# International Symposium on Disaster Medical and Public Health Management: **Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action**

May 21-22 Washington, DC







# **Position Paper**



Jun. 26, 2014

### **Background and Purpose**

The world is now facing to the increased impacts of emergencies and disasters caused by natural and man-made hazards. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN-ISDR) will revise the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) that was approved by 168 member states in 2005 for more efficient disaster risk reduction in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai 2015. "Safe Hospital" is the only word about health in the current HFA. The aim of this symposium is to identify the current gaps and proposals from the view-point of health professionals and to make formatted consultative themes to HFA2 through five workshops and plenary discussion.

#### **Breakout Sessions**

- Frameworks and policies relating to medical preparedness and health management in disasters
- Health planning for all phases of a disaster including risk assessment with concern for vulnerable populations
- Psychosocial / mental health concerns and building community resilience
- · Health infrastructure and logistics for disaster preparedness, including resources and funding
- Development of evidence-based technical guidance and education / training programs for the advancement of health and disaster risk management capabilities

## Summarized Recommendations through all phase of disaster

- 1. Since physical and mental health status is a risk factor during emergencies and disasters, we have to establish community health resilience and well-being as an explicit outcome of HFA2. By improving the baseline of health status, availability and quality of health service, the impact of disaster is mitigated. To do so, public health and medical experts must be engaged in the disaster risk reduction and risk management process at all levels with a mind that current emerging crises demand a paradigm shift within the global community geared toward prevention and preparedness.
- 2. For better response, it is prerequisite to establish, coordinate and promote "accountability, transparency, oversight, professionalism and registry" among health service providers. In community, engage and empower vulnerable populations including children and disabled to identify their own needs and develop strategies to lower their risks and enhance their resilience. To increase the mental health resilience, individual, family and community support, ethno-cultural and socio-demographic considerations, connectedness and communication are fundamental risk reduction and risk management.
- 3. Safe Hospitals should remain and be enhanced in structural, non-structural and functional aspects. Health facilities critically require plans for continuity of health operations/logistics, human resources and prioritized funding strategies by enhancing the health component of other UN initiatives such as Climate Change, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, Poverty, Human Security as the disaster risk reduction and risk management. Investment for health preparedness significantly reduces the vulnerabilities and cost for response.

### Conclusion

The achievement of current HFA should be promoted and enhanced in HFA2 by incorporating the above recommendations from this symposium of the following world experts in disaster medicine and public health to promote the community health resilience.

# **List of Participants**

Without their active and constructive discussion and support, this outcome was not possible. UN  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Organizations}}$ 

- Virginia Murray, Vice-chair UNISDR Science and Technical Advisory Group, Consultant in Global Disaster Risk Reduction, Public Health England
- Jonathan Abrahams, Policy, Practice and Evaluation (PPE) Emergency Risk Management and Humanitarian Response,
- Arturo Pesigan, Technical Officer of the Humanitarian Action Unit of Western Pacific of WHO, WPRO/WHO
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Special Thanks to

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Co-organizers

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- Anthony Macintyre, School of Medicine & Health Sciences at the George Washington University, Washington D.C.
- Charles Beadling, Metin Demir, Kevin Riley, Geoff Oravec, David Tarantino. William Lyerly, Ramey Wilson, Maysaa Mahmood Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland
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