

Disaster-Assistance Vocabulary Exercises

Use these disaster-assistance vocabulary exercises to practice important academic vocabulary emphasized in issue 14 of *English Detective*. (*Toward a World without Hunger*.) These fill-in exercises also review important words from previous issues.

Use the words above each section to fill in the blanks of this discussion.

Overview of Disaster Preparation and Assistance

crisis, cycles, facilitate, inadequacies, objective, occur, recovery, straightforward

We need a _____, realistic, approach to natural disasters. _____ of drought and floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados are recurrent events in various parts of the world. We cannot prevent them, or predict the exact times they will _____, but we can prevent much suffering by preparing beforehand.

Planning, good communication systems, and well-maintained roads and other infrastructure can _____ the delivery of relief supplies and save lives during the _____. Once the worst effects of the disaster are past, _____ and the tasks of restoration can begin.

It's also important to take time for an _____ evaluation of the mistakes and successes of the relief effort. Recognizing the _____ of past relief efforts can save lives in the future-- because we know disaster will strike again.

Disaster Planning

diversification, ensure, fundamental, offset, regional

Preparation and good planning at both the _____ and national levels are _____ to disaster relief. For example, local storage facilities can collect food during good crop years to _____ the worst shortages of drought years. Crop _____ can also help _____ adequate food supplies even in uncertain climatic conditions-- some crops will survive even if others fail completely.

aware, compiled, comprehensive, minimum, offset, revenue, symbolic

The past several years there has been unprecedented flood damage in Asia and other parts of the world, with major floods in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, India, and Pakistan, among other areas.¹ These nations, _____ that a merely _____ response is no longer adequate, have begun _____ flood water management and dam-building programs. Although these projects are expensive, the _____ from electricity produced can help _____ the costs. The suffering and damage they can prevent are worth the extra expense.

The government planning agencies have _____ statistics and analyzed the data in order to decide how to make the best allocation of their countries' limited resources to reduce flood damage to a _____ in the future.

Disaster Relief

irreversible, items, substitutes, supplement, text, via

After a major earthquake, hurricane, or flood, national and international relief agencies first search for injured or stranded people and rescue as many as they can. New technologies have enabled better communication with the hardest hit areas. (After major flooding in the Philippines, the government informed people of roads that were still passable and areas to avoid _____ Twitter. Cell phones and maybe even _____ messages can help families and rescuers locate missing people and keep in touch.)

Relief agencies deliver food, water, water treatment supplies, and first aid _____ to _____ the affected region's supplies. They try to maintain sanitation and improve the conditions in refugee camps that may be long-term (though inadequate) _____ for home to many displaced people. Such humanitarian relief can prevent illnesses, deaths, and _____ damage to children's brains when local food and other resources are used up.

excessive, input, minimize

However, it is also important to take steps to prevent _____ losses from such emergencies in the future. Disaster planning needs to include local participation and the _____ of the people most likely to be affected. If everyone in an area will work together to prepare, they can take steps to _____ some of the damage a drought, flood, or earthquake could cause. Human compassion will remain important, as we need to "expect the unexpected" when dealing with the forces of nature and the weather.

¹ Voice of America articles_May 13, 2013, Aug. 9, 2012, and Jan. 31,2012:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/disasters-displaced-13mat13/1659882.html>

<http://www.voanews.com/content/asian-nations-spending-to-reduce-costs-of-disastrous-floods-138481069/151413.html>

<http://www.voanews.com/content/drenched-philippines-shifts-to-rescue-mode/1483026.html>

Answers to Disaster-Assistance Vocabulary Exercises

Overview of Disaster Preparation and Assistance

crisis, cycles, facilitate, inadequacies, objective, occur, recovery, straightforward

We need a straightforward, realistic, approach to natural disasters. Cycles of drought and floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados are recurrent events in various parts of the world. We cannot prevent them, or predict the exact times they will occur, but we can prevent much suffering by preparing beforehand.

Planning, good communication systems, and well-maintained roads and other infrastructure can facilitate the delivery of relief supplies and save lives during the crisis. Once the worst effects of the disaster are past, recovery and the tasks of restoration can begin.

It's also important to take time for an objective evaluation of the mistakes and successes of the relief effort. Recognizing the inadequacies of past relief efforts can save lives in the future-- because we know disaster will strike again.

Disaster Planning

diversification, ensure, fundamental, offset, regional

Preparation and good planning at both the regional and national levels are fundamental to disaster relief. For example, local storage facilities can collect food during good crop years to offset the worst shortages of drought years. Crop diversification can also help ensure adequate food supplies even in uncertain climatic conditions-- some crops will survive even if others fail completely.

aware, compiled, comprehensive, minimum, offset, revenue, symbolic

The past several years there has been unprecedented flood damage in Asia and other parts of the world, with major floods in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, India, and Pakistan, among other areas.¹ These nations, aware that a merely symbolic response is no longer adequate, have begun comprehensive flood water management and dam-building programs. Although these projects are expensive, the revenue from electricity produced can help offset the costs. The suffering and damage they can prevent are worth the extra expense.

The government planning agencies have compiled statistics and analyzed the data in order to decide how to make the best allocation of their countries' limited resources to reduce flood damage to a minimum in the future.

Disaster Relief

irreversible, items, substitutes, supplement, text, via

After a major earthquake, hurricane, or flood, national and international relief agencies first search for injured or stranded people and rescue as many as they can. New technologies have enabled better communication with the hardest hit areas. (After major flooding in the Philippines, the government informed people of roads that were still passable and areas to avoid via Twitter. Cell phones and maybe even text messages can help families and rescuers locate missing people and keep in touch.)

Relief agencies deliver food, water, water treatment supplies, and first aid items to supplement the affected region's supplies. They try to maintain sanitation and improve the conditions in refugee camps that may be long-term (though inadequate) substitutes for home to many displaced people. Such humanitarian relief can prevent illnesses, deaths, and irreversible damage to children's brains when local food and other resources are used up.

excessive, input, minimize

However, it is also important to take steps to prevent excessive losses from such emergencies in the future. Disaster planning needs to include local participation and the input of the people most likely to be affected. If everyone in an area will work together to prepare, they can take steps to minimize some of the damage a drought, flood, or earthquake could cause. Human compassion will remain important, as we need to "expect the unexpected" when dealing with the forces of nature and the weather.