

## On the Topic of Project Management for Disasters & Emergencies <sup>1</sup>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

7 October 2023

Ref: Pells, D.L. (2007). *Project Management for Emergency Response & Disaster Recovery – A Call to Arms!* *PM World Today*, September. <https://pmworldlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PMWL-Pells-PM-for-Disaster-ER-Editorial-Sep2007.pdf>

Dear D. Pells,

I hope this mail finds you well.

My name is Vincent Owan, and I have over 14 years of field practice in disaster/emergency management at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria. The Agency is saddled with the mandate to coordinate all stakeholders in disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery operations in the country. At the moment, I am based in the United Kingdom having meritoriously completed the mandatory years of service in Nigeria.

I have recently completed a project management training program in the UK, and in the course of searching for a PM role in Disaster/ Emergency Management, I ran into your write-up titled: *Project Management for Emergency Response & Disaster Recovery – A Call to Arms!*

I felt this is quite apt for me, as such, I thought I should open up a conversation with you to see how I could be mentored in that direction to further spread the 'gospel', since not much has been done, research-wise, in that field. It is good to tap your 35 years of experience.

Academically, I have a B.Sc in Geography/ Regional Planning; a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration; and an MBA (all from the University of Uyo, Nigeria). I also possess an M.Sc in Disaster Risk Management from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; and a Ph.D. in Geography and Environmental Management ( with specialization in Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies) University of Port Harcourt, all in Nigeria.

Nigeria experiences a number of disasters ranging from floods, rainstorms, conflict, collapsed structures, insurgencies, etc. where thousands of people are displaced. The country also experiences pandemics like Ebola and COVID-19. Response to all these

---

<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Owan, V. (2023). On the Topic of Project Management for Disasters & Emergencies, Letter to the Editor, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XII, Issue XI, November

rests on the shoulders of the Federal Government and in some cases INGOs. Now, how effective are these responses without the adoption of proper project management methodologies and techniques?

Your submission titled above is a wake-up call, and I am willing to be mentored and collaborate to ensure that PM is mainstreamed in disaster/ emergency management through research and publications.

It is my expectation that, if you maintain this trajectory of yours, this advocacy will become a thing of the past.

While I wait for your kind response, please accept the assurances of my esteemed regards.

Vincent Owan, Ph.D.  
Nigeria & UK  
[v\\_owan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:v_owan@yahoo.co.uk)