

Natural Disasters: How can we improve?

Lesson Plan

Lesson1: Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do! (conceptualising vulnerability)

Learning outcomes	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn that disasters are a function of human factors such as vulnerability and poverty, and not physical factors alone • understand how gender can influence a person's likelihood to survive a natural disaster in some parts of the world • weigh up the evidence showing that the number of people killed is falling over time, whereas the total number affected, and the economic losses, are escalating
<p>NB Guidance notes for each section of the lesson can be found in the fact sheet</p>	
Starter	<p><i>Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do!</i></p> <p>Introduce and explore the concepts and terminology of disasters and vulnerability. Introduce the idea it's often not the physical event that kill people, but the vulnerability of people. The short animation (WITHOUT SOUND AS CONTAINS SWEARING) can focus attention to the idea that it's the buildings that kill people, not the earthquake.</p> <p>Online short film using the slogan: 'Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do!'</p>
Main activity	<p>(1) <i>Understanding vulnerability</i></p> <p>The main activity (with online support – ON THE FACT SHEET) focuses on some of the main human reasons why the earthquake in Haiti had such devastating consequences and why there are long-term worries over how quickly the population can be helped and economic development resume.</p> <p>(2) <i>An important human factor: gender</i></p> <p>Attention now turns to recognition of gender as a key factor influencing people's vulnerability to natural hazards. Barbara Stocking, Chief Executive of Oxfam has reported that up to 80% of victims of flooding in Bangladesh are women & girls.</p> <p>Video clip of Barbara Stocking, CEO of Oxfam 02.20-3.04 women & girls affected</p> <p>(3) <i>What is the global disaster vulnerability trend?</i></p> <p>Students are brought up-to-date on global hazard trends using the notes from the fact sheet and the appropriate slides on the PowerPoint. When measured in terms of mortality, people's vulnerability to disasters seems to be falling all around the world; however financial losses are escalating for a range of reasons.</p>
Plenary	<p><i>Can earthquakes be predicted?</i></p> <p>Students are given the notes from the fact sheet on the latest thinking about earthquake prediction and the possible links between 'swarms' of smaller quakes and larger disaster events. (If there is time the BBC programme excerpt can be listened to.) Students to complete the Lesson 1 Group Discussion Activity sheet.</p>

Resources	<p><i>This lesson is supported with the following resource(THERE ARE ADDITIONAL WEBSITES LISTED ON THE FACT SHEETS)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Online short film using the slogan: 'Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do!'(2) Video clip of Barbara Stocking, CEO of Oxfam 01.00 – 'unnatural disaster' 02.20-3.04 women & girls affected Post 3mins – being 'prepared' saves lives, disaster, risk, reduction 4.40 – the future 6mins – how do we reduce this risk 07.50 – here and now. How do we improve responses, respecting the local cultures and people(3) Video of co-founder of NGO Architecture for Humanity, Cameron Sinclair –(4) Short film on reconstruction in Haiti – good case study material(5) BBC Radio excerpt – 'Material world' – from 16.22 – 23.04(6) Lesson1 PowerPoint – an overview of terminology and definitions that can be used throughout the lesson(7) Lesson 1 Plenary Group Discussion Activity sheet - plenary group discussion <p>General background information can be found on the BBC website: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/americas/2010/haiti_earthquake/default.stm</p>
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