

# **CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT; A CASE OF DAR ES SALAAM**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The prime of this study was to evaluate the extent to which social work profession has contributed in disaster management. Specifically, the study was to identify the strategy used by social workers in disaster management; identify the services provided by social workers in disaster management; find out challenges faced by social workers in disaster management and to suggest measures to improve contribution of social work profession in disaster management. The study used exploratory and descriptive research designs and involved the use of documentary review, questionnaires and interviews as the main tools for data collection. The study was conducted in all three municipalities of Dar es Salaam region. It was revealed that contribution of social workers in disaster management is very small. On the other hand, social workers have tried to use the following strategies in management of the disaster creation of awareness regarding people who are vulnerable to disaster; solicit help needed for the victims of disaster; consoling victims of disaster; as well as connecting disaster management stakeholders. Moreover, social workers have provided the following services in disaster management: advocate of effective services to the victims; organize disaster recovering programs and provide mental health to the victims of disaster. The main challenges face social worker in disaster management are poor working condition, lack of enough fund, lack of professional recognition and lack of government support. It was concluded that social workers have engaged little in management of the disaster and therefore it was recommended on the need of removing the challenges undermine their engagement in disaster management by integrating social work profession in disaster management legislation framework.