



## **Psyc.E.In. MOOC 2**

### **Unit 6**

### **Chapter 3**

### **Case study/Good practice**

### **3.3 Problem Solving after an Earthquake**

#### **Instructions for the learners**

Working in groups, review the details of the case study and answer the questions to complete the activity. It is not necessary to describe the whole process in detail.

In the following case study, you will be provided with a scenario to use in your classroom for an exercise that will last 30-40 minutes:

- 5 minutes to read the instructions and the information about the scenario individually.
- 10 minutes for subgroup discussion.
- 20 minutes to answer the questions.

## Scenario Description

It is January 2019, a city of about 70.000 inhabitants located in Central Italy has been devastated by an earthquake. There have been reports of about 80 deaths and 200 serious injuries.

The area has a high seismic risk and special protection measures must be applied.

The city has a growing population of retired and elderly people, many of whom reside in nursing homes.

Due to the cold temperatures, the rain is freezing on the surface of the roads. Electricity has been interrupted in a large portion of the city as wires collapse. Approximately 70.000 people need to be evacuated and placed in a safe location. In addition, the base camp set up by local teams has run out of food and other supplies and needs to be restocked.

Local rescuers have been operating non-stop for over 36 hours and local authorities requested external help.

You are a psychological emergency facilitator, member of a voluntary association that operates in civil protection. Your team includes three volunteer rescuers, two physicians, and two psychologists. Local authorities request the intervention of your team to help and coordinate local rescue teams. The crisis manager of your team asks for your intervention as a psychological emergency facilitator.

### Methods and resources:

Your team includes three volunteer rescuers, two physicians, and two psychologists. You have a few resources available to support your team, the main concerns are about the lack of information and time. Another earthquake is imminent and evacuation of people living in the area is necessary. Nevertheless, local population seems to be extremely reluctant to ask for and receive help.

As a member of a voluntary association operating in crisis and emergency events, your intervention is requested by local authorities in order to provide help and support to local rescue teams. In the role of psychological emergency facilitator, your tasks will focus on:

- evacuating people from the area affected by the earthquake
- helping organize the base camp and provide supplies

### Objective:

These tasks may become more difficult than expected since many people (especially elderly people) , shocked by the event, refuse to be evacuated and leave their houses.

The crisis manager of the local rescue team asks for your intervention to support and facilitate evacuation and procurement activities.

### Questions:

#### Assessment

1. What are the probable risks, hazards and vulnerabilities?

.....

.....

.....

2. Is there any missing information? How would you gather the necessary information?

.....

.....

.....

3. What additional resources will be necessary?

.....

.....

.....

#### Intervention

4. What are your objectives? And your targets?

.....

.....

.....

5. How would you develop the action plan/intervention? And how will you communicate to the target population?

.....

.....

.....

6. How would you organize the evacuation? How would you manage the reluctance of the local population? And the lack of time and resources?

.....

.....

.....

### **Monitoring results and recovery**

7. How will you monitor and evaluate the situation?

.....

.....

.....

8. How might the situation have changed as a result of your intervention?

.....

.....

.....

9. Which recovery interventions would you recommend?

.....

.....

.....



Project Number: 2020-1-PL-KA202-082075- Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.