Psychological Early Intervention
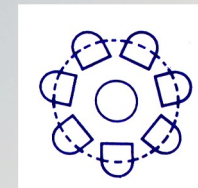
MOOC 1 – Unit 5:

Specific Targets in Early Psychological Intervention

Developed by Institute of Group Analysis Athens (EL)

Learning Unit 5
Specific Targets in Early Psychological Intervention

A typology of disasters, different targets and settings will be described, as well as different psychological approaches in these fields.

For each type of humanitarian emergency you will improve your:

- **Knowledge** about crisis, disaster, type of humanitarian emergencies

- **Skills** for intervention used in different kinds of humanitarian emergencies with target population such as hospital staff, refugees, citizens, caregivers, children/adolescents, first aid personnel

- **Competences** to respond to identified psychological domains in different settings, such as refugees camp, community, hospital, schools

Learning Unit 5
Specific Targets in Early Psychological Intervention

- **Introduction: Some concepts and definitions**

- **Chapter 1 - Humanitarian emergencies**

- **Chapter 2 - Different settings**

- **Chapter 3 – Targets**

- **References**

Introduction

Crisis and disaster are not synonymous.

Disasters are larger in scale and require inter-agency coordination.

A definition for crisis comes from the work of Coombs (2007). It relies on four criteria: unpredictability, threat to stakeholder expectations, impact on organizational performance, and potential for negative outcomes.

A second (and somewhat similar) definition also rests on four criteria: unexpected nature of the event, non-routine demands on the organization, production of uncertainty, and threat to high-priority goals (Seeger et al, 2005).

A third definition for the term "crisis" is comprised of the following criteria: nature of the harm, extent of the harm, clarity of the cause, precedence of the harm, power of the accusers, and visual dimensions (Huxman & Bruce, 1995).

Coombs, W.T. 2007. Protecting organization reputations during a crisis: the development and application of Situational Crisis Communication Theory. *Corporate Reputation Review*. Vol. 10(3):163-176

Seeger, M.W., Ulmer, R.R., Novak, J.M., Sellnow, T. 2005. Post-crisis discourse and organizational change, failure and renewal. *Journal of Organizational Change Management.* Vol. 18(1):78-95

Introduction: Some concepts and definitions

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) defines **Community Resilience** as "the ability of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner through the preservation and restoration of its basic structures and functions."

UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction). UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva (2017). Available online at: http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology

Castleden, M., McKee, M., Murray, V., Leonardi ,G. (2011). Resilience thinking in health protection. *Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 33(3):36977.

Ostadtaghizadeh A, Ardalan A, Paton D, Jabbari H, Khankeh HR. (2015). Community disaster resilience: a systematic review on assessment models and tools. *PLoS Current Disasters*. 7:ecurrents.dis.f224ef8efbdfcf1d508dd0de4d8210ed.

Introduction: Some concepts and definitions Humanitarian Emergency and Vulnerability

The term '**Humanitarian Emergency**' describes an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to health, wellbeing, safety, or security of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area

The concept of '**Vulnerability**' relates to a reduced capacity of individuals or groups to resist and recover from life-threatening hazards, for example armed conflicts, food shortage and population displacement

All types of disasters include **social disruption**

Disasters are occurring at an **increasing rate worldwide**
Psychological recovery among disaster survivors is a **complex process**, associated to **multiple factors** that may affect the subject for a long time after the event

Introduction: Some concepts and definitions
A multi-dimensional approach of disasters

Multi-dimensional integrated community approach can be summarized by the **6R model**:

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Readiness (Preparedness)
Response (Immediate action)
Relief (Sustained rescue work)
Rehabilitation (Long term remedial measures using community resources)
Recovery (Returning to normality) and
Resilience (Fostering)

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Math, B.S., Nirmala, M.C., Moirangthem, S., Kumar, N.C. 2015. Disaster Management: Mental Health Perspective. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*. 37(3):261-271. Doi: 10.4103/0253-7176.162915

Gibson, C.A., Tarrant, M. (2010). A 'conceptual models' approach to organisational resilience: Gibson and Tarrant discuss the range of inter-dependant factors needed to manage organisational resilience. *Australian Journal of Emergency Management.* Vol. 25(2):6-12.