

Disaster Preparedness and Response as Innovative Practice



Kit Sinclair, WFOT

1

When disasters occur



- Displaced persons
- Shelter, food, water, and disease prevention/sanitation;
- Psychosocial effects
- Physical traumas.
- Loss of income

• WHO, cited by Sinclair & Thomas, 2005, p15-17;

2

When disasters occur



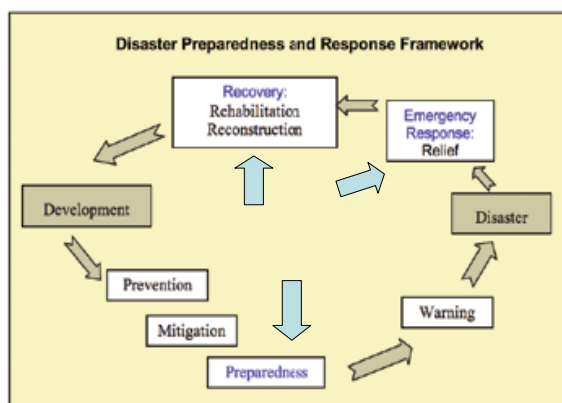
- Coordinated approach
- Capacity building
- Difficulties in service delivery

3

Why OT?

occupation and productivity/income generation are central to rehabilitation post disaster

4



5

Relevance to the Occupational Therapy profession, globally and locally

- services of occupational therapists within primary, secondary and tertiary health care;
- Disaster management and planning for and with persons with disabilities
- lack of predictability of future events
- need for risk identification, risk management, and learning from responses to incidents


6

OT discussions about Aceh tsunami



7

Preparedness...



- Awareness and Training
- Contingency Planning
- Risk and Resource Mapping
- Identification and Registration
- Early Warning

8

Why OT Associations should prepare their own response plans before disasters occur

- Understand statistical trends in disaster
- Increase awareness and preparation
- support local communities; to support local OTs;
- Effective, timely and appropriate communication
- Coordination/liaison with NGOs and governments is crucial

9

awaiting reconstruction in 2005

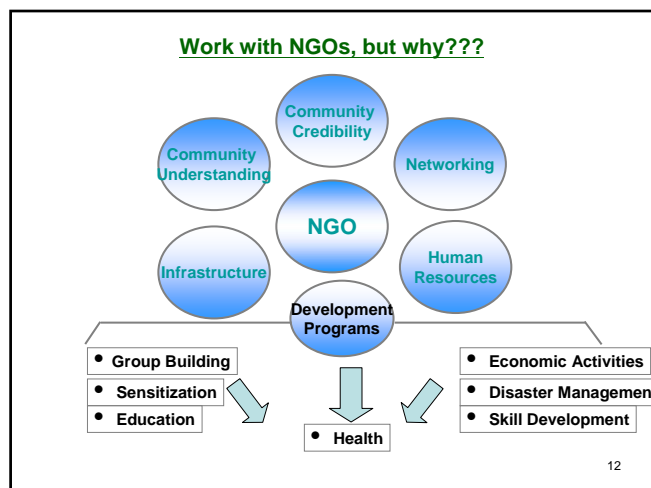


Sri Lanka

regional workshop – capacity building



11



Why OT Associations should prepare their own response plans before disasters occur

- People with a pre-existing disability need assistance
- Numbers in need of services can be great and overwhelming
- Help people access genuine income generating activity
- determine what assistance they need from others at the time of an emergency affecting their own community;
- ensure resources are easily accessible in formats available after a disaster;

13

Sample Identification and registration form

GENERAL INFORMATION FORM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Date of recording: _____ (month/year) _____ (month/year) Form ID: _____

Information of person being assessed: Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Person's Personal Information: Name: _____ Address: _____

Disability Identification: Can the person see (use of their eyes) need? Yes No

Can the person hear (use of their ears) need? Yes No

Can the person communicate (use of their voice) need? Yes No

Can the person move (use of their limbs) need? Yes No

Can the person use any assistive device? Yes No

14

People lost their prosthesis in the tsunami



15

Develop early warning systems in a disabled-friendly manner using multi-modal warning means (visual signs or signals, auditory alarms, peer support, community support, etc.)

TYPE OF IMPAIRMENTS AND WARNING SYSTEMS	
Types of impairments/Disabilities	Warning System
Visual Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditory Signal System/Alarms • Announcements • Posters written with large characters and colour contrast
Hearing Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Signal Systems – Red Flag, Symbols • Pictures • Turn lights on-off frequently
Intellectual Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Signals – Red Flag, Symbols • Clear and brief announcements by rescue workers
Physical Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditory Signal System/Alarms • Announcements

Sample Rapid Assessment Tool

Use this type of rapid assessment tool to identify PWDs in an emergency situation

Post Disaster Accession Form for Persons with Disabilities

Date of recording: _____ (month/year) _____ (month/year) Form ID: _____

Information of person being assessed: Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Person's Personal Information: Name: _____ Address: _____

Does the person:	Due to disaster	Before disaster
Have difficulty seeing?		
Have difficulty hearing?		
Have difficulty speaking?		
Have difficulty moving or walking?		
Have no feeling in their hands or feet?		
Show strange behaviours?		
Have flat feet?		
Have difficulty hearing?		
Have any deformities? Body parts that are distorted? the wrong shape?		
Have any missing body parts (amputations)?		
Have any other disabilities? Describe:		
If the person does have any disability, is he/she able to care for him/herself?	Yes () No ()	
If not, who usually cares for the person?	Yes () No ()	
Is this individual able to assist me?	Yes () No ()	
Does the person have any special needs? (visual signs, assistive devices like hearing aids, etc.)	Yes () No ()	

17

Disability Services




18



**post-tsunami
income generating
occupations**

19



**Inclusion (Education,
Livelihood..)**

20



Priority Needs for future WFOT DP&R development

- systems and structures,
- professional practice,
- other capacity development, and
- funding and resources.

23

WFOT Strategies

- Permanent WFOT task force
- Capacity development framework and plan
– Education modules
- DP&R support to individual countries-
presently through resource package
- Monitoring evaluation and reporting
- Disseminating outputs and learning
- Resourcing strategies

24

Relationship between National Association and WFOT project team

- National association
- Task force
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting mechanism

25

WFOT Information Package

Available from
Online shop



26



27

World Federation of Occupational Therapists
www.wfot.org

Kit Sinclair, Hong Kong.

Email: kits@pacific.net.hk

Secretariat: admin@wfot.org.au

Consultant

Kerry Thomas, director, *interPART* and Associates

PO Box 1775, Macclesfield. SA 5153

Ph: (08) 8388 9918

Email: kerry.thomas@interpart.org.au

28