



THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION DECEMBER -2022

**EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(YR III SEM I)

UNIT CODE: BDRM 3107

UNIT TITLE: GENDER ISSUES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

DATE: WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 2022

TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer question ONE (compulsory) and any other TWO questions**

QUESTION ONE

The country of Coratostan

Coratostan has a population of 6.5 million people. The country is not prone to flooding; the last severe flood occurred in 1965 and killed 200,000 people. Despite that, Coratostan experienced unusually heavy rains in late August, which resulted in floods. The northern region was hit particularly hard and, due to dry soil and low water absorption, more than two-thirds of its territories were flooded. More than 700,000 people (60 percent women) were affected. Winds flattened housing units and caused extensive damage. The country's agriculture-based economy suffered due to a decline in production and the worst affected provinces—also the poorest—experienced dire conditions following the disaster. Many of the women affected were the only providers for their households that depended on income from smallholder farms. Demographic indicators show that the number of women is slightly higher than that of men, with higher numbers of elderly women. Literacy rates among women are lower than among men, and more women than men have no education. The unemployment rate among women recently increased and the numbers of self-employed women and women employees are lower than those of men. More women are engaged in unpaid domestic work. The distribution of employees according to industry shows that the largest percentage of women are employed in non-agricultural activities or services. The number of women engaged in agricultural activities varies between 32 percent and 39 percent. Because the country allocates a large part of its budget to the military, little is earmarked for social services. Healthcare and social services, including child care services, are in poor condition and health centres are non-existent in the villages of three provinces. Residents must travel to Province D for serious medical cases. Care during childbirth is administered at the village level, and regular illnesses are treated using traditional healing techniques. It is rare for couples to practice family planning, as many cannot afford birth control pills. Three provinces have very high birth rates. A recent survey showed that 75 mothers from provinces A and B are to give birth this month. Few women get pregnant in Province C. Research shows that many elderly women were widowed due to prior conflicts and have small pensions, which makes them dependent on household agricultural products and informal caretaking jobs.

(a) Read the above case study and answer the following questions.

- i. Discuss possible vulnerabilities for women living in Coratostan. (8 marks)

- ii. Discuss possible ways of dealing with the vulnerabilities mentioned above. (5 marks)
- (b) Discuss the role of women as agents of change. (10 marks)
- (c) Discuss the consequences of the assumption that disaster risk is neutral (7 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (a) With relevant examples, define the following concepts. (10 marks)
 - i. gender
 - ii. Gender equity
 - iii. Gender roles
 - iv. Gender mainstreaming
 - v. Gender gaps
- (b) Discuss the approaches that can be applied to mainstream gender in disaster risk reduction. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Assume that you have been contracted to do a gender sensitive Drought Risk Assessment for Tana River County, discuss the steps that you would undertake to complete the task. (20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a) Discuss the factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to climate change. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss the strategies to mitigate against climate change impacts on women in Kenya. (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a) Define the term early warning. (2 marks)
- (b) Discuss the key elements of people-centered early warning. (8 marks)
- (c) Discuss key strategies in mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction. (10 marks)