



- Disasters/ Hazards are classified to:

• **Natural:**

- ✓ Meteorological (related to the atmosphere).
- ✓ Geological (related to earth).
- ✓ Hydrological (related to water).
- ✓ Extraterrestrial (referring to any object being beyond planet earth).

• **Man-made:**

- ✓ Technological.
- ✓ Terrorism.

- Disaster:

- **Definition:** serious disruption of the functioning of a society causing human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope with using only its own resources.

• **Characteristics of disaster:**

- ✓ Type (natural, man-made... etc).
- ✓ Familiarity of people with the disaster (did they experience the same situation before?).
- ✓ Predictability of the event.
- ✓ Avoidability of hazards.
- ✓ Suddenness of onset.
- ✓ Intensity of the impact.
- ✓ Severity of consequences.
- ✓ Duration of the disaster.
- ✓ Course of the disaster.
- ✓ Threat of recurrence.

• **Ability to respond to a disaster depends on:**

- ✓ Past experience.
- ✓ Preparedness.
- ✓ Resources.
- ✓ Severity of the damage.

• **Natural disasters:**

- ✓ Hurricane (tropical cyclone): it is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, strong winds and a spiral arrangement of gusts (عواصف) that produce heavy rain (examples: Katrina in Atlantic Ocean in 2005, Sandy in US in 2012).
- ✓ Flood: overflow of water that submerges land which is usually dry (covering by water of land not normally covered by water). Example: Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.
- ✓ Volcano: it is a rupture in the crust of the earth (تشقق القشرة الأرضية) which allows hot lava (الحمم البركانية), volcanic ash and gases to escape from a magma chamber (a large underground pool of liquid rocks) below the surface.
- ✓ Earthquake: it is the predictable shaking of the surface of the earth resulting from the sudden release of energy in the earth's crust that creates seismic waves (waves of energy that travel through earth's layers). Example: Iran earthquake in 2013. Notice that when earthquakes hit less-developed countries they put a lot of pressure (increased burden) on those countries which already don't have enough resources, they are not well-prepared for similar situations and thus cannot cope with the disaster!
- ✓ Drought (الجفاف-القحط): it is a period of below-average precipitation in a given region resulting in prolonged shortages in its water supply (whether atmospheric, surface or ground water). Droughts occurring particularly in Africa, affecting humans, animals and plants.
- ✓ Fires: they are naturally occurring mostly in Australia.



- Refugees:

- **Definition:** a refugee is a person who is outside his country of nationality because he has well-founded grounds of fear of persecution (الاضطهاد) -because of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion- and is unable to obtain sanctuary (ملاذ-ملجأ) from his home country.
- **Syrian refugees:**
 - ✓ The main three countries which are hosting them –in our region- are:
 - ❖ Turkey.
 - ❖ Lebanon.
 - ❖ Jordan (notice that Jordan is facing a lot of pressure because it is hosting Syrians, Iraqis and Palestinians).
 - ✓ Other countries hosting Syrian refugees –in our region:
 - ❖ Egypt.
 - ❖ Iraq.
- **What is UNHCR?**
 - ✓ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (المفوضية العليا للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين): it is a United Nations agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation (العودة إلى الوطن), local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- **What is humanitarian impact/ crisis/ disaster?**
 - ✓ A singular event or a series of events (armed conflicts, epidemics, famine: المجاعة and natural disasters) that are threatening in terms of health, safety or well-being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area.

- Migrant workers (العمالة الوافدة):

- **Definition:** the United Nations definition is broad, including any people working outside of their home country. Some of these are called expatriates (المغتربين). Several countries have millions of foreign workers. Some have millions of illegal immigrants (المهاجرين الغير شرعيين) (most of them being workers also).
- Migrant workers compose 150 million of the world's 244 million international migrants.
- **United State is the top country which is receiving migrant workers.**
 - ✓ Other top countries among the world include:
 - ❖ *Russia.*
 - ❖ *Germany.*
 - ❖ *Saudi Arabia.*
 - ❖ *UAE.*
- **The incidence of migrant workers in GCC countries is the highest in the world (composing around 1/3 of all migrant workers in the world).**
- **Why do people migrate?**
 - ✓ Economic opportunities.
 - ✓ Wars and conflicts.
 - ✓ To join family members.
 - ✓ Climate change.
- Always remember that migrant workers contribute to the development of other countries which they migrate to.
- **Who are MWPS? What is their role?**
 - ✓ Migrant Workers Protection Society, Bahrain.
 - ✓ Their role:
 - ❖ Help migrant workers to achieve their basic human right.
 - ❖ Help migrant workers to know their duties and responsibilities in work.
 - ❖ Educate the community about issues related to migrant workers.
 - ❖ Promote public awareness of methods of maltreatment (سوء المعاملة).
 - ❖ To meet the above objectives, the members have been carrying out humanitarian and charitable work on an honorary basis since the establishment of the society.