CAUSES OF DISASTERS

It would depend upon the disaster in question.

(This isn’t an exhaustive list; I could go on for hours on the topic!)

Earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, floods, droughts, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, landslides and avalanches are considered (among others) natural disasters. A natural disaster usually has significant impact on our society directly or indirectly.

For each disaster, there can be several events that lead up to it.

* A rather large hillside has been deforested recently. There has been heavy droughts the past couple years and they are now expecting heavy rainfall. The concern for a landslide grows in this community because the roots of vegetation, such as trees and shrubs, hold soil together and work against sliding. In areas prone to flooding, the roots of big trees soak and store a large amount of water; preventing flooding.
* Earthquakes can be caused by the shifting of tectonic plates. Sometimes increased mining in an area, like natural gas drilling, can cause earthquakes. Tsunamis are a result of underwater earthquakes- like when you move your feet in a violent jerking motion at the bottom of a tub full of water. The power of an earthquake is astounding. Can you imagine how much energy it would take to lift up the sea floor and move that entire mass of water above it?
* Volcanoes. They often go hand-in-hand with seismic activity. Things shift around and gasses can often get pent up looking for an escape route. Sometimes explosive and sometimes not so much. There are other sub disasters that can follow the original disaster of an explosive eruption: pyroclastic flows, polluted air and water (with ash and toxic gases) and of course, lava flows. You’ll often see that it seems societies form around volcanoes. This is partly because after an eruption the land is often more fertile. Nutrients that have come from the volcano‘s blast act like miracle grow for the land. (Which is often quite beautiful) This of course attracts our attention and a popular civilization booms.

There is so much more, but I hope this gives a slight understanding to the topic. I love to use spiderweb charts when it comes to natural disasters and environmental concerns. I’ve found that almost every environmental issue can be connected to another and another, and it’s fascinating what a powerful and delicate system our Earth has.