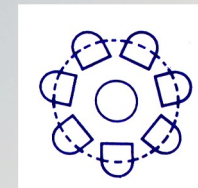


MOOC 1 – Unit 5:

Specific Targets in Early Psychological Intervention

Developed by Institute of Group Analysis Athens (EL)



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Chapter 1 – Humanitarian Emergencies

Introduction

In order to design a psychological intervention, it is useful to know what kind of disaster provoked the Humanitarian Emergency. In this chapter, a description of different type of disasters is given.

- **Natural disasters**
- **Technological disasters**
- **Complex Emergencies**

Disaster Behavioural Health (DBH) constitutes, not only an integral part of the overall public health, but also mental health and stress management services in response to any emergency event. First initiatives include informing the state, natural resources and local emergency managers, emergency personnel, public health responders, in order to increase their understanding of stress impact on health.



Chapter 1 – Humanitarian Emergencies

1.1. A typology of disasters

Natural disasters: they result from **acts of nature**, no one causes these disasters, are the most common type, **not preventable** even though they might be **to some extent predictable**. Examples of disasters: earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, tornadoes, high winds, flooding, landslides, temperature extremes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and climate-related wildfires.

Technological disasters: they result from acts of humans which involve malfunction of human-designed technology, regulatory failure, human error, and/or management shortcomings. The term **recreancy** describes the loss of trust in individuals and organizations that were supposed to manage risks to prevent this type of disaster.

Techna disasters: a failure or unanticipated consequence of human-designed technology, exacerbates or causes a natural phenomenon, for example, inappropriate construction practice increases the possibility of collapse after earthquakes.

Natech disasters define the situation when a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, leads to a technological disaster such as an oil spill.



Chapter 1 – Humanitarian Emergencies

1.2. Complex emergencies

- **Complex Emergencies**

Description: ‘Complex emergencies’ refer to a combination of **natural and man-made** elements, including **different causes of vulnerability** and a combination of factors that lead to a humanitarian crisis. For example, terrorist attacks, riots, forced migration with a strong presence of refugees and asylum seekers, armed conflict and war, delinquent acts, and missing, kidnapped or tortured people.

Intentional acts, such as armed conflicts, mass shootings, acts of arson, can provoke disasters and cause **Complex Emergencies**

This type of emergency is characterized by:

- Extensive violence and loss of life
- Displacement of populations
- Widespread damage to societies and economies
- Humanitarian assistance in large-scale and multi-faceted interventions