There are various hazards that can be identified in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While some of these hazards are natural, others are human-caused or even technological. One of the greatest hazards in the region is terrorist attacks, which is a major human-related hazard. According to Alamri (2011), this is one of the emerging issues in a country that was previously dominated by a period of peace and cohesion. With a rising level of insecurity and terrorism in its neighborhood, Saudi Arabia has found itself in the limelight of terror that began not so long ago.

Another hazard is the depletion of resources and hospitalization during the Ramadan and Hajj seasons. Although these are considered by the Saudis as highly positive to the welfare of the country and their significance to the Muslim community, Alamri (2011) reports that issues of depletion of resources along with the threats of high temperatures and patients being taken to hospitals as a result of lengthy fasting have become a major hazard during the seasons as they record as many as more than million foreign visitors. Added to the rising insecurity, a terrorist attack during the highly crowded seasons could be highly devastating to the country, its citizens, and the visitors as well. Motor vehicle crash (MVC) has also become a major human-caused hazard in the country. With more than a thousand MVCs and an average of 18 deaths daily, this makes it among the leading causes of death in the country (Alamri, 2011). These have been caused by a rise in reckless driving and overspeeding and, with inadequate attention being accorded to the sector, it then becomes a major problem as days progress.

Another key category is the technological hazards. Technology has been revolutionizing in the industry. Although many companies in Saudi Arabia, and particularly those in the oil sector, continue to strive and maintain high compliance with the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization standards, failures in technology have resulted in dozens of oil spills annually in the recent past (Alamri, 2011). In this case, it could be devastating for a country that experienced high temperatures when oil spills, and which could even worsen when cyber attacks could be targeted against the highly sophisticated industry. Another key hazard in the country is the high prevalence of floods. This has resulted in 7 out of 10 of the worst ever natural disasters to be recorded during the past century (Alamri, 2011). With the death toll rising to 163 in 2009 alone, this makes floods a major source of concern to the country.

It is important to identify all possible hazards relative to their communities as a step to successfully manage or mitigate these hazards. Notably, this gives the hazard and disaster management team a headstart into the issues while at the same time necessitating resilience in response to disasters as they arise (Coppola, 2016). In fact, this is not only reasonable, it is also effective and efficient as well, and more so in the management of human-caused hazards. As reported by Alami (2011), the authorities in Saudi Arabia are well aware of the rough estimate of the people that visit the country during the Ramadan and Hajj seasons. Equally, one should expect the authorities to understand the resources required during such period. As such, understanding the communities and the possible hazards such as the depletion of resources and patterns of hospitalizations as a result of fasting can then help disaster managers in the region to plan in advance by availing more resources and emergency or makeshift health services to mitigate as well as manage the disasters.

References

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