

The Role of Social Work Building Social Capital for Sustainable Disaster Relief & Management

Presented By

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Disaster Planning, Management and Relief: New
Responsibilities for Social Work Education

St. Michael, Barbados

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Disaster Definition and Types
- Global Disaster Photos
- Disaster Management
- Who will need help?
- Lessons learned
- Key Strategies
- Role of Social Work in Disaster Management
- Conclusion: Social Capital Theory Developed

DISASTER DEFINITION AND TYPES

Definition:

A hazard that causes significant damage to a vulnerable community or locality, resulting in deaths, property loss etc.

Types:

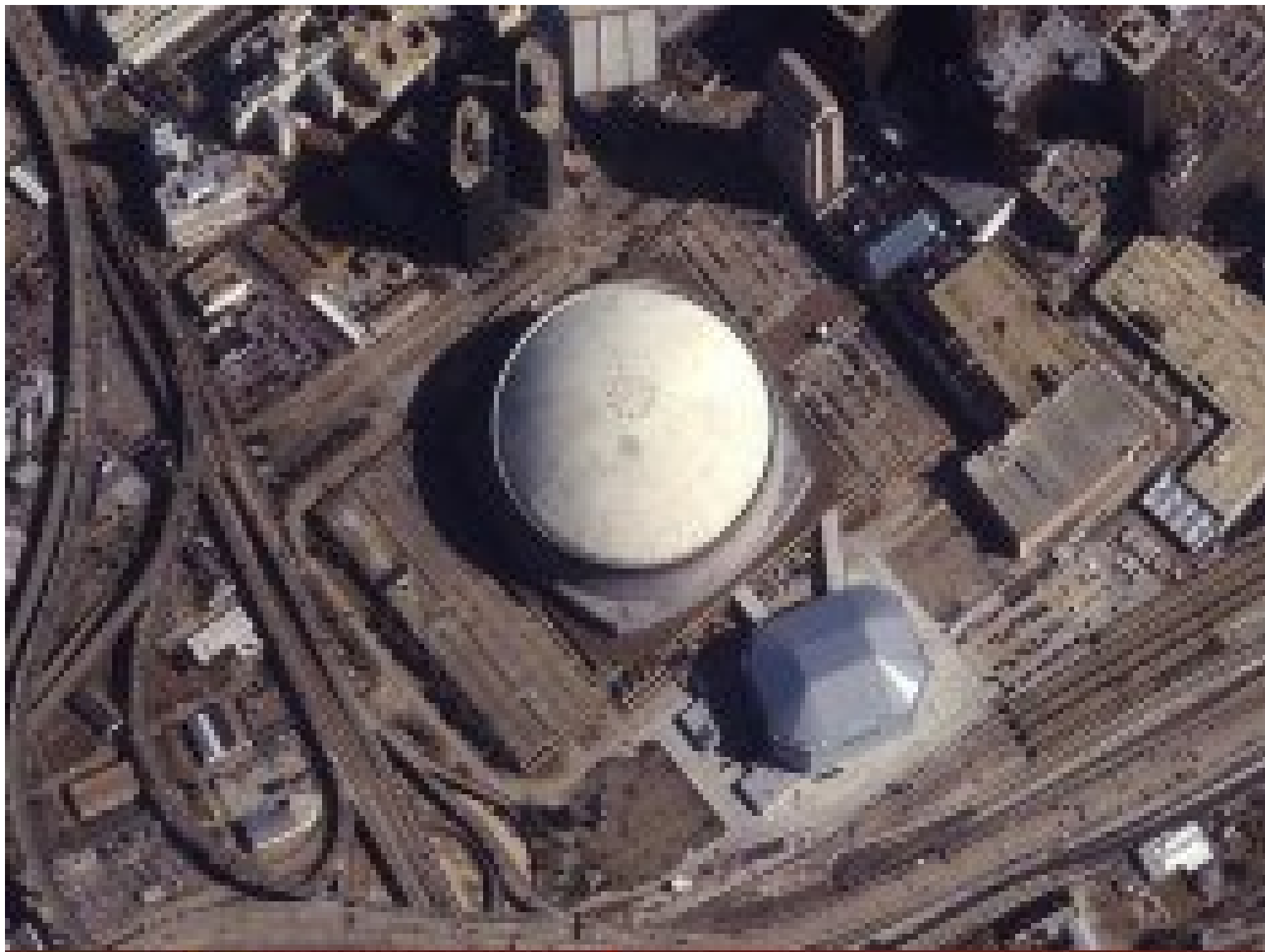
- Natural
- Accidental
- Human-made



HURRICANE KATRINA FLOODING, NEW ORLEANS



TSUNAMI, SRI LANKA



Global Security.org



Public Eye

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SUPERDOME



PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE



DISTRIBUTING RELIEF SUPPLIES AFTER TSUNAMI, SRI LANKA



WAITING FOR RELIEF, BANGLADESH FLOODS



CARRYING
FIREWOOD,
BANGLADESH
FLOODS



PAKISTAN- EARTHQUAKE
WOOD FOR COOKING/HEAT



KASHMIRI EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS



DAMAGED BRIDGE,
HONDURAS, TROPICAL
STORM GAMMA



AMTRAK TRAIN CRASH



MEDCAL TREATMENT AFTER TSUNAMI IN SRI LANKA



9/11 RESCUE & RECOVERY

CYCLONE ALERTNESS: CPP VOLUNTEERS



CPP PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



DISASTER MANAGEMENT

NO MATTER
WHERE IN
THE WORLD
DISASTER
STRIKES,
DISASTER
MANAGEMENT
IS ABOUT
PEOPLE.



TORNADO DAMAGE, ILLINOIS

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- RELIEF
- RECOVERY
- RECONSTRUCTION
- EVALUATION
- PREPAREDNESS

WHO WILL NEED HELP?

- Affected Individuals
 - Residential
 - Commercial
- Special Needs Individuals
- First Responders
- Recovery Workers
- Volunteers
- Others

LESSONS LEARNED

- Invisible assets of a community affect the community preparedness before the disaster and rebuilding process after the disaster.
- Strong Social Cohesion Accelerates Community Re-Building Process in Disaster Affected Areas.
- A well Coordinated Chain of Command Prompt Evacuation Plan during Disasters and Post Relief Operations.

Lessons Learned...Continued..

- “Communities which are well-trained culturally, socially, and psychologically are better prepared and more effective responders to the aftermath of disasters, (Buckland & Rahman, 1999).”
- “The actual movement toward preparedness at local level is a real weakness during Hurricane Katrina-Paul Light, NYU Professor, (Boston Globe, 9/4/05).”

Lessons Learned...Continued..

- In 1991 Bangladesh Cyclone, people heard about cyclone warning signals 3-6 hours before the storm surge, but they did not take refuge in shelters.
- A similar situation occurred in the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. People were not evacuated in time due to lack of well-coordinated plans between and among the organizations.

Lessons Learned...Continued..

- Mortality from disaster is generally greatest in areas having the poorest socio-economic conditions (Guha & Sapiro, 1991).
- Related deaths were largely attributable to a lack of decent housing capable of providing shelter during the cyclone in Bangladesh Cyclone of 1991.
- Effective Utilization of Social Capital Enhances Community Preparedness for Natural Disasters.

Lessons Learned...Continued..

- Communities characterized by higher levels of physical, human and social capital were better prepared and more effective in responding to disaster in the case of the 1997 Red River Flood in Canada.
- No deaths occurred among indigenous people of Andaman Island during the tsunami devastation because of their understanding of Early Warning Systems.

KEY STRATEGIES

- Community and Institutional Disaster Preparedness
- Community Participation in Disaster Relief and Management
- Appropriateness of Research Techniques in Disaster Preparedness and Assessment
- Global Partnership: Lessons to learn

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN DISASTER RELIEF AND MANAGEMENT

- Assistance in public awareness campaigns about disaster using various communication tools;
- Assistance in the coordination of disaster management and development activities;
- Assistance in community capacity building- social, economic and environmental;
- Assistance in communication, particularly utilizing interpersonal communication for disseminating warning signals;

Role of Social Work...Continued..

- Assistance in educating people about mitigating the consequences of disasters on Relief, Recovery and Reduction;
- Assistance in strengthening the capacities of existing civil society institutions;
- Playing a monumental role in providing psychological support, i.e. counseling, for disaster survivors;
- Assistance in assessment of the impact of disasters;
- Assistance in the community's active involvement in disaster management activities, i.e. participation;

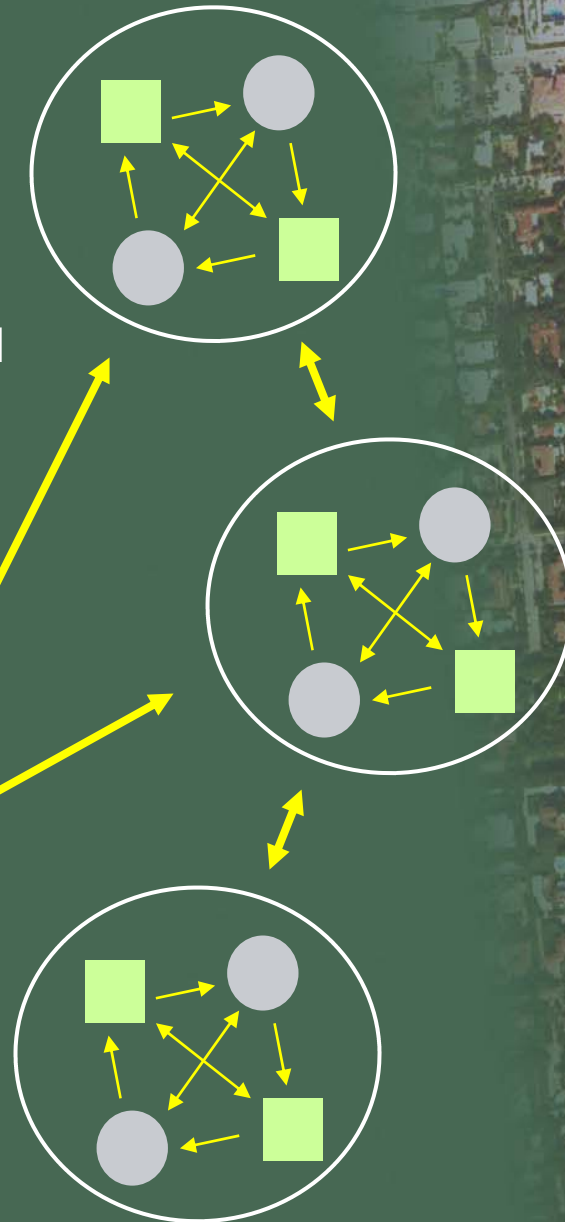
Role of Social Work...Continued..

- Assistance in relief operations activities;
- Assistance in tracking people for family reunion after disasters;
- Assistance in recruitment of local volunteers that are familiar with the local logistics, resources and coordination plan;
- Assistance in resource mobilization using social and human capital;
- Assistance in enhancement of community preparedness for disasters in building social capital.

Three steps to Building Social Capital

1. Bonding within communities
2. Bridging between and among communities
3. Linking through ties with financial and public institutions including international organizations

{ National and international organizations }



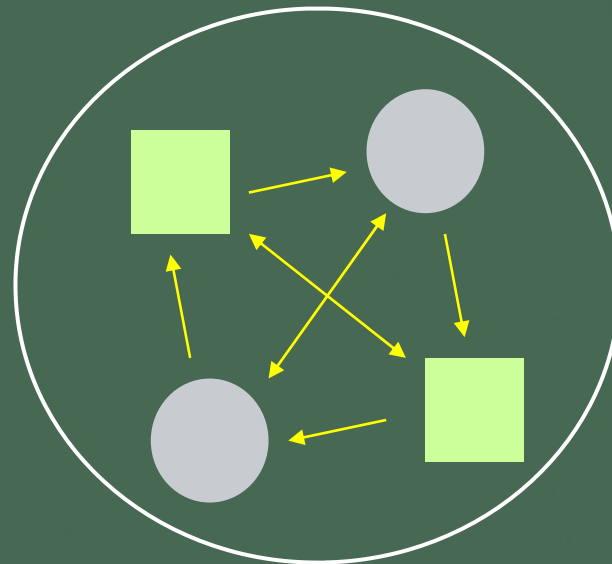
1. Bonding within communities

Social Capital Attributes

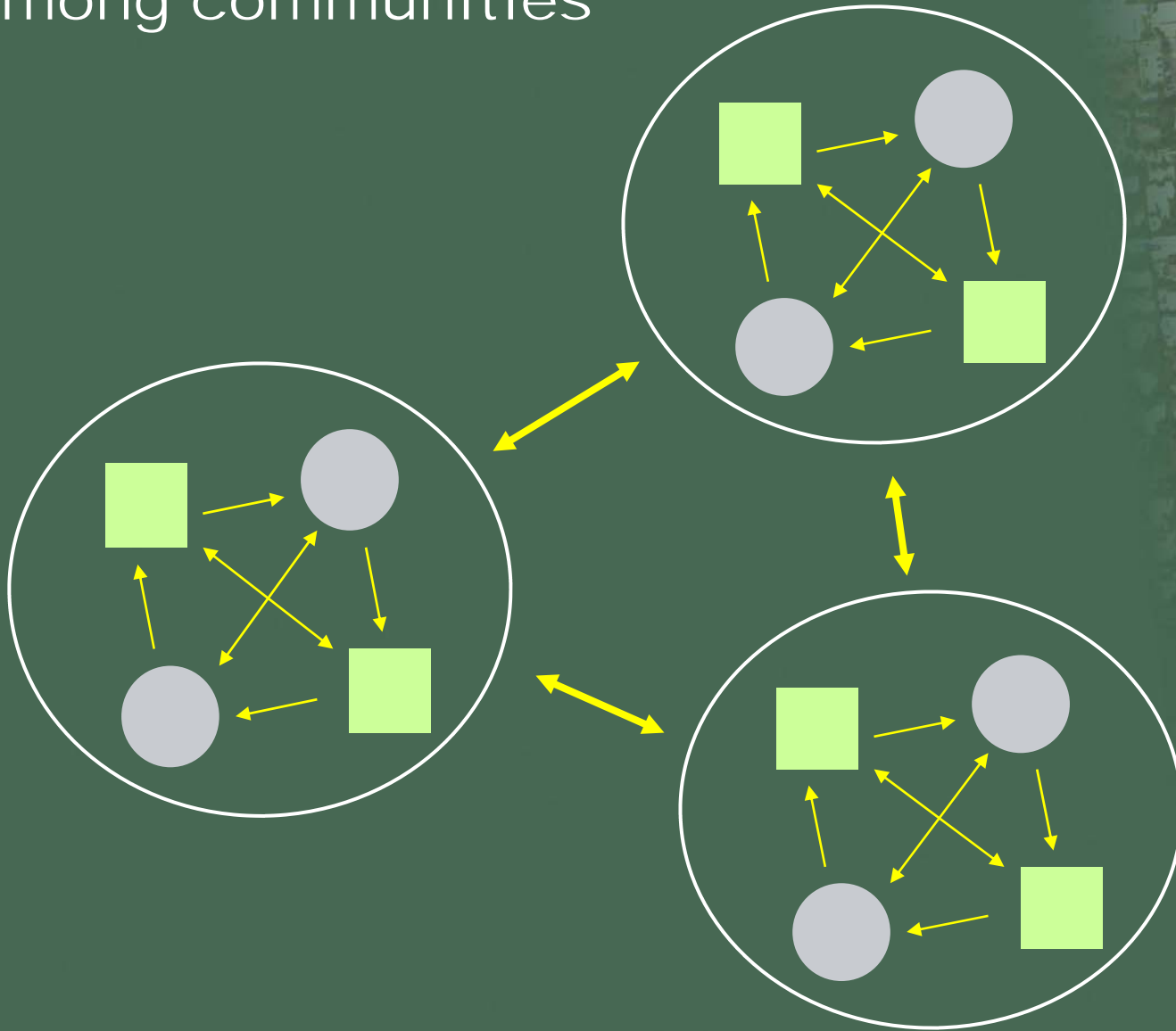
- Integration
- Cohesion
- Solidarity
- Networking
- Communication
- Interaction
- Coordination
- Collaboration
- Social Supports
- Leadership
- Volunteerism

Activities

- Recreational
- Spirituality
- Religion
- Politics
- Economics
- Cultural
- Institutional
- Physical infrastructure
- Psychological and social work supports

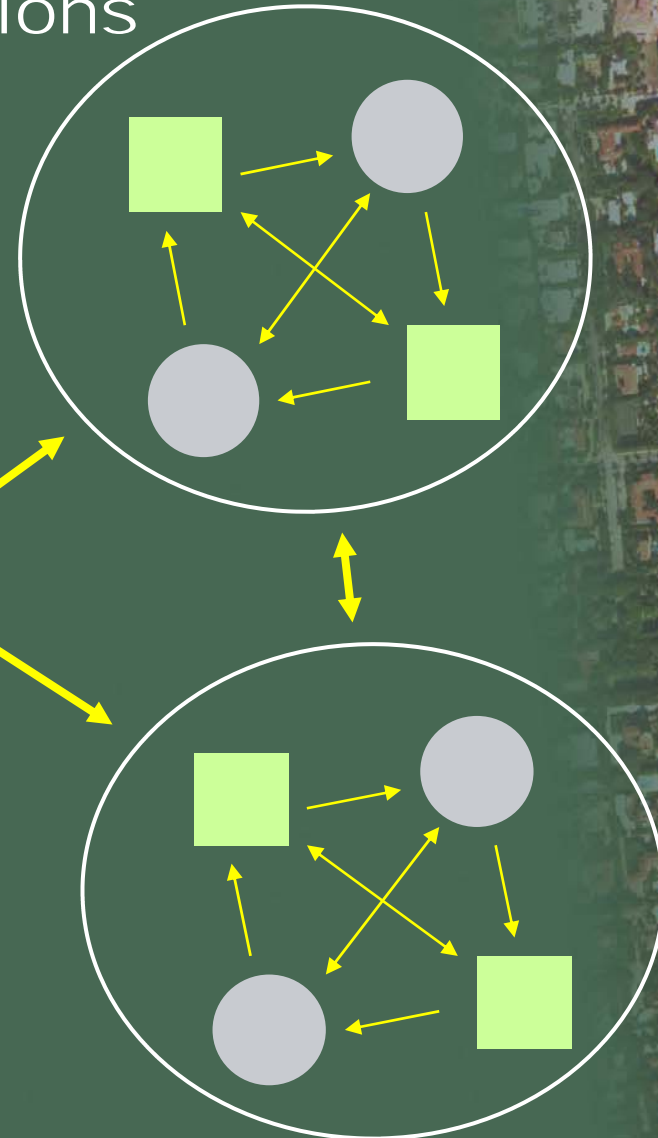


2. Bridging between and among communities



3. Linking through ties with financial and public institutions including international organizations

- Governmental organizations
- Scientific organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- The United Nations
- International private organizations
- National international organizations
- Foreign voluntary organizations

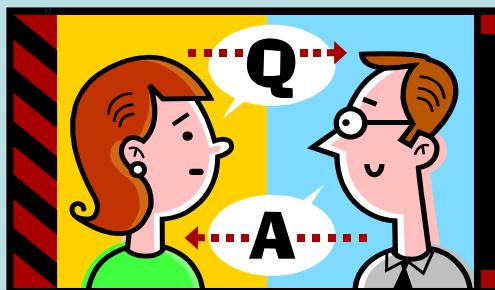


DISASTER RELIEF: COORDINATION

- Social Service Agencies
- Mental Health Agencies
- Red Cross Society
- Non-governmental Agencies
- Civil Society Agencies
- Governmental Agencies



Thanks for your kind attention!



Any questions?

You can visit my web site at
<http://www.monmouth.edu/~gmathbor>