Section A

Disasters and Development
Disasters and Development

- Let us define two concepts
  1. What is a disaster?
  2. What is development?
Disaster

- A disaster is a disruption in the normal pattern of life generating . . .
  - Suffering
  - Socioeconomic breakdown
  - Modification of the environment
  - To such an extent that there is a need for assistance (PAHO)
Armed Conflicts Do Not Occur Unexpectedly

- Behind the immediate factors that trigger conflicts, analysis reveals deeper causes, such as . . .
  - Territorial demands
  - Socioeconomic inequalities
  - Economic interests
  - The defense of political ideologies
Armed Conflicts Do Not Occur Unexpectedly

- Behind the immediate factors that trigger conflicts, analysis reveals deeper causes, such as . . .
  - Burgeoning nationalism
  - The struggles of ethnic minorities
  - Racism and arms proliferation
Understanding Disasters

- We want to understand
  - What causes a disaster
  - What the impact will be
- To do this, we need to define a frame that shows the functioning of a society
Society

Territory
Ecology

Police

Political System

Armed Forces

Legal System

Population

Media

Economic System

Social and Cultural System
Development

The interaction between the three systems can be called *development* when changes in any of them contribute to a better overall equilibrium.
Development

- Development is a comprehensive economic, social, and political process . . .
  - That aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the population and all individuals
  - On the basis of their active, free, and meaningful participation in development

Continued
Development

- Development is a comprehensive economic, social, and political process . . .
  - And in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom
Reality of Development

- The reality is often far from the ideal view of a society
- Dysfunction of society leads to inequalities among the people
Model in a Disaster Cycle
Impact of Drought
Impact of Armed Conflict

- Territory Ecology
- Economic System
- Political System
- Population
- Social and Cultural System
- Armed Forces
Vulnerabilities—the weak points of a society

There are different levels

- Ecological
- Economic
- Social
- Human
- Political
Vulnerabilities are Linked

Lack of rain → Previous erosion → Lack of usable water → Crop sensitive to lack of water → Reduction of food production

Less food production → Prices are higher → Vulnerable groups → Reduced access to food

Reduced access to food → Migration → Malnutrition → Increased mortality
Effect of Vulnerability

Aggressive Phenomenon \(\times\) Vulnerability $\rightarrow$ Negative Impact
Aim of Humanitarian Response

- For humanitarian organizations, the link between emergencies and development is clearly the reduction of vulnerabilities.
Rural Populations Stricken by Drought

- Vulnerabilities
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Social
Environmental Vulnerabilities

- Environmental measures
  - Improve water storage system
  - Reduce erosion
  - Reforest
Economic Vulnerabilities

- Economic measures
  - Diversify the means of subsistence
  - Institute cooperatives
  - Improve methods of raising livestock
  - Encourage saving
  - Develop markets
Social Vulnerabilities

- Social measures
  - Develop local aid organizations
  - Respect traditional mechanisms of mutual aid
From Relief to Development

- It is essential to analyze vulnerabilities exposed by a disaster.
- People have to define the systems (political, economic, socio-cultural) that they want to build after the disaster so that they will be less vulnerable to future disasters.
From Relief to Development

- When planning relief activities, always define long term objectives aimed at restoring the systems as defined by the people.
Restoring Human Security

- Political Security
- Economic Security
- Social and Cultural Security
Section B

Health, Ethics, Law, and Policies in Armed Conflicts
Main Causes of Armed Conflicts

- Fight for territories
- Scarcity of resources
- Competition for natural resources
- Religious antagonism
- Ethnic discrimination
- Ideological struggle
- Bad governance
- Arms availability
Civilians in Armed Conflicts

- Civilians are victims of armed conflicts
- In some cases, the objective of the war is the elimination of populations
  - Ethnic cleansing, genocide
- In other situations, uncontrolled armed groups make their living by exploiting populations
Health Impact of Armed Conflicts

On Populations

Malnutrition

High morbidity

High mortality

Continued
Health Impact of Armed Conflicts

On Populations
- Malnutrition
- High morbidity
- High mortality

On Health System
- Disruption of health services
- Destruction of health structures
Health Impact of Armed Conflicts

On Populations
- Malnutrition
- High morbidity
- High mortality

No access to health care

On Health System
- Disruption of health services
- Destruction of health structures
People may also be the victims of human rights violations.
Health and Human Rights Are Linked

- Murder
- Indiscriminate Attacks on HS
- Rape
- Torture
- Genocide
- Ethnic cleansing
- Wounds
- Measles
- Pneumonia
- Malnutrition
- Malaria
- Forced Displacement
- Hostage taking
- Splitting families
- Arbitrary detention
- Deportation
- Harassment
In practice, assistance and protection of victims can not be dissociated.
Assistant and Protection

- At times, protection is assistance and vice versa
- The ICRC provides protection
- ICRC prison visits
  - Correct torture and mistreatment
  - Distribute goods and medical services

Source: David Forsythe, Choices More Ethical than Legal: The ICRC and Human Rights Ethics and International Affairs (1992)
Humanitarian Strategy

Assistance

Absence

Discrete Negotiations

Presence

Protection

Campaigning

The choice between options is difficult
For a given institution, a choice must be made between “exclusive” strategies.

Continued
Institutional Strategy

- To set a strategy, an organization must look at all issues
Ethical Decisions

- Choices must be made on a strong ethical basis
Ethical Decisions

- A good ethical decision tends to . . .
  - Maximize all interests
  - Minimize negative side effects
  - Respect the values of victims, societies, and institutions

Ethical Framework

Ethical Decisions

Personal values, Sociocultural values, Technical guidelines, Standards, Professional guidelines, IHL, HR Law, Codes of Conduct, Statutes, Mandates, Principles, Rules . . .
Ethical Framework

- Let us have a look at some issues involved in making a difficult decision in the field
Respect for the Values of Beneficiaries

“Stripped of reality, the identity of these beneficiaries—being the ‘objects’ of humanitarian action—undergoes a culturalist levelling. At worst, the beliefs, practices, and values of these victims no longer have any importance.”

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

“The existence of a large body of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law is an important part of the moral landscape in which relief agencies make their moral decisions.

These international legal instruments often spell out what is right and wrong under law. In their decision making, relief agencies should be increasingly familiar with this body of law and be able to refer to relevant sections of it appropriately and abide by, wherever possible.”

Source: Hugo Slim. Doing the Right Thing: Relief agencies, moral dilemmas, and moral responsibility in political emergencies and war report, no. 6. Continued
The International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

- The main rules of the IHL are contained in the following:
  - The Geneva Convention of 1949
  - The Additional Protocols to the Geneva Convention of 1977
  - The Law of War
Some Examples of Applicability of the IHL to Protection of Victims and the Health System

- CIII, Art.26: Food for the POW
- PI, Art.55: Protection of the natural environment
- PII, Art.15: Protection of works and installations containing dangerous forces
- PI, Art.54: Protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population
- CIII, Art.30: Medical attention for the POW
- CIV, Art.18: Protection of hospitals
- PII, Art.11: Protection of medical units and transport
- PII, Art.10: General protection of medical duties
- PI, Art.71: Protection of personnel participating in relief actions
- CIV, Art.23: Consignment of medical supplies, food and clothing

Continued
Some Examples of Applicability of the IHL to Protection of Victims and the Health System

- Art.3 common to the four Geneva Conventions
- PII,Art.13: Protection of the civilian population
- PII,Art.7: Protection and care for the wounded, sick and shipwrecked
- PI,Art.51: Protection of the civilian population
- PII,Art.4: Fundamental guarantees
- PII,Art.5: Protection of persons whose liberties have been restricted
The Human Rights Law

- International instruments of the Human Rights Law
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
  - The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966)
The Human Rights Law

- International instruments of the Human Rights Law
  - The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
  - The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
Codes in Armed Conflicts

- Examples of codes relevant in armed conflicts
  - The code of conduct for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief
Codes in Armed Conflicts

- Examples of codes relevant in armed conflicts
  - People in Aid
  - Sphere project
  - RC/RC Principles
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles

Humanity

Continued
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles

Humanity

Impartiality
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles

Humanity

Impartiality

Neutralität

Independence
Professional Codes and Resolutions

- The Declarations of the World Medical Association
  - The Helsinki Declaration (1964) related to bioethics and biomedical research
  - The Statement on medical ethics in the event of disasters (Stockholm, 1994)
- The Resolutions of the International Council of Nurses
Mandate and Statutes of Humanitarian Organizations

- Know the mandate and strategies of action of different humanitarian organizations to understand their complementarity
Mandate and Statutes of Humanitarian Organizations

- For example, the principle of confidentiality espoused by the ICRC should not be placed in opposition to the principles of denunciation adopted by other human rights agencies.

- The two approaches are complementary, and both are necessary.
Decision Making

- Values
- IHL
- Policies and Strategies
- Codes
- Professional Norms (WMA)
- HR

Ethical Decisions

Continued
Decision Making

- *Quality assurance* is a tool for improving the quality of the decision-making process
  - Therefore, to prepare health care workers to make ethical decisions
Quality Assurance

Actions
Quality Assurance

EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

Actions

Continued
Quality Assurance

Actions

EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT
Quality Assurance

Actions

- EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH
- POLICY DEVELOPMENT
- DISSEMINATION NETWORKING

Continued
Quality Assurance

Actions

- Evidence Based Approach
- Policy Development
- Training
- Dissemination Networking
Ethics and Research in an Emergency

- An *Evidence-Based Approach* (EBA) may lead to research
Ethics and Research in an Emergency

- Ethical considerations
  - Risk-benefit
  - Informed consent
  - Confidentiality

Source: Adapted from J. Ovretveit. Evaluating Health Treatments Services and Policies. The Nordic School of Public Health, Goteborg.
The bases for ethical decisions are as follows:
- Learning from experiences
- Respecting the values of people
- Adhering to fundamental principles of action
- Looking critically at codes, norms, etc.
- Looking at choices systematically
- Justifying options rationally