Where the Two Worlds meet!

Disaster and Humanitarian Medicine

SRIHARI CATTAMANCHI
MBBS, MD (A&EM), MPH, MSc DM
Director of Humanitarian Disaster Operations – BIDMC Fellowship in Disaster Medicine
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Disclaimer!

• The views expressed in this presentation are solely my expert opinion based on my experience responding in conflict and humanitarian settings.

• And not that of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)!
Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (CHE)

• A type of disaster event
• Caused by and results in a complicated set of social, medical, and often political circumstances
• Leading to great human suffering and death and requiring external assistance and aid.
• Associated with a variety of factors, such as
  • Poverty
  • over-population
  • human-caused environmental destruction and change
  • natural disasters
  • Wars
Current Global Humanitarian Crisis Situation

• More than 100 armed conflicts
• Countries with Humanitarian Crisis needs rising and need sustained attention and support.

  • Haiti
  • **Sahel** (Bukina Faso, CHAD, Mauritania, Mali and Niger)
  • Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
  • Central African Republic (CAR)
  • Ethiopia
  • Sudan
  • Somalia

  • Yemen
  • Syria
  • Gaza
  • Nagona-Karabakh
  • Ukraine
  • Afghanistan
  • Myanmar
Myanmar Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis
Ukraine Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis
Gaza Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis
Gaza, Jan 21 (UNI) The death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, when the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated, has increased to 25,105, while more than 62,600 others have been injured, the enclave’s health ministry said on Sunday. "The number of victims of the Israeli aggression since October 7 last year has risen to 25,105, while 62,681 people have been injured," the ministry said.

Some 178 people were killed and 293 injured in Gaza over the past 24 hours, the ministry added.

Tags: #Death toll from Israeli strikes on Gaza tops

Please log in to get detailed story.
Challenges

• Access
• HCiD – Health Care in Danger (Violence)
• Coordination, Communication & Networking
• Stuff
• Staff
• Infrastructure / Health Facilities
• Training – On the job training
• Basic Needs - Food, water, shelter, electricity and sanitation
ACCESS

• Neutrality
• International Border – Visas, permits etc
• Security Checkpoints
• Awareness & Communication
• Ongoing Conflict /Constant Shelling or Bombing
• Unexploded ordinance
• Bad / damaged roads
• Remote areas
• Fuel Scarcity
HEALTH CARE IN DANGER (HCiD)

Healthcare services have been hit almost four times a day on average in Ukraine.

Number of attacks on health facilities, workers and vehicles, according to WHO.

SOURCE: World Health Organization • Data for period between 24 Feb and 16 April. Includes probable as well as confirmed attacks.
HCiD Incidents Globally

@WHO - SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE (SSA)
Healthcare in Danger (HCiD) Incidents

@WHO - SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE (SSA)
HCiD Incidents from 2015 to 2024
HCiD Incidents 2015 to 2024

6270 Attacks
1873 Deaths
4027 Injuries
21 Countries & Territories

Impact
3102 Attacks impacted facilities
1626 Attacks impacted transport
3230 Attacks impacted personnel
1200 Attacks impacted patients
1014 Attacks impacted supplies
263 Attacks impacted warehouses

@WHO - SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE (SSA)
Types of HCiD Incidents
ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE IN DANGER (HCiD)

- Neutrality / Impartiality
- Negotiations
- Visibility / Signage
- Movement in Convoys
- Ballistic Vests and Helmets
- CBRN – Escape Kit
- Antidote / Narc Kit
- De-escalation training
HCiD / De-escalation Training

- Overcrowding in the ED
- Staff under Stress
- Disoriented patient
- Increase in Violence against healthcare workers in the ED
Public Awareness Campaign
Coordination, Communication and Networking

- Various NGOs and INGOs
- Local Community
- National Red Cross Society (PNS)
- Local Ambulance Services
- Civil Defence
- State Emergency Services
- Civilian Hospitals
- Military Hospitals
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Defense – Health Services
- Government
STUFF

- First Aid / Trauma / IFAK Kits
- Medical Equipment
- Medical Consumables
- Drugs / Medicines
- Controlled Drugs / Opioids
- Narc Kits

- Logistic Support
- Pharmacist / Med log
- Storage space / Medical Warehouse
- Transport
- Containers
OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY

• Water
• Electricity
• Oxygen Refill
• Biomedical Services

• Maintenance and Services
• Fuel
• Ambulance - Spare Tyres / Tools
• Ambulance - Spare Vehicles
STAFF

• Volunteer Staff
• Rotation of Staff
• Down Time
• Shelters
• Mental / Physical Health
• Security of Staff
• Medical Evacuations
• Neutral Nationalities
ERUs- Emergency Response Units

- Teams of specialists with their own equipment, finances and management structures.
- Deployed when local facilities are destroyed, overwhelmed or do not exist.
- Deployed within 24-72 hours and are self-sufficient for up to 4 months.
- They are maintained and funded by National Societies of various countries.
- Deployment is coordinated by Geneva.
- 6 types of ERU.
6 types of ERU

**WASH**
Water treatment, sanitation & hygiene
- M15
- M40
- MSM20
- WSR
- HWTS

**LOGISTICS**
Arrival, clearance, storage and dispatch of relief items

**RELIEF**
Relief assessments, targeting, registration, distribution

**BASECAMP**
Working and living space for staff

**IT / TELECOM**
Set up IT and comms networks

**HEALTH**
- Emergency Clinic
- Emergency Hospital
- Cholera Treatment center
- Public Health CCMC
- Public Health CBS
- Public Health SDB
- PSS module
Emergency Clinic (RCEC)– equivalent EMT Type 1

- Triage
- Assessment
- Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care
- First aid
- Stabilization and referral of severe trauma and non-trauma emergencies, care for minor cases
- 10-20 beds, runs 12-14 hours per day with 10-12 delegates working with local medical and nursing staff and RC volunteers
Emergency Hospital (RCEH) – equivalent EMT Type 2

- RCEC + other services:
  - Inpatient care for adults and children, general and obstetric surgery for trauma and other medical conditions
  - Blood transfusion capacity
  - Can treat 200 outpatients per day, with inpatient capacity of 20-160 beds.
  - Runs 24 hours per day with 30-40 delegates working with local clinical staff and RC volunteers
On-the Job Training

• Basic First Aid
• TCCC
• Basic Emergency care (BEC)
• Triage
• Emergency Room Trauma Care (ERTC)
• Mass Casualty Incident Training
• Weapon wounded / War Surgery
THANK YOU

Email: srihari@cattamanchi.in