as collected. The same research instrument contents were redesigned and was administered for the second testing to the respondents mentioned above.

Ethical procedure

An ethical clearance letter was obtained from the University of Gambia Directorate of Research and Consultancy. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents upon obtaining their informed and voluntary consent before asking questions and separately before administering the questionnaires. Before obtaining consent, the researcher and the research assistants explained the purpose of the study to the participants. Participant were given clear accurate statements about confidentiality during data collection. To secure privacy of the participants, names and other means of identity were not used during research. Instead, the questionnaires were given identification numbers. The researcher ensured that all information obtained was kept in strict confidence and was only for the purpose of study.

Empirical Theory

In response to the contemporary focus and/or attention given to disaster management responsibilities of governments, the study asked the questions: i. How have the Red Cross in Gambia managed the demands associated with major natural disasters, ii. How have the disaster management agency in Gambia managed the demands associated with major natural disasters, and what explanation have been offered for the performance patterns observed?

iii. How have the government of Gambia managed the demands associated with major natural disasters, In the first part of the paper the social science disaster literature is reviewed to ascertain performance across four disaster stages (pre-disaster planning, emergency, early recovery, and long-term recovery). Among the explanations offered for the performance patterns, it was surprising to find little attention devoted to underlying structural factors. In the second part of the paper, "the disaster management problem" is stipulated and a structural analysis of it is undertaken, focusing on the role of local government within both the intergovernmental system and the local power structure. The conclusion is that the disaster management problem has roots deep within Gambia present social society and culture, and any attempts to redress the problem will require attention to limiting structural realities.

IV. Discussion

Effective emergency management regimes, have been highlighted to address the increasing frequency and severity of modern disaster in various society of the world. As part of the frameworks, there should be pre-ventive action, to develop specific mechanisms to engage the active participation and ownership of relevant stakeholders, including communities, in disaster risk reduction, in particular building on the spirit of voluntarism in the disaster and risk management sectors to plan and respond in more integrated and better coordinated ways. From a wider strategy the supporting roles of other government agencies, local authorities, essential infrastructure and lifeline utilities managers, business interests, non-governmental organizations and the public itself all need to be factored into a more inclusive and deliberate process, for conceptualization of communities into different ways: geographical units, urban, sub-urban, large town, small town, rural settlement or area, religious or tribal community, social or circumstantial community, etc.

Construction projects are a critical part of many humanitarian responses and development efforts. Without proper training the work can be very challenging and dangerous. In this research discussion guide, you will learn the standards and principles that ensure construction and infrastructure projects are planned, designed, and implemented for quality and safety.

DISASTER PREVENTION AND MANAGEMNT.

The scale and incidence of disasters around the world has been largely attributed to global climateChange, and like other continents Africa has also experienced its share of disaster at alarming rate, though not on the same scale as countries in Asia. While the scale of disasters in Africa is less in magnitude, the effects on the population is devastating due to high level of vulnerability in countries where they occur. Gambia is no exception and is also prone to numerous hazardous events that are exacerbated by lack of logistics and managerial capacity in implementing disaster risk reduction measures. Gambia needs to re-galvanize and decentralize government actions in addition to implementing development goals, especially on structure levels to enhance the country's disaster risk management system. This research report provides the results of a qualitative investigation of Gambia's disaster management system from 2018-2020, with a focus on international/Gambia Red Cross impact.

V. Summary, Conclusions And Recommendations

Summary

The aim of this research is to analyze, evaluate and report on the impact of the activities of Red Cross in Gambia especially on disaster management and to suggest possible ways of improving or strengthening its functions. So, the study examined and evaluated major overriding and pervasive roles government in Gambia had played within the period under review. The finding revealed that Gambia is no exception and is also prone to numerous hazardous events that are exacerbated by lack of capacity in implementing disaster risk reduction measures. In the researcher's recommendation, emphasis was more towards prevention and mitigation activities in an effort to reduce the effect of disasters and emergencies.

Results or Findings

Disasters around the world, however, have led to a shift in emphasis towards prevention and mitigation activities in an effort to reduce the effect of disasters and emergencies. This is necessary as proactive measures to ensure an adequate level of response to disaster and other emergencies. Current discussions on disaster recovery also incorporate the need for measures that can reduce disaster occurrence in areas and opportunity to develop more sustainable communities.

The findings show that:

1. That government has not encouraged volunteers of the Red Cross/Red crescent and Disaster Prevention and Management services to function well in Gambia, especially in relations to disaster prevention.
2. That government have not adequately strengthened the provisions of S 62 through 65, of the National Disaster Management Act 2008, as constitutional power to promote and protect the activities of The Gambia Disaster Management Agency.
3. That government have not provided motivational factors to volunteers of the Red Cross/Red crescent and Disaster Prevention and Management services to function well, including the Disaster Management Agency to offer effective humanitarian services to natural disaster victims in Gambia, and for disaster prevention works especially on measure of standard

VI.Conclusion

In modern societies communities are of different kinds, including communities of place, interest, circumstance and belief which can exist both geographically and virtually. On this conceptualization, community approach refers to ways in which groups or citizens may be included in the management of disaster

to facilitate more effective disaster management. Considering all that has been discussed, theoretical analysis, the review of related literature and findings obtained in this study, it is established that the current institutional structure of the red cross and National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) can be enhanced to promote more efficient and effective management practices.

VII. Recommendations

The researcher proposes that a broad conceptualization of community is used by disaster management agency and Red Cross to take into account the segmentation of communities into groups along need and constraint issues, for common disaster risks and threats, and with common interests in responding together to such events. For the purpose of studying approaches to increase public empowerment during disaster, community is seen as a collective of people living in a particular area, or being socially connected through a common interest or ethnicity or religion, so:

1. Government should encourage volunteers of the Red Cross/Red crescent and Disaster Prevention and Management services to function well in Gambia, especially in relations to disaster prevention.
2. Government should strengthen the provisions of S 62 through 65, of the National Disaster Management Act 2008, as constitutional power to promote and protect the activities of The Gambia Disaster Management Agency.
3. Government should provide motivational factors to volunteers of the Red Cross/Red crescent and Disaster Prevention and Management services to function well, including the Disaster Management Agency to offer effective humanitarian services to natural disaster victims in Gambia, and for disaster prevention works especially on measure of standard.

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