

A Comparative study on disaster plan in National Health System: NHS – UK and Iran Health System

application of a disaster pilot for
hospitals



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Iran, Islamic Republic

Area : 1 648 000 km²

Population : 70 000 000

Weather and Climate : Located mostly on the world dry belt

Geographical Location : South West Asia and located on the Alp- Himalaya Belt

No. of happened natural disasters : 31 types of 40 natural disasters

Important Disasters : Earthquake, Floods, Drought, Landslides, Desertification, Deforestation, Storm.

Latest Disaster : Bam Earthquake 5.6 Richter (2003)

More than 30 000 people killed, 10 000 Injured, 100 000 Homeless, 800 million US Dollars damage expenditures

General Response : In national level; Ministry of Interior; National Disaster Task Force (NDTF). In regional level ; Governor and Provincial DTF

Policy Making: Bureau for Research and Coordination for Safety and Reconstruction (BRCSR).

Responsible for Rescue and Relief : Iranian Red Crescent (IRC) , Fire Dept ,Basij and Army forces

Responsible for Health care operation: Emergency Medical Services (EMS 115)

Safety Planning Important efforts:

- 1- Preparation of Master Plan for Disaster Management (Earthquake 2000)
- 2- comprehensive Plan for Rescue and Relief (2003)
- 3- National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (NCNDR) and Specialized Subcommittee for Health and Medical Care (SSCHMC)

United Kingdom

Area : 244 100 km²

Population : 60 000 000

Weather and Climate: Island Wet and mostly rainy

Geographical Location : West of Europe

Latest natural disasters: Hurricane 1995 , and
Quake 5.4 Richter 1984

Important natural disasters: Flooding, Tornados,
Severe storms and Bad weather, Fire, Dam
Failures, Earthquakes.

Generic framework and general responsible: Civil Contingencies Secretariat and Civil Contingencies Act (2004) : This Act describes roles and responsibilities and interaction and cooperation among three management Levels ; Gold (Strategic Level), Silver (Tactical Level) , and Bronze (operational Level).

Multi-agencies and Community Education
Responsible: Emergency Planning College(EPC), Cabinet Office,
www.epcollege.gov.uk

An emergency is a situation or series of events that threatens or causes serious damage to human welfare, the environment or security in UK.(CCA, 2004).

Civil Contingencies Act (2004)

The Act establishes the legal framework for emergency preparedness in UK and describes the nature and scope of duties of main agencies and sectors. The Act facilitate coordination and cooperation between responders. According to the Act , Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) sites within the Cabinet Office at the Heart of central government. The Act includes roles and responsibilities of:

- * - Health Bodies such as : Ambulance services, Acute Trusts, primary & Community Care services, Private Health Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) in England, Local Health Boards in Wales, Health Protection Agency(HPA), Public Health , Dept of Health, HM Coroner, Local Health Authorities ...
- Police Services
- Fire and Rescue services
- Armed Forces
- Private Sector
- Voluntary Sector

British health organizations and other related public or private institutions are working hard to protecting people's health via identifying mass casualties incidents, preparing and designing disaster and emergency plan, increasing risk of disasters and incidents, and mitigating and decreasing their negative short and long term outcomes.

Results

Although there is some similarity in background of health disaster plan in UK and Iran , there are some major differences in organization and specially in developing standards and guidelines. For instance having a contingency plan for hospitals and health centers in UK is common but it has recently emphasized on designing contingency plan for Iranian hospitals and considering establishment of HEICS in hospitals is increasing.

Needs Assessment for Designing a Disaster and Risk Management Training Program for Hospital CEOs-A Pilot Study in Isfahan Province, Iran.

STUDTY METHOD

We conducted a two phase research:

- 1- Phase one included hospital managers' performance and their educational needs. In this phase we took advantage of a descriptive study that considered performance and needs through using semi structured interview and self directed questionnaire. Population and sample consist of all of 42 University affiliated hospitals CEOs and Managers. This project was conducted by Center for Health Economics and Management Studies (CHEMS) an affiliate to Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) in Esfahan Province that is located in center of Iran and has responsibility of aiding capital of Iran (Tehran) during large national disasters.

2- Phase two consist of designing and developing a management training package for hospital mangers and CEOs. In this we phase developed an instructional program taking advantage of instructional designers and curriculum planners and some other related experts in Focus Discussion Groups and during this phase prepared curriculum materials including Syllabus, Outlines, Goals and Objectives, written and electronic material content, references and resources.

Results

phase one: Although findings showed that performance of teaching hospitals managers in response to disasters was dramatically worse than non teaching ones, all of Managers had less than 60% in ideal performance. There was not significant difference between general and specialized hospitals in managerial performance in disasters. Correlation between managers' education level and performance was 37%.

On the other hand findings showed that most important needs of hospital managers included disaster preparation and establishment of HEICS plan, designing contingency and disaster plan, organizing communication in disasters, workplace safety and security standard, provision of supply and equipments respectively.

phase two: In this phase we placed a major emphasis on training. Initially this training package was oriented to requirements for disaster preparedness, in particular planning for disaster response needs to ensure that hospital managers are able to manage human resources as well as supplies. Training was built around generic simulation exercises which aimed to real disaster situation. The focus of this package was building disaster management capacity over the Isfahan Province. The training package was built based on educational needs assessment taken place in phase one.

Disaster plan package for hospital managers developed in this project aimed to train hospital managers to understand and recognize their critical role during a large national disaster including:

- Generic incident management
- Internal disaster plan
- Evacuation for internal disasters
- Resources for patient transfer
- Inter-hospital transfer
- External Disaster plan
- Expansion of facilities
- Disaster protocols and importance

Conclusion

Training Packages specially on disaster planning, should be design according to learners needs and domestic disasters and also curriculum principles and strategies that have been considered in this project. The training package that is developed by the researchers also is sponsored by Medical Education Development Center (MEDC) at IUMS. The advantages of this project are building on an investigation of hospital managers' performance and also assessing educational needs of hospital managers and CEOs. This project made a reliable domestic and experimental millstone to develop this package and extend training courses all over the country.

Developing this package has involved an appropriate amount of research and also related experts and researchers to provide a practical and accurate knowledge of operations and resources at the scene of a disaster and especially at the hospital level.

- 1-Identifying roles and responsibilities of all agencies, developing policies and procedures (guidelines and standards)
- 2-Increasing roles and responsibilities of private sector (NGOs, Private organizations, Charities..)via supporting them by delegating emergency services and tasks and also implementing training courses in emergency operation and management.
- 3- Capacity building and coordination among members of the national headquarters at all levels of country.

- 4- Increasing coordination between all responsible organizations (public or private) through establishing HEICS in hospitals and Incident Command System (ICS) in all levels of operation during disasters and training professional people
- 5- Establishing a special college responsible for training professional people and training of trainees

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