

WHO Conference on Health Aspects of Tsunami Diseases

**Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005**



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Health care system disrupted by the disaster

- ***Health Sector affected in several ways***
 - Healthcare Personnel lost lives and property
 - Destruction of Health Facilities
 - Critical Medical and Hospital Supplies in need
 - Supply chain infrastructure damaged
 - Roads
 - Distribution Lines
 - Telecommunication links



Call to Action

- ***Immediate humanitarian and recovery response***
 - Collaborative efforts between all stakeholders
 - Health specialists mobilized for support
 - Essential Medical Equipment and Pharmaceuticals delivered and utilized
 - No serious outbreaks of communicable diseases



Sri Lanka Mission

- *With guidance and assistance from WHO staff gained an understanding of the healthcare systems and infrastructure and the extent and scope of the Tsunami wave on the health system*
 - Interviews with public health and government officials
 - Field visits
 - Review of consult and other relevant reports



Areas of Focus

1. *Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies Assessment*

2. *Health Services and Public Health Systems Assessment*

- **Surveillance and Laboratory Capacity**
- Control of Communicable Diseases
- Securing Basic Sanitation and Water Quality



Pharmaceutical/Medical Assessment

- *MOH has a central warehouse located in Colombo (Medical Supply Division) that is single point of entry in to the country*
- *MSD supplies directly to main hospitals and to the districts with serve the smaller local hospitals in their region*
- *Immediate patients needs were met with respect to pharmaceutical and medical supplies*



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Pharm/Medical Supply Assessment

Overall immediate patient needs were met:

Vast amounts of well intended donations made by public and private sector

Donations included lorries and vehicles that allowed the Medical Supply division to transport to affected areas

Donations of storage space and warehouses for temporary use



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Pharma/Medical Supplies Assessment

- *Varied sources of donations, some going directly to affected areas*
- *Not always adhering to WHO donation guidelines*
- *Issues encountered included:*
 - Expiry dates not known
 - Dosages not clear
 - In foreign language



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Pharmaceuticals/Medical Supplies Assessment

- *Ensure measures to create inventory systems for donations. This should include supplies from the public sector, NGO supplies, and supplies from the private sector. A timely inventory system can support appropriate drug donations, eliminate duplication, and facilitate communication back to donors for request of specific needs.*



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Pharmaceutical/Medical Supplies Assessment

- ***Collaboration with governments (central and local) for the availability of warehouses for appropriate storage conditions to store drug and medical supplies. This should include appropriate facilities such as cold rooms, shelving, warehouse equipment both centrally and locally***
- ***Large central facilities would also better enable inventory systems to be functional.***
- ***Collaboration for the availability of transport vehicles, lorries, trucks etc.***



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Pharmaceuticals/Medical Supplies Assessment

- *Better and more rapid communication strategy from the periphery to central locations to meet needs. Information technology to support communication*
- *Coordinated medical waste disposal efforts and best practices that are supported by advice from experts. Provide appropriate training.*
- *Tracking and monitoring of shelf life*
- *Ability to detect and handle counterfeit issues*



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Pharm/Medical Supply

- *Request for institutions to catalog all available product donations; identify needs for destruction and impact on further volume estimates*
- *Ensure appropriate information technology and communications*
- *Provide appropriate training based on needs, to staff at all levels, central and periphery*



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Surveillance and Laboratory Capacity

- *Tsunami stricken victims and displaced populations are vulnerable to vector borne diseases and other communicable diseases*
- *Crowding, poor water supply, monsoons and other environmental conditions increase the potential risk of these infections*



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Surveillance and Laboratory Assessment

- *Existing surveillance system based on inpatient services at hospitals*
- *Does not include the outpatient or private sector*
- *Information is disseminated through the Weekly Epidemiology Report and the Quarterly Epidemiology report*
- *Epidemiology Unit at MOH focal point for surveillance and monitoring*



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Surveillance and Laboratory Assessment

Collaborative proposal WHO/MOH :

- 1. Establish outbreak warning and surveillance (training of personnel, technical assistance and logistical support)*
- 2. Timely collection, analysis and dissemination of epidemiology information (Increase timely responsiveness and communication)*



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Surveillance and Laboratory Assessment

- 3. Laboratory confirmation mechanisms (procurement of lab materials and test kits, training of field and lab staff and logistical support)*
- 4. Rapid response mechanism (rapid response team formation and preparedness plan, coordination of local, national and international response)*



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Surveillance/Laboratory Assessment

- *Surveillance system with appropriate laboratory support that includes in-depth reach in the community has the potential to provide valuable, on time information to the healthcare delivery system in the local community*
- *Appropriate medical intervention may take place in a time efficient manner to avert, manage and control potential disease*



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Surveillance/Laboratory Assessment

- *Laboratory services are integral*
- *Lab Support can be tailored and customized to the needs and capabilities of the region*
- *Simple but important tests can be performed by less trained staff in the smaller institutions in the community*
- *Ensure appropriate human resources and continuous training, perform regular needs assessments and tailor programs based on local needs and abilities*



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Surveillance/Laboratory Assessment

- *Information Technology is integral*
- *Information, data gathering, analysis and dissemination of timely data*
- *Technology development customized based on the different capabilities and needs depending on region, existing infrastructure, human resources and size of institution*



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Ampara Example

- *With support of WHO and MOH established a successful network for health services delivery “**Tele-Medicine Consultation**”*
- *Internet for medical literature review and research of medical topics*
- *Ensure appropriate*
 - *Human Resources and Training*
 - *Equipment maintenance*



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Reestablish a Healthcare System

- *Longer term needs to protect the health of survivors and vulnerable populations*
 - Coordinate and ensure collaboration among all actors and stakeholders (evaluation of the impact of programs undertaken by all actors)
 - Perform continuous assessment and evaluation of health needs and response
 - Ensure continuous and appropriate training on all levels





Thank You



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