

# **How can we do better?**

## **Measuring results of health interventions in disasters**

**Phuket, Thailand  
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**Paul B. Spiegel**



*“What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is  
what will be done; there is  
nothing new under the sun”*

Book of Ecclesiastes verse 1:9



# Key lessons learned over past decade from disaster evaluations

1. Improve coordination
2. Standardise methods and indicators
3. Ensure sufficient and appropriate baseline data
4. Provide appropriate technical expertise
5. Ensure more commitment and funds *to act on recommendations*



# Multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of health interventions

1. Physical
2. Psychological
3. Socioeconomic

1. Natural disasters
2. Complex humanitarian emergencies
3. Communicable disease epidemics



# M&E

## Hierarchy

1. System-wide
2. Partial system
3. Single agency response
4. Single agency, single project

## At various levels

- Global
- Regional
- Country
- Region within country
- Field

## Of different actors

1. Governments
2. UN agencies
3. Other International agencies
4. NGOs, CBOs, faith-based org – local, int'l
5. Military
6. Donors – bilateral and multilateral
7. Private industry
8. Affected communities

# Coordination, politics and commitment

- Equitable distrib'n in conflict-affected areas
- Rival plans for evaluations and early warning systems
- Lessons 'learned' often only 'identified'
- Political and financial commitment not just to undertake but to ACT on eval'n results
- Don't politicise evaluations



# Quantitative and qualitative methodologies

- Mix of the two methodologies is necessary
- Standardisation
- Measurable and informative indicators
- Disaggregation by sex and age
- For the most part, assessments were of insufficient quality



# Baseline data

***“Chance favours the prepared mind” –  
Louis Pasteur (1822-95)***

- **Collect in preparedness phase**
- **Standardised with indicators**
  - **Basic health statistics**
  - **GIS mapping**
  - **Endemic and epidemic disease history**
  - **Simplification of complex surv. systems**



# M&E means undertaking research

- Research is not a four letter word
- Needed to study effectiveness and accountability
- Mechanism in place to ensure ethical research given vulnerability of affected pop.



# Recommendations

1. **One** agreed upon disaster preparedness plan
2. **One** designated Disaster Coordinating Authority
3. **One** agreed upon Monitoring and Evaluation System
4. Implement system-wide and multi-staged evaluations (short, medium and long term evaluations over next 10 yrs) for all major disasters

