Integrated approach for disaster reduction in health: Setting new experiences in Cuba

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CUBA. Main hazards

- Epidemics
- Forest burn
- Drought
- Oil spills
- Earthquakes
- Tropical Cyclones
The Ministry of Public Health and its health institutions are integrated to the System of Civil Defense measures as established in the Cuban legislation, the Directive of the National Defense Council and the Complementary indications of the Minister of Public Health.
DISASTER REDUCTION IN
HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS

PREVENTION

RESPONSE

RECOVERY
Risk = f (Hazard.Vulnerability)

- Population health care
- Health facilities
- Human Resources
- Preparedness

Risk management → Reducing vulnerability
Accordingly hazards and the disaster cycle
Yearly updated by every health institutions
Integrated upwards in the NHS
Coordination with all the economy sectors
Trained in simulated exercises
Conciliated under the Civil Defense organ
Full responsibility of the health authorities
- Effective use of the material & financial resources
- Medical brigades are previously located in vulnerable areas
- Need assessment
- Plans for Medical supply, sanitary transport and logistics
- Teaching and training to the human resources in general
- Mitigation of Health facilities: Safe health institutions policy
● Hygienic and epidemiological preventive measures: water supply and quality, food quality, personal hygiene, vector control

● Preparedness to face severe epidemics

● Comprehensive Emergency System from the local level, with advanced technology and multisectorial approach
**DISASTER PLANNING (cont...)**

- Comprehensive public health surveillance system
- Integral medical attention to the Evacuation:
  - Primary Health Care units in vulnerable areas
  - Health education
  - Psychology care
Comprehensive medical attention to groups with special needs:

- Infants
- Pregnant
- Elderly
- Disabled persons
- Others

All action plans in health include actions of prevention and mitigation of disasters.
### SOLIDARITY: A PRINCIPLE OF THE CUBAN PUBLIC HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>DISASTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>CHILE</td>
<td>EARTHQUAKE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>PERU</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>DOMINICAN REP.</td>
<td>HURRICANE</td>
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*NO LIMITED BY ECONOMIC OR GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS*
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<th>DISASTER</th>
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<td>EARTHQUAKE</td>
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<td>GUYANA</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>EARTHQUAKE</td>
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1998 - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Georges and Mitch Hurricanes
FIRST CUBAN MEDICAL BRIGADES

GUATEMALA
5 – November - 1998

HONDURAS
3 – November -1998

NICARAGUA
12 – November - 1998

HAITI
4 – December - 1998
Comprehensive medical attention
Technical assistance
Human resources preparedness
Health programs development

Free medical care
Rural & remote areas
Overall population
**MAIN IMPACT:** Medical doctors in communities without prior health services

- Significant reduction of Infant and maternal mortality rates
- Medical coverage to 181 Departments and 6,893 Rural communities
- Opening of 750 Primary Care health units
- Puesta en marcha of 16 Hospitals
- Opening of 160 new health services in hospitals
Founded in 1998 by the President Fidel Castro it was another response to the needs of preparing health professionals from overall countries of The Americas, The Caribbean and Africa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24 countries</th>
<th>19 Latin American</th>
<th>100 etnias</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Latin American</td>
<td>19 Latin American</td>
<td>4 Africans y USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Africans</td>
<td>4 Africans</td>
<td>1500 students / year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 students / year</td>
<td>31 Africans</td>
<td>Total: 8271 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>spread all over the Faculties of Medicine in the country</td>
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A comprehensive approach of Disaster Medicine in Cuba and for Latin America and The Caribbean:

- Development of the human resources
- Research in Health and Disaster
- Information management, scientific documentation and lesson learned exchange for the knowledge management
- Integral Health Attention: medical care in emergency, rehabilitation, prevention, surveillance and epidemiologic control
1. Undergraduates:
   - Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM)
   - Cuban students
2. Primary Health Care Professionals
3. International medical cooperation
4. Scientific information professionals
5. Trainers & Professors of Faculties
6. Dentistry
7. Psychology of health
8. Nurses
9. Technology of Health
10. Henry Reeve
   International Team of Medical Specialists in Disasters & Epidemics
PRODUCTS & SERVICES

- Publications, CD materials, Video
- Translation of methodological documents
- Exchange of information with Information Centers of The Caribbean and Latin America
- Advisory to Disaster Information Center in Dominican Republic (UASD)
Sobre la bvs en Desastres
Literatura científica
- Búsqueda en bases de datos
- Directorios
- Publicaciones
Terminología en salud (DeCS)
Localizador de información en salud

http://bvsdesastres.sld.cu/

Centro Latinoamericano de Medicina de Desastres (CLAMED)
http://www.clamed.sld.cu/
Calle 18 No 710 entre 7ma. y 29, Playa. Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba
Tel: 223636, Fax: (537) 248806
clamed@infomed.sld.cu
http://www.sld.cu/sitios/desastres/
Capacities for international cooperation

- Organization of international scientific events on disaster prevention in Cuba and exchange about good practices and lessons learned
- Technical cooperation among Latin America and Caribbean countries in health and disasters
- Needs evaluation on preparedness, knowledge & information management
- Advisory on disaster prevention and mitigation in health sector
Cuba has developed a comprehensive approach to deal with the successful experiences in prevention and disaster reduction for more than 30 years. The health sector comprises special conditions for international technical cooperation based on the positive experiences and lessons learned in emergencies and disasters.
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