

the ability of the local healthcare system to provide the required care. Damage to the healthcare infrastructure will further compromise the delivery of health services. Field hospitals (FHs) may provide care for the injured and act as a substitute for destroyed hospitals in the aftermath of sudden-onset disasters. A FH is a large mobile medical unit that temporarily provides care to casualties on-site before they can be transported safely to more permanent hospital facilities. The concept was inherited from the battlefield (such as the mobile army surgical hospital (MASH)). A FH is defined as a mobile, self-contained, self-sufficient healthcare facility capable of rapid deployment and expansion or contraction to meet immediate emergency requirements for a specified period of time. The FH may be dispatched temporarily with personnel or donated without personnel.

Methods: Field hospitals have been focused on providing emergency trauma care for the initial 48 hours following the sudden-onset disasters, but they tend to continue operations much longer after the on-set. The aim of this study was to assess the timing, activities, and capacities of the FHs deployed after a disaster, especially in severe environments, and provide guidelines on the implementation and deployment of a FH during a disaster. In particular, the activity of Italian Field Hospitals utilized during disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and mass-gatherings events will be described.

Conclusions: Field hospitals have been used successfully during disasters, and now have a crucial role in supporting affected populations and damaged healthcare infrastructures. Field hospitals also play a role in the international community response.

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(A341) Disaster! What about Me?

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Background: There is one important aspect of hospital preparedness for disaster that has so far received minimum attention. It has been taken for granted that medical staff know best how to take care of themselves and are well prepared personally when there is a call for disaster. However, the reality is far from what is expected, and many staff tend to keep their personal needs as a second priority when it comes to patient care, especially during disasters and mass casualties. They may not show it, however, while attending to their duties and managing casualties of disasters.

Discussion: Medical staff continue to have personal concern regarding their family, properties, personal safety and in some instances their own health as well. The medical staff are not the only one to blame, as other parties, including their employers are involved. This presentation will discuss causes and consequences of ill prepared medical staff personnel to disaster or Mass casualty, including a brief illustration of a mini survey that was conducted immediately following a hospital disaster drill. The presentation will also elaborate on developing staff personal response plans and kits that will contribute in reducing the burden of concern for their own family and them and indirectly may help increase their performance and productivity during disaster or mass casualty situations.

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(A342) Distribution Network Design in Relief Chain Management: Learnings from the 2008 Kosi Floods, Bihar, India

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Logistics has always been an important factor in humanitarian aid operations, to the extent that logistics efforts account for 80% of disaster relief. They often have to be carried out in an environment with destabilized infrastructures ranging from a lack of electricity supplies to limited transport infrastructure. Furthermore, since most natural disasters are unpredictable, the demand for goods in these disasters is also unpredictable. Thus it is evident that humanitarian logistics is challenging as it has to be more flexible, and has to function under severe constraints. In India, humanitarian logistics remains a neglected field in disaster management, the cost of which is paid by loss of human lives and property. In recent Kosi Flood the total population of 33,45,545 people living in 993 villages of 412 panchayats of 35 blocks of 5 districts were affected. A total of 3,40,742 houses were damaged and 7,12,140 animals were affected. A total of 239 humans and 1232 animal's lives were lost (Department of Planning and Development, Government of Bihar). The Paper analyses, Madhepura district government's mechanisms of managing logistics while responding to Kosi floods 2008. It evaluates the efficiency of these mechanisms with respect to its outreach to flood affected people. It review and analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the adopted distribution network design for relief management with reference to strategic locations of the relief camps, during the first month of the kosi floods in 2008. It suggests ways to improve disaster logistics at district level in Bihar. The study looks into the possibilities of adopting newer approaches in the field of logistics that could be implemented with greater efficiency under similar conditions. The logistics in the devastating floods at the district level in a developing country has key learning lessons for similar resource poor environments.

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(A343) Rebuilding Post Conflict Food Security in Liberia

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Liberia's 14 year civil war destroyed domestic agricultural production, veterinary and agricultural education, extension services and domestic food security. These losses severely limited domestic food production, and basic hygiene and sanitation: potable water, abattoirs, cold chain and food storage were greatly diminished. The average Liberian life expectancy fell from 45.8 in 1990 to 41.8 years presently. The population birth and death rate are two of the highest globally with a resulting population growth rate, of 2.7% per annum; this growth rate requires an immediate and concerted focus on domestic food production to alleviate nutritional inadequacy and hunger, trade imbalances and loss of foreign exchange credits. Food supply nationally is presumed adequate because of importation, though domestic production is inadequate. Unequal distribution precludes food security for all Liberians. Value chain augmentation, enhancing