

Oral Presentations—Primary Care

Strategies to Strengthen the Integration of Primary Health Care and a Community-Based Approach to Health Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness

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The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 identifies priority for building resilience to disasters. Community disaster preparedness includes Disaster risk reduction principles of sustainability. Health risk reduction is part of disaster risk reduction but also must be identified as its own entity. The World Health Report 2008 focuses on a renewal of primary health care as a set of values and principles. Strengthening primary health care in the context of disaster risk reduction/emergency preparedness could strengthen the health of communities, particularly in low income countries. These relationships are important to understand to be able to integrate community-based strategies.

Four models of “community-based” intervention will be discussed. The 2008 World Health Report primary health-care concepts will be described and the synergies between primary health care and health risk reduction/emergency preparedness reviewed/challenged. A modification of primary care will be presented that is better suited to disaster settings. Strategies to strengthen the community-based interventions will be discussed within the context of the challenges to implementing health risk reduction/emergency preparedness interventions.

Results: Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness are priorities of disaster management. Health and healthcare systems within disaster risk reduction/emergency preparedness must be identified within their own right. Disaster risk reduction/emergency preparedness must be incorporated into local models of development through primary health care. Primary healthcare systems should incorporate disruption as the norm, not the exception. Primary care models re-defined could work better in disaster settings and community-oriented primary care a better model for health risk reduction/emergency preparedness. Case examples give support to these results.

Conclusions: Community-based strategies for health risk reduction/emergency preparedness can use primary health care to strengthen interventions but the model of primary health care, particularly primary care, need to be re-defined for disasters.

Keywords: community; disaster risk reduction; primary health care
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Primary Health Care and Disasters: Current State of the Literature, What is Known, Major Gaps, and Next Steps

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Introduction: The *World Health Report 2008* focuses on a renewal of primary health care as a set of values and principles for all sectors. Eighty percent of disasters occur in low-income countries where health systems often are weak. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 identifies priority areas for building the resilience of nations and communities. In 2005, Humanitarian Reforms have led to changes in humanitarian response. Evidence from high-income countries suggests that access to comprehensive primary health care improves health outcomes. Strengthening primary health care and the linkages with health risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery could result in better health for communities, particularly in low-income countries.

Objective: The objective of this study was to discuss the state of the literature as it pertains to primary health care and disasters.

Methods: A literature review was conducted to determine the extent of primary healthcare literature in the field of disasters. Search methods will be described and attempts will be made to find the grey literature discussed.

Results: The results will be presented as common themes and major gaps in the literature. The discussion will cover the next steps needed to be taken in order to address gaps.

Conclusions: Although the literature regarding primary health care and disasters is limited, the primary healthcare approach in disasters appears to be a reasonable way to make progress. Encouraging community-based non-governmental organizations and governments to publish lessons learned and successful examples can help advance and inform policy with respect to primary health care and disasters.

Keywords: disaster health; disaster management; gaps; literature; primary health care; research
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Revitalizing Primary Health Care: What Does it Mean for Health Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery?

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Introduction: The *World Health Report 2008* focuses on a renewal of primary health care as a set of values and principles. Eighty percent of all disasters occur in low income countries, where health systems already are weak. In some low-income countries, primary health care is a strength of the health system. Evidence from high-income countries suggests that access to comprehensive primary health care improves health outcomes. Strengthening PHC in the context of emergencies and disasters could strengthen the health of communities, particularly in low income countries.