

Editors:

Maria Drakaki | Diego Vega

International Conference on Humanitarian Crisis Management (KRISIS 2023)



**Book of Abstracts of the
International Conference on Humanitarian
Crisis Management (KRISIS 2023)**



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Book of Abstracts of the International Conference on Humanitarian Crisis
Management (KRISIS 2023)

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Maria Drakaki • Diego Vega

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International Conference on Humanitarian Crisis Management (KRISIS 2023)



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Date: 14-15 / 10 / 2023

International Hellenic University,
Thermi Campus, Thessaloniki, Greece

Hybrid Mode
also available with



Building B, Lecture Room B1

Conference Program

Saturday 14 October 2023

09:30 -10:00 | **Registration**

10:00 -10:30 | **Opening Ceremony**

10:30 -11:00 | **Round Table:**

Prospects and Challenges for the Social Integration of Refugees in Greece

Manolis Ntamparakis, *Senior Integration Assistant UNHCR Greece,
Field Office in Thessaloniki*

Moderator: Maria Drakaki

11:00 -11:30 | **Coffee Break**



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Saturday 14 October 2023

Session 1: Humanitarian Crisis Management and Resilience

Chair: Dimitrios Karkanis

Constructing the Narrative of Resilient Society:

Self-organising from Relief to Recovery

Anna Dziuba, Aino Ruggiero, Wojciech Piotrowicz

Solidarity Urban Commons vs Resilient Cities.

Newcomers' Right to the City in Athens and Thessaloniki

Charalamos Tsavdaroglou

11:30 - 13:20

Resilience of Cities in the Face of Disaster Risks as a Pathway to Achieving Sustainability: A Study Using the United Nations Scorecard

in city Mohammedia, Morocco

Abderrahmane Jadouane

Can International Tourism-related Activities Menace Food Security in the Least Developed Countries? A Preliminary Study

Dimitrios Karkanis

Localisation of Funding as Promoted by the Grand Bargain and Supportive Funding Tools

Violetta Kyriakou, Maria Drakaki

Mexican Crisis: Explaining The Crisis in the Context of the In-Country Violence - The Case of the State Veracruz De La Llave

Elena Alatzas

13:20 - 13:50

Keynote Speech:

Compound Crises and Humanitarian Medicine at a European Level

Prof. Emmanouil Pikoulis

Dean of the School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Director of the MSc in Global Health - Medicine of Disasters

EU Jean Monnet Chair Humanitarian medicine and response in action

13:50 - 14:50

Lunch break



Saturday 14 October 2023

	<p>Round Table: Migration Challenges at a Global Level</p>
14:50 - 15:20	<p>Forced Migration as a Humanitarian Crisis. The Pending European Response Prof. Konstantinos Tsitselikis <i>Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia</i></p> <p>Interventions of International Organizations in Humanitarian Emergencies Dr. Fani Galatsopoulou <i>Coordinator of the Field Office in Thessaloniki</i> <i>IOM Greece, Field Office in Thessaloniki</i></p> <p>Moderator: Maria Drakaki</p>
15:20 - 16:50	<p>Session 2: Humanitarian Logistics Chair: Diego Vega</p> <p>Supply chain risk governance: exploring citizens' role in crisis preparedness Aino Ruggiero, Wojciech Piotrowicz</p> <p>Expanding Reinforcement Learning Modeling Capabilities in Emergency Supply Distribution via Action Masking Rudy Milani, Joshua Arnold, Maximilian Moll and Stefan Pickl</p> <p>Challenges during the procurement cycle that procurement officers face in humanitarian organisations George Koligiannis, Maria Drakaki</p> <p>The Challenges of Military Logistics in Humanitarian Crisis: Lessons from the Ukrainian War Margaritis Stavaras, Maria Drakaki</p> <p>Theres something wrong with EMMA: the information gaps in supply side of market based humanitarian response Claire Travers</p>
16:50 - 17:20	<p>Coffee break</p>



Saturday 14 October 2023

	<p>Session 3: Humanitarian Technologies Chair: Ioannis Manos</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Humanitarian Aid: An Overview Emmanouil Pikoulis, Evika Karamagioli, Eleni-Panagiota Stoupa, Eleni Chatzi</p> <p>Design of an Energy Container for Emergency Relief Preparedness and Provision of Humanitarian Aid Emmanouil Tzimtzimis, Panagiotis Tsikos, Thomas Profitiliotis, Charisios Achilles, Dimitrios Tzetzis</p> <p>Design and Use of Portable 3D Printers for Emergencies Evangelia Kazakli and Dimitrios Tzetzis</p> <p>Leveraging Humanitarian Technologies for Crisis Management Anastasios Ntabizas, Maria Drakaki, Panagiotis Tzionas</p> <p>Technology and Humanitarian Crises Anna-Olympia Tsoulka, Olympia Tsoulka, Ilias Kotsireas</p>
17:20 -18:50	



Sunday 15 October 2023

10:00 - 10:30	<p>Round Table: Steps Taken Towards Recognition and Assessment of Refugee Qualifications Lacking Documentation in Greece</p> <p>Recent Developments Arising from the new Greek Legislation on Higher Education and Degree Recognition Prof. Orestis Kalogirou, <i>President of the Hellenic NARIC (DOATAP)</i></p> <p>Results from the Testing of the ARENA Toolkit Evaluation Procedure for Admission of Refugees Holding Incomplete or no Documentation in Higher Education at the International Hellenic University Prof. Maria Drakaki, <i>Director of the IHU Institute for the Management of Refugee Flows and Crises</i></p> <p>Moderator: Diego Vega</p>
10:30 - 11:30	<p>Session 4: Disaster Risk Management Chair: Maria Drakaki</p> <p>Addressing the hazard risks of Kolumbo submarine volcano (Santorini, Greece) Anna Katsigera, Paraskevi Nomikou and Santory Team</p> <p>Assessing the Impact of the 2021 Evia Wildfires through Social Media Analysis Vasileios Linardos and Maria Drakaki</p> <p>TREADS Project: A Holistic Fire Management Ecosystem for Prevention, Detection and Restoration of Environmental Disasters Konstantinos Zapounidis, Christos Koidis, Nikolaos Sakkos, Vasiliki Marinoudi, Dimitris Aidonis and Charisios Achillas</p>
11:30 - 12:00	<p>Coffee break</p>



Sunday 15 October 2023

Session 5: Migration Management

Chair: Nikolaos Zaikos

Migration Profiles of Asylum Seekers in Greece

Spyridon Trantafyllou

Immigration-Refugee Crisis and New Types of Immigrant-Refugees in Europe

Maria Vlachadi and Kyriakos Koutsautakis

On mops and maids: Repercussions of paid domestic work on female Albanian migrants in Greece

Sintorela Chamiti, Theodoros Fouskas

12:00 - 13:50

Challenges and Strategies in the Field of Border Management and Return in the European Union Area

Ioanna Vasiliki Papakosta, Maria Drakaki

Tearing down the communication barriers:

Towards the Greek register for Public Service Interpreters

Stefanos Vlachopoulos, Sotirios Livas, Stavros Kozobolis

Lessons from a Quality Improvement Study on the Technology and Service Needs of a Closed Control Accommodation Center (CCAC) in Northern Greece

Isabel Richards, Dora Komninou, Janet Ellzey

13:50 - 14:50

Lunch break

Round Table: Humanitarian Crisis Management: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Coloniality and Decoloniality, Ecofeminism and Epistemologies of the South. Anthropological Critical Discussions for the Crisis Management

Prof. Fotini Tsibiridou, *Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia*

14:50 - 15:50

Critical Political Analysis in Humanitarian Crisis Management. Do we Need it, When and Why?

Assist. Prof. Leonidas Karakatsanis, *Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia*

Climate Change and Global Health Issues: The Role of International Institutions

Prof. Nikolaos Zaikos, *Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia*

Moderator: Ioannis Manos



Sunday 15 October 2023

	<p>Session 6: Disaster Management - Multidisciplinary Perspectives Chair: Leonidas Karakatsanis</p> <p>Field Research and Natural Disasters in Folklore Studies: Issues and considerations Aikaterini Schoina</p>
15:50 -16:50	<p>Citizens' Social Media Engagement in Times of Natural Disasters: Evidence from Greece Amalia Triantafyllidou and Prodromos Yannas</p> <p>Are the September 2023 Floods in Thessaly the Greek Equivalent of Katrina? A preliminary, Comparative Analysis Eleni Kotsira</p>
16:50 -17:20	<p>Coffee break</p>
	<p>Session 7: Disaster Management - Multidisciplinary Perspectives Chair: Vaya Papanikolaou</p> <p>Extreme and Devastating Weather Events and Related Fatalities in Greece Michalis Sioutas, Maria Siouta</p> <p>Natural Disasters impact in Greece the last 10 years as revealed from EM-DAT Vasiliki Neofotistou</p>
17:20 -18:50	<p>Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: Integrated Focus In Assessment Mary Stylidi</p> <p>Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: The Assessment Process Mary Stylidi</p> <p>Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: Criteria for Assessment Mary Stylidi</p>
18:50 -19:10	<p>Closing Ceremony</p>

Constructing the narrative of resilient society: self-organising from relief to recovery

Anna Dziuba¹, Aino Ruggiero², Wojciech Piotrowicz³

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Abstract. This study examines how the narratives of a resilient society are constructed in the midst of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on its way to recovery. The study adopts a constructivist-ontological take on resilience, which extends the view of resilience beyond that in crisis management as a post-disaster strategy and focuses on resilience at-war, as the conflict is ongoing. By analyzing the notes of participant observation and interview data with various actors (Finnish and Ukrainian civil society organisations, municipalities, individuals, and media) the study will explore how narratives of resilience in Ukrainian society on the way to recovery, take shape in the discussions around self-organizing of directly affected people, and citizens willing to help, who are active in groups that build collective structures of support, empowerment, and visible politics. The study aims to make several contributions: firstly, to the humanitarian logistics and supply chain management literature by clarifying insights on the recovery phase in an extended conflict context; secondly, to resilience literature by opening up how the narratives of resilient society take shape in the context of an extended crisis, when the disruption to normality is ongoing and recovery is perceived differently by various actors.

Keywords: resilience; self-organising; humanitarian aid; post-war recovery.

Solidarity urban commons vs resilient cities. Newcomers' right to the city in Athens and Thessaloniki

Charalampos Tsavdaroglou

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Abstract.

The cities in their historical path are constantly shaped by newly arrived populations, especially Athens and Thessaloniki are characterized throughout time by multiple stories of arrival of refugees and migrants. In this paper, the arrival of newcomers from 2015 onwards, state housing policies as well as self-managed housing commons are studied. Usually the movement of more than a million people from the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa to Central and Northern Europe through Greece in 2015-2016 has been characterized as a “refugee crisis” and therefore raises the question of whether cities of arrival or transit are resilient enough to respond to such “humanitarian crises”. However, the question of why migration is a moment of crisis for cities and how exactly the concept of resilience is linked to migration is an open research question. The aim of the paper is the critical confrontation with the rhetoric of the concept of resilience in relation to migration and its comparison with the transformative possibilities of the solidarity urban commons of the newly arrived populations

Keywords: solidarity, resilience, commons, newcomers, Athens, Thessaloniki

Resilience of Cities in the Face of Disaster Risks as a Pathway to Achieving Sustainability: A Study Using the United Nations Scorecard in city Mohammedia, Morocco

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Abstract. The city's ability to be resilient and withstand dangers, especially natural hazards, is one of the most important features of sustainable development in this era. The United Nations recognized this in the preparatory committee for the conference on housing and sustainable urban development. In 2015, within the Sendai Framework, resilience was defined as the capacity of a system, community, or group exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, adapt to, transform, and recover from them efficiently and in a timely manner. This includes preserving essential structures, functions, and material entities. The resilience measurement card is a tool used to assess a city's resilience and its capacity to withstand hazards. It also helps local authorities monitor progress and challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, it assists in developing local strategies for disaster risk reduction. The resilience measurement card was applied to the city of Mohammedia in Morocco to measure the city's resilience in the face of potential hazards, particularly natural ones. Mohammedia faces various natural hazards, making it important to assess its capacity to understand and address disaster risks. This card was developed through consultations and discussions with stakeholders and actors in the city, each contributing their expertise. It also involved reviewing documents, projects, and measures that align with the measurement indicators. The gathered responses, conclusions, and findings were then compiled to answer the 47 indicators in the measurement card, which evaluate the ten foundations of a city's resilience capacity.

Keywords: Mohammedia City; Resilience; Risk; Disaster Resilience Scorecard; UN.

Can international tourism-related activities menace food security in the Least Developed Countries? A preliminary study

Dimitrios Karkanis¹

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Abstract. The UN World Tourism Organization in 2011 forecasts that international tourist arrivals are projected to reach 1.8 billion by 2030, with an average of 43 million additional tourists joining the tourism market on an annual basis (UNWTO, 2011). In this context, the question that arises is whether the need “to feed the international tourists” can act as a barrier to satisfying food demand in the LDCs, to the extent that the ongoing climate crisis is expected to menace the food security context and, as a result, the highest likelihood of humanitarian crises. The aim of the study is to identify “competition” effects in food demand between the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the tourist host countries worldwide, during the 2008-2021 period. The results suggest a positive relationship between food demand in the tourist host countries and the LDCs, which means that the main tourist host economies are both significant importers of food products from the tourist origin economies and significant exporters of food products towards the LDCs. The prospect of an expanding middle class worldwide, especially in the developing countries, could trigger additional pressures on food demand in countries that are both tourist host economies and significant exporters of food products to the LDCs.

Keywords: Food trade, Least Developed Countries, Food security, Tourist flows

Localisation of funding as promoted by the Grand Bargain and supportive funding tools

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Abstract

Starting from the role of localisation in supporting and strengthening local and national actors (LNAs), this paper explores the commitments and evolution of the “Grand Bargain” since 2016 up to date and various funding tools that enhance localisation. The methodology adopted is a review of relevant literature through papers, articles and reports published by research institutes and humanitarian actors. Constant crises around the world continuously increase the need for humanitarian aid. The optimization of existing, finite funding flows towards LNAs is strongly required to address this tight condition where localisation is the vehicle and measurement, reporting, individual planning, visibility, transparency and accountability are the key drivers. Country and regional pooled funds allow donors to combine their funding contributions into single, unearmarked funds giving the possibility to local actors to adopt a decisive role. Innovative, flexible, capacity building, pre-positioned and emergency funding tools and structures that can address small organisations, marginalized groups and communities, act in advance or urgently when needed can align in a direct and targeted way with the purposes of localisation. Although the above seem to be widely understood by multiple policies, overall patterns and quality of funding do not change easily or quickly. The Grand Bargain has been recognized as “a motor for change” and “a platform for reform” but empowered local actors providing for and managing their own disaster responses requires challenging and reevaluating internal mindsets, organizational cultures, policies, procedures and structures.

Keywords: localisation; funding flows; funding tools; Grand Bargain; empowered local actors; humanitarian aid.

MEXICAN CRISIS: EXPLAINING THE CRISIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IN-COUNTRY VIOLENCE. THE CASE OF THE STATE VERACRUZ DE LA LLAVE.

Elena Alatzas

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Abstract

In Mexico, the number of people that are on the move is growing, and it is a fact that it also has overcome border areas both in the south and in the north. This means that the needs for humanitarian aid are expanding and intensifying. It is well known that the situation because of the drug violence every day is getting worse. This affects the security and the economic growth of the country, especially when it comes to the young generations. Criminal organizations are fighting to fill the gaps that the largest cartels left. There is also an increase in urbanization, especially in the northern border cities and this contributed to the upsurge of the crime rates and threats the well-being and the security of local citizens. Many have been the efforts from the government in order to win this fight against drug cartels and the violence they spread but, however, there is a state, where there are two powerful organizations that were and still in a one-on-one battle and wish to control entirely the drug markets and the routes of trafficking, making this specific state the most dangerous of Mexico nowadays. The state of Veracruz Llave is without exaggerating the biggest and most dangerous drug market right now in Mexico, a circumstance that makes the state a battleground and the riskiest place in the country for someone to live in. The main aspects in which this paper focuses are the war on drugs in the Mexican country and its consequences among people, focusing on the most threatening state, the one of Veracruz and then, the challenges and solutions regarding those circumstances.

Keywords

Drug violence, organized crime, human rights abuse, war on drugs.

Coloniality and Decoloniality, Ecofeminism and Epistemologies of the South. Anthropological critical discussions for the crisis management

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Abstract. The paper suggests an anthropological reading of the crisis, engaging with the critique of coloniality and decoloniality. Through the lens of Ecofeminism and the Epistemologies of the South, economic, ecological and sociocultural crisis are conceived at the intersection of aggressive male capitalist neoliberal development, colonial modalities of extraction, targeting local sources and indigenous knowledge, as well as patriarchal exploitation and discrimination over minor productive and female reproductive bodies. The paper discusses theoretical and activist thesis on coloniality, decoloniality, ecofeminism and the Epistemologies of the South, through Maria Mies', Boaventura de Sousa Santos' and Sylvia Federici's ideas. Their analysis provide us with reflexive and creative analytical tools as well as some applied best practices against ecological disasters, epistemicide and good living equality for local communities, mostly in the global South. What kind of lessons can we take from all these for our own crisis management at the edges of Europe and within the Balkan and the Mediterranean world ?

Keywords: Crisis management, Anthropology, Coloniality, Decoloniality, Ecofeminism.

Supply chain risk governance: exploring citizens' role in crisis preparedness

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Abstract

Disruptions have marked the first years of 2020 to an extent that normalcy does not seem to exist anymore, but rather society is marked by a constant flow of dynamic changes where preparedness for crises is of paramount importance. As the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 both showed, all sectors of society are affected by large-scale disruptions, and the participation of all societal actors is needed to mitigate and cope with their effects and ultimately resolve them. This paper presents a research plan for a study that aims to explore citizens' role in the security of supply and crisis preparedness. Citizens' participation is explored from the perspective of supply chain risk governance (Ahlqvist et al. 2020) which combines perspectives from supply chain risk management (SCRM) and risk management and societal safety (RMSS). First, a scoping literature review is conducted to explore existing research on the topic, and second, interviews are conducted with relevant actors to gather data. In terms of a theoretical contribution, the findings of this research could expand the existing supply chain management literature by illustrating the role of civil society in supply chain risk governance. On a practical level, bringing clarity on the roles of citizens in supply chain preparedness could contribute to societal preparedness, and ultimately, resilience.

Keywords: crisis preparedness, risk governance, supply chain risk management, societal resilience

Expanding Reinforcement Learning Modeling Capabilities in Emergency Supply Distribution via Action Masking

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Abstract: Mitigating post-disaster human suffering through the provision of emergency resources is a challenging problem from a logistical standpoint. Finding optimal distribution strategies can be a challenging task. In this paper, we apply action-masked Reinforcement Learning to a novel formulation of the problem of emergency resource distribution within the context of disaster relief logistics. Specifically, we propose a solution approach for the scenario of supplying several locations of resource consumption via a single logistics hub. Our main contributions are twofold. Firstly, we extend prior work by defining a more complex mathematical optimization problem including multiple constraints through which we induce spillover effects over multiple time steps in the system dynamics. Secondly, we employ action masking in our reinforcement learning approach to help the agent avoid taking newly generated invalid actions. Furthermore, we compare one-step and two-step greedy heuristics with the action-masked version of Q-learning in a variety of simulated scenarios. Results confirm the usability of action-masked Reinforcement Learning even though the one-step greedy approach achieves the best performance-time ratio.

Keywords: Reinforcement Learning; Machine Learning; Humanitarian Logistics; Disaster Relief; Emergency Resource Allocation

Challenges during the procurement cycle that procurement officers face in humanitarian organisations

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Abstract. Procurement is a significant part of humanitarian logistics as it is how to buy all the items and services needed in the humanitarian field. Procurement includes several stages that permit the humanitarian organisation to obtain the contractually required items in the correct quantity and quality at the right place. However, procurement officers in humanitarian organisations face challenges in each stage of the procurement cycle. Such challenges include the diversity of the technical specifications, the time-consuming nature of the bidding processes and the unstable demand for the goods needed. The authors conducted online interviews with experienced procurement officers to understand their challenges and tried to find ways to overcome them. The research results highlighted that some ways to overcome challenges when procuring goods for the humanitarian field are to define technical specifications and selection criteria and use experienced personnel to evaluate the bidding documents. When long-term agreements are signed with suppliers, humanitarian organisations should never forget that some suppliers might not be able to deliver the contractual items on time, meaning that they have to find alternative solutions apart from imposing penalties on them.

Keywords: Bidding, Challenges, Humanitarian Operations, Procurement, Suppliers

The Challenges of Military Logistics in Humanitarian Crisis. Lessons from the Ukrainian War

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Abstract

The Ukrainian War has highlighted significant challenges in military logistics when confronted with a complex humanitarian crisis. This abstract examines the multifaceted issues that emerge when military forces are called upon to provide humanitarian assistance in conflict zones. The study draws lessons from the Ukrainian War to illuminate the intricate interplay between military operations and humanitarian efforts. The Ukrainian War reveals the significance of adapting military logistics strategies to suit the unique demands of humanitarian crises. Integrating technology, data analytics, and real-time communication is a pivotal factor in enhancing the efficiency of relief efforts. It also highlighted the ethical and moral dilemmas when military forces engage in humanitarian tasks, exploring the potential blurring of roles and responsibilities. The paper underscores the importance of seamless coordination between military units and humanitarian agencies in crisis scenarios. It delves into the intricate logistical hurdles armed forces face, such as transporting essential supplies, medical resources, and food to affected populations while navigating treacherous terrains and hostile environments. Furthermore, it discusses the criticality of establishing secure supply chains, both for military operations and the delivery of aid, to ensure uninterrupted assistance. In conclusion, the challenges encountered during the Ukrainian War underscore the need for a comprehensive and agile approach to military logistics in humanitarian crises. By drawing valuable lessons from this conflict, stakeholders can better prepare for future challenges, refine strategies, and ensure that military and humanitarian efforts synergize effectively to alleviate human suffering in times of crisis.

Theres something wrong with EMMA: the information gaps in supply side of market based humanitarian response.

Claire Louise Travers¹

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Abstract

Relief organizations are encouraged to understand, support, and make use of local market-systems before, during and after a crisis. Doing so supports economic recovery of the affected population and contributes to positive socioeconomic change. However, during a sudden-onset emergency, there is little time to assess and map markets to enable market-based programming. In the last 13 years EMMA and PCMA tools have become sector-standard to produce “rough and ready” market analyses. In this paper, a meta-analysis of published EMMA and PCMA tools uncovers a skewed focus on the demand side of market-systems, (re)producing information gaps which limit relief organizations from engaging markets in supply side projects, such as local procurement. The paper offers some suggestions for refocusing the tools for both users and researchers, to meet the informational needs for humanitarian procurement.

Keywords: humanitarian supply chain management; tool and methodologies for humanitarian crisis management; markets in crisis; local procurement; local market engagement

Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Humanitarian Aid: An Overview

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Abstract. This paper provides a brief literature review of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in humanitarian aid operations, concentrating on current AI technologies. AI-powered technologies can improve supply chain optimization, information access, emergency preparedness, fundraising, and advocacy among other possibilities. The widespread use of AI technologies however raises ethical and practical issues like bias, data accuracy, and privacy. AI technology has the potential to transform humanitarian aid, but responsible implementation is essential for positive social impact.

Keywords Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Humanitarian Aid, Disaster Management, Chatbots.

Design of an Energy Container for Emergency Relief Preparedness and Provision of Humanitarian Aid

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Abstract. The conceptual design of an energy container is indirectly dealing with the most burning issues in our contemporary global society. Climate change and the destruction of nature cause major natural disasters such as, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, or hurricanes which in turn lead to great damage and loss of life. Over and above that, international crisis leads to large scale conflicts with more and more nations getting involved into war with devastating consequences for infrastructure and citizens. Thus, disaster preparedness is a great necessity for relief and mitigation purposes to the affected population. Consequently, emergency relief preparedness includes all the needful actions taken to get ready and minimize the outcomes of disasters. It aims to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate the affection on vulnerable populations, and successfully deal with the consequences. Specifically, the purpose of this study is the designing of a 20-foot ISO energy container with the help of the sophisticated software of Solidworks 3D CAD system and the PVsyst 6.8.0 for the study, sizing and a data analysis of a complete off-grid photovoltaic system. This project will be a part of an integrated operations center for providing humanitarian assistance. The project aims at maximizing the production energy that could be generated by exploiting the available space of the container and constitute to integrated operations.

Keywords: case study, design, energy container, photovoltaics, disaster, recovery renewable energy.

Design and Use of Portable 3D Printers for Emergencies

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Abstract. In emergency response, the ability to adapt rapidly is the key to mitigating the impact of disasters and saving lives. 3D printers have emerged as a groundbreaking technology that is revolutionizing emergency preparedness and relief efforts. In this paper, the focus is on how the 3D printing technology can be adjusted and used in actual rescue environments. Research and exploration are done in the fields of emergency situations and 3D printer technology. In addition to the literature research, primary data for real case situations are gathered from interviewing the Hellenic Rescue Team and a portable 3D printer system is designed based on their needs to service the main fields of action. The design concept takes into consideration not only the possible objects to be 3D printed, but all the processes to practically include this portable 3D printing system in the rescue team's operations.

Keywords: 3D printing, emergency, design, crisis

Leveraging Humanitarian Technologies for Crisis Management

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Abstract

Over the last decade, the number of humanitarian crises that emerge has increased, requiring innovative approaches to crisis management. This paper aims to explore the important role of technology in addressing humanitarian crises, emphasizing the potential to revolutionize response and recovery efforts. It provides an analysis on how technology empowers decision-makers with analytical insights and improves coordination among diverse stakeholders. Case studies from the real world from recent crises, including the Mediterranean refugee crises, the Ukrainian conflict and the global response to COVID-19 pandemic are demonstrated to point out the transformative potential of technology in crisis response.

A range of technologies being used in humanitarian crisis management is being explored as well as Ethical and operational challenges and limitations in humanitarian settings. Concerns regarding data privacy and the ethical use of AI in crisis decision-making are being investigated. Furthermore, the paper proposes future directions in regard to potential advancements in humanitarian technology, highlighting the use of blockchain and drone technologies as tools to further enhance crisis management.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes the significance of the most important technologies employed within the humanitarian sector to mitigate the impacts of crises. Moreover, it provides a glimpse into forthcoming strategies and directions for tackling intricate humanitarian emergencies.

Keywords: Humanitarian technologies; Crisis Management; AI technologies.

Technology and Humanitarian Crises

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Abstract. In recent years, humanitarian crises have been observed which manifest themselves with incidents of inequality, violence, increased migratory flows, poverty, lack of education as well as the absence of social protection. More specifically, humanitarian crises threatens large groups of populations putting them at risk through various ways and situations. It is usually divided into two categories, natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fires, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis as well as human-made disasters such as global warming, war, violence, cyber-crime. However, the use of new technologies can aid in preventing natural disasters as well as collecting data correlating the influence of climate and migratory flows. In particular, the aim of this article is to highlight successful examples of the use of new technologies in these contexts. The digital recording of cultural heritage, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and drones, can ensure an environment of protection and recovery from both natural and human-made disasters and threats. Machine Learning (ML) can reliably analyze the role of weather shocks in a person's intention to migrate. The present survey papers aims in emphasizing ways to address humanitarian crises through (new) technologies. The goal is to delineate and quantify anthropogenic activities that, if left unchecked, can lead the earth to an interglacial state similar to the Holocene.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Holocene; Anthropocentrism; Natural Disasters; Machine Learning; Weather Shock.

Addressing the hazard risks of Kolumbo submarine volcano (Santorini, Greece)

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Abstract. Volcanic eruptions are one of the most captivating natural phenomena on Earth but pose significant risks to nearby communities due to their associated hazards (earthquakes, tsunami, pyroclastic flows, toxic gasses). The implementation of a proactive volcanic risk management is essential to minimize the threat in close populated areas. Kolumbo is a submerged active volcano, 7km northeast of Santorini Island and part of the Hellenic Volcanic Arc. Kolumbo's most recent eruption, in 1650, generated a tsunami causing destruction in the nearby islands as well as several casualties due to poisonous gasses in Santorini. Eyewitness accounts reported maximum run-up heights of 20m on the southern coast of Ios, 240m inundation on Sikinos, and flooding of up to 2km² of land on the eastern coast of Santorini, prompting major destruction in the proximate towns. Recent studies show that a future explosive event of Kolumbo poses a significant hazard to the northern and east coasts of Santorini, however there is no relevant management protocol in place. Therefore, it is proposed that a combination of scientific research (active monitoring, hazard maps), community engagement, preparedness planning with government agencies (Civil Protection), and timely response strategies is crucial to minimize the hazard risks and avoid casualties and the detrimental consequences to the area's economy and infrastructure. At present, we have deployed state-of-the art sensors to monitor Kolumbo active hydrothermal field under the framework of SANTORY project (www.santory.gr). SANTORY aims to create novel communication tools and provide the scientific community, policymakers, and stakeholders with interregional monitoring protocols for assessment of hazard warning codes.

Keywords: volcanic hazards; risk management; submarine volcanoes; monitoring tools.

Assessing the Impact of the 2021 Evia Wildfires through Social Media Analysis

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Abstract. The 2021 Evia wildfires had profound economic, environmental and social impacts, necessitating an in-depth investigation. This study proposes the utilization of large language models and machine learning techniques to extract meaningful insights from Tweets, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the consequences resulting from this devastating event. Through the application of computational tools, this research aims to illuminate the multiple dimensions of the disaster impacts, encompassing affected population, property loss, environmental impact, community resilience, as well as the efficacy of disaster response and recovery measures. The aim of this research includes an evaluation of the validity of data produced by the developed system via comparison with other sources such as EM-DAT public disaster loss database and Wikipedia. The findings from this research endeavor will contribute to a more nuanced method of identifying and analyzing disaster impacts, while offering valuable insights to enhance future disaster management strategies.

Keywords: Disaster management; Large language model, deep learning, social media, Twitter, wildfires.

TREEADS Project: A Holistic Fire Management Ecosystem for Prevention, Detection and Restoration of Environmental Disasters

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Abstract. Considering the socio-ecological transition of Europe 2030, and towards a more resilient and informed community, focusing on the forests that are near wildfire risk, TREEADS project aims to build upon state-of-the-art high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) products and unite them in a Holistic Fire Management Platform that optimize and reuse per phase the available socio-technological resources in all three main phases of wildfires. For the prevention and preparedness, TREEADS project proposes the use of a real-time risk evaluation tool that can receive multiple classification inputs and work with a new proposed neural network-powered Risk Factor Indicator. To create a model of Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) in parallel to insurance incentives, TREEADS will use Alkali Activated Construction Materials (AAM) integrating Post-wildfires Wood Ashes (PWA) for fire-resilient buildings and infrastructure. TREEADS also uses a variety of technological solutions such as the Copernicus infrastructure, and a swarm of small drones customized for accurate forest supervision. In the area of detection, TREEADS propose a variety of toolsets that will accommodate most needs, stemming from virtual reality for the training, wearables for the protective equipment of the emergency responders to UAV (drones), UAG and airships for improving capacity in temporal and spatial analysis as well as to increase the inspected area coverage. Last, TREEADS will build a new land and field-based restoration initiative that will use all modern techniques such as agroforestry, drones for seed spread, Internet of Things sensors that will be able to adapt the seeding process based on the ground needs and on the same time with the help of AI to determine post-fire risks factors. TREEADS solution will be demonstrated and validated under real operating conditions. Demonstration will involve eight complex pilot implementations executed in seven EU countries and in Taiwan.

Keywords: wild fires; prevention & preparedness; detection & response; restoration & adaptation.

Migration Profiles of Asylum Seekers in Greece

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Abstract. We examine the profile of a sample, gathered between 2017-2019, of migrants mainly from Middle East and North Africa region arrived in Lesvos, Greece and then resided in the Reception and Identification Centre. We show that there is an association between the skill set of a migrant and the destination country. In addition to that, the most skillful asylum seekers will eventually leave Greece after granted asylum and live in other European countries. The intention to move to European country remains strong, however unskillful migrants or asylum seekers without relatives will finally stay in Greece.

Keywords: asylum seekers; migrants; skills; labor market; Greece;

Immigration-Refugee Crisis and New Types of Immigrant-Refugees in Europe

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ABSTRACT

This study is a product of both a systematic review on population movements (maps, statistical data), new types of migrants and refugees, and a survey, by using a questionnaire, regarding the opinion of police officers on these issues. The aim of this study is to highlight both the significant conditions that affect immigration and refugee, as well as to capture the current situation regarding the movement of people and how to be controlled. Finally, the research shows that illegal immigration can significantly affect the work of Greek Police. For this reason, it is considered particularly important to adopt and implement policies-strategies for the effective management of the immigration-refugee crisis both at the national and European level.

Key words: immigration-refugee crisis, new types of immigrants-refugees, conducting research

On mops and maids: Repercussions of paid domestic work on female Albanian migrants in Greece

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Abstract: The aim of the paper is to unravel the multiple effects of domestic work on the living conditions and integration of these women in the host country. The study implements the tool of research literature review. This method was chosen as it includes an objective approach and evaluation of the body of qualitative/quantitative research literature, in order to answer focused questions about the effects of domestic work on migrant women from Albania in Greece, using appropriate keywords in two databases. A review of the literature reveals that the low wages and precarious working conditions that characterise domestic work and care, allow for physical and moral exploitation, while at a social level there is marginalization and difficulty of access of domestic workers to social security, healthcare, community organization and labor representation.

Keywords: feminization of migration, women, Albanian migration, gender, domestic work, care work, Greece

Challenges and strategies on border management and return in the European Union

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Keywords: European Union, migration and border management, challenges, policies – strategies - initiatives

Abstract

A critical aspect and integral part of migration management as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon is border management and return. Border management and return involve several key components and processes such as border control, customs procedures, search and rescue activities, return management as well as migration management.

Several challenges in this area exist and the impact of the relevant risks and threats cannot be underestimated. Instrumentalization of migration in some cases, war in Ukraine, cross border crime, hybrid threats, terrorist threats are only a few of the risks and threats identified for the next decade.

Addressing those challenges involves various aspects of immigration, security and humanitarian concern. Moreover, it requires comprehensive strategies that prioritize security, human rights, and efficient administration. The goals to be achieved through those strategies are related to the facilitation of legitimate border crossings and increased efficiency of return policy, prevention and detection of cross border crime, safe, secure and well-functioning external borders, good governance and other equally important goals. Those goals should be aligned with the needs and priorities of each MS and SAC but also in broader context, in European Union level. This paper aims to provide an overview of the existing challenges in border management and return in the European Union area, as well as approaches and strategies for addressing them and achieving defined goals.

Keywords: European Union, migration and border management, challenges, policies - strategies - initiatives.

Tearing down the communication barriers: Towards the Greek register for Public Service Interpreters

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Abstract. The creation of a PSI register in Greece, primarily for asylum and immigration purposes, represents a significant stride towards a register of proficient and qualified interpreters for the entire Greek public sector. This initiative marks a pivotal turning point in the crisis management process, as it addresses the communication and language requirements of foreigners lacking a knowledge of Greek. Given the ongoing arrival of refugees and immigrants since 2015 (and the resulting issues) and noting that the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum uses contracted providers for all relevant interpretation services, setting up an interpreter register would be an appropriate and sustainable response to the increased interpretation requirements of the said Ministry, as well as of other public sector services. This paper presents an overview of the project launched to lay the necessary foundation for the establishment of a training, accreditation, and management framework for PSIs in the Greek public sector, spanning from untrained bilinguals to fully trained and academically recognized interpreters. The paper aims to position PSI in the broader problem-solving effort of the refugee and immigration crisis in Greece since 2015.

Keywords: Public Service Interpreting; asylum and immigration procedures; social justice;

Lessons from a Quality Improvement Study on the Technology and Service Needs of a Closed Control Accommodation Center (CCAC) in Northern Greece

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Abstract: In May 2023, a partnership between the NGO SolidarityNow and an interdisciplinary team from the University of Texas at Austin pursued a quality improvement study at a Closed Control Accommodation Center (CCAC) in Northern Greece. The study investigated the quality of the current services meeting the connectivity, community, and transportation needs of the residents. Following the analysis of responses to a paper-based survey distributed to the resident population, focus group discussions with residents further explored their technology and service needs through the collection of qualitative data. This paper outlines how insights gleaned from the qualitative portion of the study changed the authors' understanding of the needs of the community from the initial analysis of the survey. This paper focuses on the analysis of three identified needs: access to the public bus system, reliable Wi-Fi connection, and language interpreters. The qualitative aspect of the study revealed essential aspects of each of these needs that were not identified by the survey. Thus, the analysis of this quality improvement study supports expanding needs analyses to include qualitative as well as quantitative data collection in order to more successfully identify the needs of displaced populations and innovate accordingly.

Keywords: Technology Needs; Qualitative Research; Closed Control Accommodation Center; Connectivity; Quality Improvement Study; Displaced Population.

Field research and natural disasters in Folklore Studies: Issues and considerations

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Abstract

A natural disaster due to climate change can be a field of research for the humanities, as it can cause significant changes in the society. What happens after a disaster? What are people's feelings? What will happen to them if something similar happens again? Then fear and uncertainty change the whole structure and function of the community. Floods are the second most common natural disaster after forest fires, and they cause serious effects on the societies that are affected. The Prefecture of Attica in Greece has suffered many disasters from dangerous phenomena in the last twenty years. As an example, the case of the flash floods in Western Attica is used for this research. On the morning of November 15, 2017, the sudden rainfall on Mount Pateras created enormous destruction in the settlements of Mandra and Nea Peramos. The phenomenon was local, and the bulk of the rain fell on the mountain. This is the third-largest flood in Attica, based on the number of dead. The analysis is based on qualitative research, on-site ethnographic research and is theoretically framed with the tools of the Science of Folklore, Anthropology and Ethnography. Narratives from victims who lived through the disaster are used to record their memories, the environmental impact on the areas, as well as their uncertainty about the area's past and future. Finally, special emphasis will be placed on the analysis of the emotions connected to memory.

Keywords: Natural Disasters, Climate change, Traumatic Memory, Narratives, Field Research, Orality, Folklore Studies, Emotions

Citizens' Social Media Engagement in Times of Natural Disasters: Evidence from Greece

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Abstract. The aim of the present study is to examine how citizens in Greece engage in social media disaster communication during times of natural disasters with emphasis on Facebook. Moreover, through the lens of the social media engagement approach this study proposes a typology of users' disaster-related social media activities. Towards this end, an online quantitative survey was conducted through a self-administered questionnaire using the snowballing sampling method. In total, 1574 citizens responded to the questionnaire. Results indicate that citizens in Greece exhibited low levels of engagement in disaster related communication on Facebook. During times of natural disasters participants seem to perform mainly passive tasks such as receiving information about the event and reading the news from media sources and journalists. More active social media tasks such as creating disaster-related content were observed to an extremely low extent. Through an exploratory factor analysis, three main engagement forms were derived namely: consuming, sharing, and creating. Consuming refers to passive activities such as searching for information and reading posts of others about the disaster. Sharing is about forwarding information produced by other users while creating content reflects more active forms of social media engagement during disasters and is related to activities such as expressing emotions, proposing solutions, announcing, organizing relief efforts, praying for victims, discussing about responsibility, praising, etc. Results of the present study will be of value to disaster managers wishing to take advantage of social media.

Keywords: social media engagement; natural disasters; users; citizens; Greece.

Are the September 2023 floods in Thessaly the Greek equivalent of Katrina? A preliminary, comparative analysis.

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Abstract. This paper identifies and discusses a list of early drawn similarities between two otherwise different disasters, namely the flooding of the valley of Thessaly, in Greece, following Mediterranean storm Daniel in September 2023 and the landfall of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in August 2005. I argue that while the two hazards are not comparable, the reasons why the two locations flooded are. Likewise, similarities can be found in the ways the people affected experienced these two disasters, which were primarily driven by socioeconomic and not natural factors. Setting off from the position that, given the global attention and amount of scholarly work on disaster management that followed Katrina, the wrongdoings of 2005 should have been avoided 18 years later, and further motivated by the long-lasting impact the floods in Thessaly are expected to have both for their survivors as well as the Greek state more broadly as the climate crisis deepens, this comparative analysis is provided so that any future national disaster risk management plan does, at the very least, make use of lessons already learnt from previous disasters.

Keywords: floods; Thessaly; New Orleans; Katrina; disaster preparedness; disaster management; internal displacement.

Extreme and devastating weather events and related fatalities in Greece

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Abstract. Extreme or severe weather and climate events occasionally cause devastating impacts to communities, infrastructures, various economic sectors, and natural ecosystems. A disaster related to a weather, climate or water caused every day on average 115 fatalities and 202 million US\$ in the last 50 years (1970-2019) according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In this study, the most devastating and extreme weather events resulted to fatalities in various parts of Greece over the last 53 years (1970-Sep 2023) are investigated. Based on ongoing research, a total of 135 devastating weather events resulted to 287 fatalities have been recorded in the 50-year period. Severe weather events include thunderstorms and floods, lightning, strong winds, tornadoes, snowfalls and freeze. Heatwave and wildfire fatalities are not included in the analysis since no consistent detailed data are available. Climate projection models show the Eastern Mediterranean including Greece as a rapid climate change hotspot area. In this perspective, a consequent increase and intensification of extreme weather events is anticipated thereby increasing human loss, larger damages, economic losses, and destroying impacts to various ecosystems.

Keywords: Extreme Weather; Severe Weather; Weather Fatalities; Climate Change

Natural Disasters impact in Greece the last 10 years as revealed from EM-DAT

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Abstract

Natural disasters exert a profound influence on human lives, resulting in significant economic and environmental repercussions. Effective preparedness is a crucial strategy for mitigating these adverse impacts. This research offers insights into Greek natural disasters documented in the EM-DAT database over the decade spanning from 2014 to 2023. It examines the consequences of these disasters in terms of human fatalities, injuries, the number of affected individuals, and property damages. Furthermore, this study draws a comparative analysis between the initial five years (2014-2018) and the subsequent five years (2019-2023) of the decade. These insights into the impacts of natural disasters serve a dual purpose. On one hand, they furnish essential data for informing future policymaking regarding preparedness, emergency management, and disaster mitigation in Greece. On the other hand, they shed light on the efficacy of preparedness and emergency management measures implemented over the past decade, especially when comparing the first half to the latter half.

Keywords: Natural disaster, natural hazard, risk, risk management.

Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: The Assessment Process

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Abstract. Disasters happen at different levels: communities, municipalities, and countries, and each level has its own capacity which directly affects factors of resilience. Such factors significantly influence the type and speed of the response, as well as the capacity for recovery. Immediately following the event, the humanitarian needs are high and gradually diminish as tasks of response and assistance are carried out by governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors. Tasks of recovery and rehabilitation are carried out simultaneously as both prioritize the need for reconstruction of physical infrastructure, dwellings, recovery of workers, etc. While recovery activities have a distinct timeframe for action compared to attention to the emergency, it is important to consider them in the stages immediately following the disaster, as much of the criteria used for decision making will directly impact in the form and length of the recovery. Multidisciplinary teams offer greater technical perspectives in the phases of collecting and analyzing information. The teams, made up of members from various agencies and organizations, should clearly define the objectives of the joint rapid assessment and the division of functions related to compiling and processing of information as well as the respective decision making. This paper details the stages of the rapid humanitarian assistance process, in terms of a cycle that has a higher quality for decision making and assessment of the results.

Keywords: Rapid Humanitarian Assessment Process; Disaster; Decision Making.

Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: Criteria for Assessment

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Abstract. The classification of emergencies or disasters is based on the level of damage and impact, which is visible in different elements; damages to infrastructure, to the population and its humanitarian condition, to economic development and to the environment. The immediate effect of a disaster is the emergence (or worsening) of basic needs of the affected population. These can be related to the condition of or access to; health, water, food, shelter, source of income, and protection. Due to the destructive characteristics of the events, a country's response systems and mechanisms are often affected or there are serious limitations in access and communication to the affected zone, thus making the community the first link of the chain of response. Depending on the country's capacities and the event, the country can then assume the response to the event with its own resources, or request for national and international assistance. The impact of an event is measured according to the damages, of which the physical are the easiest to identify and quantify. Starting from the direct action of the event and any loss of ability to operate, the main needs of the population arise. However, the impact is always greater than the sum of the damages and the loss of operations due to the effect of the negative synergy, generating a combination of lack of provision of services, loss of capacity of the social network, and the need for immediate response actions. This paper describes the criteria for rapid assessments as an advantage of establishing the main variables that determine the humanitarian situation, allowing for adjustments to the criteria according to the particularities of the event and the situation generated. It also allows for the analysis of information even when it is scarce.

Keywords: Rapid Humanitarian Assessment; Disaster; Affected Population, Basic Needs

Rapid Humanitarian Assistance In Disaster Situations: Integrated Focus In Assessment

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Abstract. Disasters generate an infinite number of damages to populations and their conditions of life. The nature and characteristics of an event, its magnitude, velocity of occurrence, and origin create particular type of damages. Each disaster is unique, not only for its origin (hazard), but also for the vulnerability profile of the population and the physical characteristics of the impact zone. At the core of the rapid assessment is the attention to human beings and the levels of suffering caused by a disaster, particularly referring to lack of capacity to satisfy their basic needs in health, water, food, shelter, livelihood and protection. The integrated focus of the rapid humanitarian assessment attempts to address these needs for assistance in a joint manner and aims to satisfy them in the best way possible through actions that can resolve them simultaneously and not independently per sector. The rapid humanitarian assessment consists of assessing the situation and the needs in the critical stage immediately after a disaster, to determine the type of assistance required for an immediate response in an integrated manner and in accordance with international principles and agreements. This paper describes the characteristics and nature of the rapid humanitarian assessment, including details on the objectives, time frame for its application, variables, relation with SitRep and Flash Appeal and support for monitoring and evaluation.

Keywords: Rapid Humanitarian Assessment; Disaster; Integration.

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