



Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies Guidance

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The role of our Secretary of State

To ensure that the needs of British victims of major emergencies and of their families are understood and properly considered within Government in building preparedness for and responding to major emergencies, and to represent the Government and explain its policies when dealing with victims and their families.



Definition of Emergency

- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK;
- an event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the UK;
- war, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK

Major emergency (Saylor, 1993):

- Identifiable beginning and end
- Destruction/injury/loss of life
- 'Public' – affecting a large group of people
- Traumatic enough to induce stress in almost anyone



Areas of Activity

Preparedness

Communication with bereaved & survivors
Learning lessons and building an evidence base
Financial support
Guiding plans for the response at home and overseas

Emergency Response

COBR
Secretary of State
Local Responders
Lead Departments

Aftercare

Acts of Remembrance
Memorials
Psycho-social support systems





2006

Disaster Response

- Responding to incidents in Bahrain, Egypt, Turkey & Jordan

Aftercare

- 7 July anniversary, memorial service and ongoing Assistance Centre
- Sharm el-Sheikh, Kusadasi & Doha memorial service
- Funding to the 7th July Assistance Centre

Preparedness

- Lessons Learned
- Humanitarian Assistance Centre guidance
- Evidence base - Literature Review and 7 July Centre Evaluation
- New charitable fund for victims of terrorism
- Data sharing guidance
- Protocols with FCO and Home Office
- Exercises and training
- Establishing work plan for future - capabilities programme



Literature and Best Practice Review

Dr Anne Eyre

Key Points

- The relationship between disaster planning and response and procedures and provision for *meeting everyday need* in society should be understood and addressed by anyone involved in providing humanitarian assistance.
- Emergency managers should be made aware of *common myths* about human behaviour in disasters and address their plans accordingly.
- Most *traumatic stress reactions after disaster* are temporary. Information and activities which normalise reactions, protect social resources and signpost further sources of support are fundamental to good psycho-social response.
- The emphasis on interventions should be on *empowerment* i.e. drawing upon resilience and building strengths, capabilities and self-sufficiency.
- *Proactive outreach support*, including personalised support for bereaved families and contact between those affected, has been found to be most helpful from the earliest stages.
- *Religion, rituals and remembrance* may play a fundamental role for those affected by disaster.



Literature and Best Practice Review

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Best Practice Guidelines

- As well as short term impacts, joint planning, preparedness and training should focus specifically on addressing medium and longer term elements of disaster recovery within and across disaster-impacted communities.
- It is likely that the maximum impact of outreach efforts will be in the initial stages, e.g. the first 12 months. Services may be needed for longer but are likely to be reduced in size and focus over time. Attention to exit strategies from the outset and regular programme review is crucial.
- Planning and response will benefit from including consideration of one stop shop approaches.
- Only carefully screened and qualified providers should be enlisted and both specialist and multidisciplinary teams may be necessary to deliver high-quality, culturally sensitive services.
- Service reviews should include user evaluation, dissemination of lessons learned and suggestions for future planners/providers.



Humanitarian Assistance Centre Guidance

Interim Guidance - September 2005

Revised guidance – October 2006

Key Messages:

- One element of a local response
- Multi-agency involvement
- Planned for, scaleable & appropriate
- Effectively communicated & sensibly named
- Taking account of medium to long term needs
- Focused on needs of victims and communities
- Planning according to risk and capability
- Learning lessons from past experiences



2007

- Engagement with Local Responders and voluntary sector
- Evidence base – mapping developments and undertaking research into models of response
- Guidance on rest and reception centres
- Funding 7 July Centre
 - Now offering support to victims of 16 separate incidents, including 7 July attacks, and overseas incidents; DCMS funding is confirmed up to 31 March 2008
- Potential for a long-term centre of excellence:
 - Response to those affected in overseas emergencies
 - Sharing best practice and learning
 - Training in humanitarian response
- National Occupational Standards for Training & Accreditation



2007

- Charitable Fund
- Compensation options
 - Cross-government discussions taking place about possibility of compensation for British victims of terrorist attacks overseas
- Future models of trauma screening/treatment
- Emergency website
- Guidance for Employers
- Learning Lessons - response to NAO Report into the Tsunami; engagement with recent groups of victims
- A memorial to 7 July
- Full capability analysis



Any Questions?