

Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction in the East African Rift: Challenges, Methods and Policies

Organisational lessons learnt in reducing risks due to natural hazards

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Context, background

21 October 1966: Aberfan, Wales

A tailings dam collapsed and buried a school, 116 children killed, https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/feb/03/family-of-aberfan-rescuer-give-stopped-clock-to-welsh-museum?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other the problem of making historical tips safe is still current, and needs to be paid for; we rarely get involved in decommissioning infrastructure, but it is part of what we do

30 September 1993; Latur, Maharashtra

25 April 2015; Nepal

14 August 2017: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Landslide – drainage, waste management and urban planning

2017 to date: Pakistan School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRIP)

2005 Pakistan earthquake; 2007 Building Code of Pakistan (Special Provisions)

27 January 2022 Kapichira Dam breach, Malawi

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Organisational Lessons Learnt - Really?

Aberfan, Wales

Coincidence – first job worked for consultants specialising in tailings dam design and construction

30 September 1993; Latur, Maharashtra

Visited – saw response – good and less good

25 April 2015; Nepal

Colleagues and organisational response, has evolved to focus on local governance

Freetown, Sierra Leone

Visited 2016 – reminded colleagues during technical visit to southern Africa

Pakistan school construction

Visited 2018 and 2020 – design review- seismic modelling

27 January 2022 Kapichira Dam breach, Malawi

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

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Organisational Lessons Learnt

- Internal guide on infrastructure
- Refreshed Technical Competency Framework reversed down-skilling of last decade of 'hard' engineering expertise
- Internal audit findings and recommendations responded - SRO training case study, especially on risk
- Organisation (HoP) needs to know individual advisers and cadre as a whole have breadth and depth of capabilities
- FCDO needs a better system for identifying technical risks at business case stage and throughout programme cycle

The key question to be considered is how to go from personal lessons learnt to organisational lessons and better policies, programmes, plans and practice?

Lessons from Disaster: How organisations have no memory and accidents recur, T. Kletz, Institution of Chemical Engineers, UK (1993)

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