

ABSTRACT

FLOOD RISK PERCEPTION IN THE LOW-LYING KEBELES OF LIBOKEMKEM DISTRICT, SOUTH GONDAR ZONE: IMPLICATIONS FOR HAZARD MANAGEMENT

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Flood disasters have variable impact on different social groups because of their differences in exposure and coping capability. Understanding peoples risk perception is an important element of hazard management, which provides insights about the hazard-prone area resident's beliefs, attitudes and constructs. This study was initiated to examine flood risk perception of the residents and experts/mangers that are responsible for disaster prevention and the effects of these perceptions on household decision making and policy strategies in adapting to flood hazard in Libokemkem district of South Gondar Zone. Intensive literature review was undertaken on topics related to risk and risk perception to develop relevant factors that are know to affect risk perceptions for the administration of the interview. The study used a survey methodology, which furnished multiple sources of information. The data gathering instruments were questionnaire, focus group discussion and key informants interview and documents. The results of the study depicted major differences and similarities in flood risk perceptions, causes attributed, and the possible solutions that can address flood hazard. Available local knowledge about flood hazard mitigation measures and coping mechanisms employed during and after flooding were also identified and presented in this study. The study concludes with various recommendations for flood hazard management and strategy development processes to minimize the harmful effects of flood hazard. Local level responses and their context are essential factors for proactive flood hazard management processes.