A new book by the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD)


This volume, edited by CRSCAD’s Director, Adenrele Awotona, focuses on the status of the elderly and the disabled after disasters globally as well as the challenges of post-earthquake rebuilding in Haiti.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has estimated that between 1987 and 2007, about 26 million older people were affected each year by natural disasters alone and that this figure could more than double by 2050 due to the rapidly changing demographics of ageing. People with disabilities are equally at risk of utter neglect during and after disasters. The Australian Agency for International Development estimates that 650 million people across the world have a disability.

Similarly, before the January 2010 earthquake, Haiti was a “country with tremendous development needs and numerous impediments to development,” according to Congresswoman Maxine Waters when introducing a Resolution in the US House of Representatives to cancel Haiti’s debts in March 2007. These impediments (such as lack of personal and community assets; and, very little or no internal and external capacities) have been exacerbated by the aftermath of the earthquake.

It was against this background that the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters at the University of Massachusetts Boston organized two international Conferences on post-disaster reconstruction in 2010 – in April, on Haiti; and, in July, on the Elderly and Disabled People.

This edited book consists of selected papers that were presented at these academic events.

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“This book makes a very-much-needed contribution to the analysis and procurement of resources needed when catastrophes occur. The Minister for Overseas Development in the UK recently bewailed inadequacies in swiftly bringing international resources to bear when major calamities happen. Chapters in this book highlight such problems and address solutions. It should, therefore, be an important guide to Governments and resource providers worldwide for appropriate action in the face of unforeseeable major disasters.
Professor Awotona is an expert in the fields this book addresses, and has worked for many years with others in attempting to find permanent solutions in physical form as well as in social relationships, to lift the lot of the worst effected by natural disasters and poor governmental administration.

– William Frank Hill, Professor of Architecture (retired), Surrey, United Kingdom

“This book is an excellent collection of essays from people who have made profound contributions to this field from around the world. It illustrates the interconnectedness of the different aspects and dimensions of rebuilding communities after disasters and clarifies key terminologies in the field.”

I strongly recommend this book to researchers, professionals and those who have to create awareness, understanding and actions in emergency planning and response.”

– Gülşün Sağlamer, Professor of Architecture; Former Rector, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey; and, Former Chair of the European Council of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)

Adenrele Awotona is the Director of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. He was a Director of Studies for the British Council International Seminars (Reconstruction after disasters) in the United Kingdom. He has published extensively in the field of post-disaster community rebuilding

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Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with Vulnerable Populations after the Cameras Have Gone

A WORLDWIDE STUDY

Edited by Ademole Awotona