

Medical Care in Disasters

Threats, Challenges and Solutions

Elhanan Bar-On MD, MPH
Israel Center for Disaster Medicine
and Humanitarian Response
Sheba Medical Center



SHEBA
Tel HaShomer
City of Health

Mass Casualty Event

- Patient treatment is affected by the needs of other patients
- Hospital function disrupted
- Necessitates a change in SOPs & operational modes
- Necessitates Expansion to Surge Capacity

Disaster

"Mega Mass Casualty Event"

Situation or event which:

- Overwhelms local capacity
- Causes Loss of Autonomy
- Necessitates External Assistance.

Event Severity

Compensated

- Mass Casualty Incident
- Casualty load < resources mobilised

Uncompensated

- Disaster, Catastrophe
- Additional medical resources mobilised are inadequate to treat the casualty load

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Disaster Severity

Simple

- Infrastructure, roads, hospitals, lines of communication intact

Compound

- Damaged infrastructure, roads, power supply, communications
- Disorganised health system

Natural Disasters

- **Geological:** earthquake, tsunami, volcano, landslide, avalanche
- **Meteorological:** storms/typhoon/ hurricane, flood, fire, drought, environmental (extreme heat or cold)
- **Biological:** epidemic, famine, pests

Man Made Disasters

- Technological failure:
 - Industrial
 - Transport
- Fire
- Famine
- Mass-gathering - Collapse, Fire, Stampede
- Armed Conflict:
 - War
 - Terrorism
 - Refugee

NATECH Disasters

- Technological Disasters Triggered by Natural Events
 - Fires
 - Oil Spills
 - Hazmat escape
 - Nuclear Leaks

Needs

- Mortality - Bury the Dead
- SAR - Rescue the Living

• Treat the Injured & Sick

- Food + Water
- Shelter
- Security
- Emotional Trauma

Capabilities

- **Underserved Regions Often Affected**

Capabilities

- **Low Baseline Capabilities of Local Health System**

Medical Services

- Infrastructure Damage
- Personnel Affected

Natural Disasters - Causes of Casualties





AIR



WATER





Disaster Pathophysiology

Energy Release

- Mechanical
- Thermal
- Chemical

Radiologic

Disaster Effects

- Environmental
- Logistic

Health

- Mortality
- Morbidity
 - Medical
 - Surgical

• Tsunami - Environmental / Logistic Damage

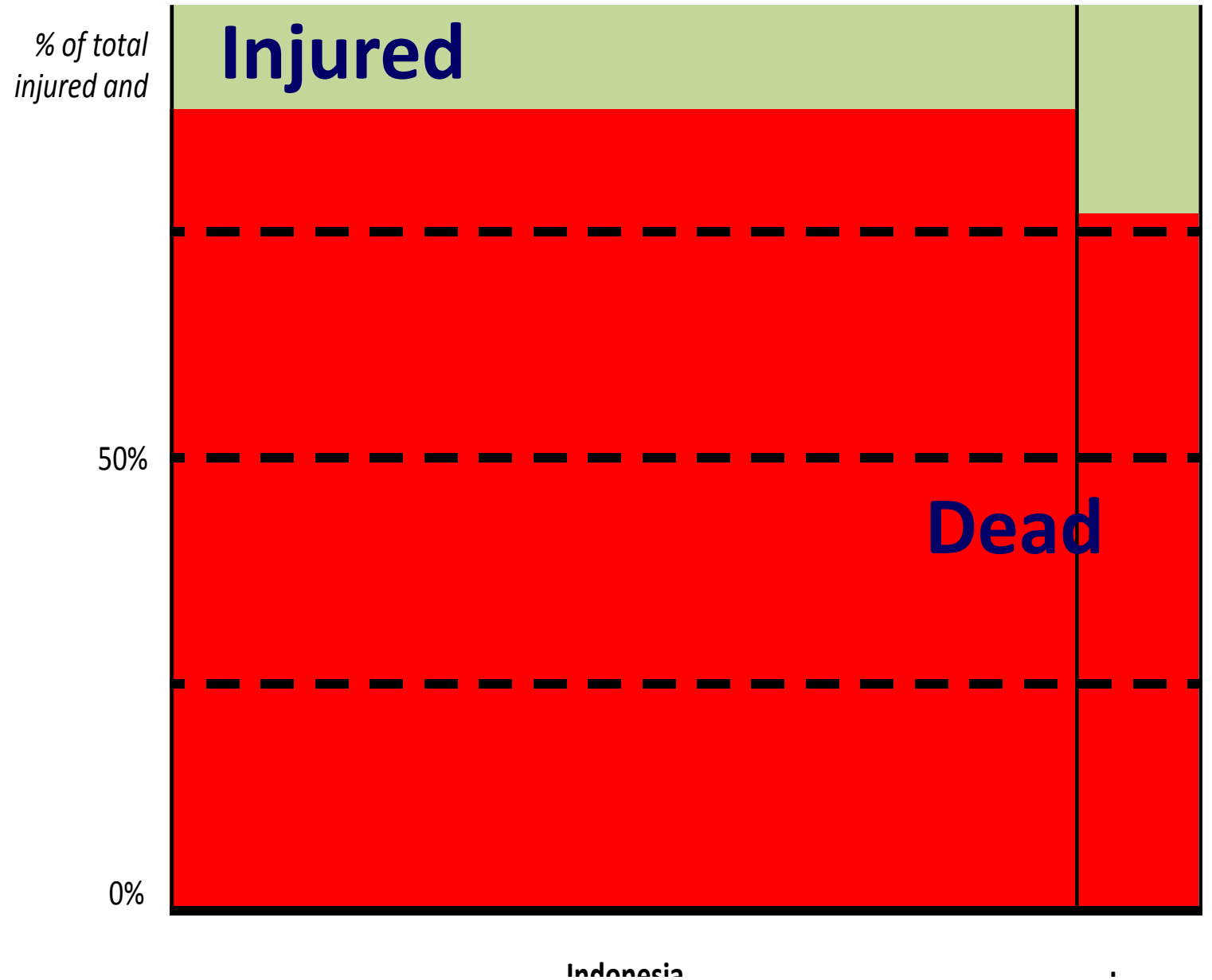
- Sudden Onset
- Mechanical Energy
- Water Damage
- Structures
- Electricity
- Electronics
- Communications
- Transportation
- WASH

Tsunami

- **Medical**
 - **Aspiration**

- **Surgical**
 - **Fractures**
 - **Lacerations**

Relationship between killed and injured in two recent tsunamis



• Volcano - Environmental / Logistic Damage

- Sudden Onset + Continuous Eruptions
- Usual Previous Experience
- Limited Area
- Thermal Damage
- Mechanical Energy
 - Structures
 - Electricity
 - Transportation
 - WASH

Volcano

Death:Injury=16:1

- Medical
 - Inhalation
- Surgical
 - Burns
 - Crush Injuries

Storms

- Tornado
- Typhoon / Hurricane
/ Cyclone

• Storms - Environmental / Logistic Damage

- Meteorological Forewarning
- Mechanical Energy
- Water Damage
- Structures
- Electricity
- Communications
- Transportation
- WASH

Storms

- **Medical**
 - **Interruption of Care**
- **Surgical**
 - **Fractures**
 - **Lacerations**
 - **Puncture Wounds**

Floods

• Floods - Environmental / Logistic Damage

- Gradual Onset
- Meteorological Forewarning
- Water Damage
- Structures
- Electricity
- Communications
- Transportation
- WASH

Floods

- **Medical**
 - **Drowning**
 - **Hypothermia**

- **Surgical**
 - **None**

- **Droughts - Environmental / Logistic Damage**

- **Chronic**

- **Lack of Water Infrastructure**

- **Crops**

- **Livestock**

Drought

- **Medical**
 - **Dehydration**
 - **Heat Exhaustion /Stroke**
- **Surgical**
 - **None**

• **Blizzard - Environmental / Logistic Damage**

- **Gradual Onset**

- **Meteorological Forewarning**

- **Transportation**

- **Electricity**

- **Communications**

- **Pipelines**

Cold / Blizzard

- **Medical**

- Exposure

- Hypothermia

- Dehydration

- **Surgical**

- Frostbite

Outbreak

• **Outbreak - Environmental/Logistic Implications**

- **Gradual Onset**
- **Public Health**
 - **WASH**
Infrastructure
- **Social Issues**
 - **Workforce**
 - **Public Institutions**

- **Outbreak - Health System Implications**

- **Hospital Organization**

- **Specialized Centers**

- **Structural Requirements**

- **SOPs**

Outbreak - Health System Implications

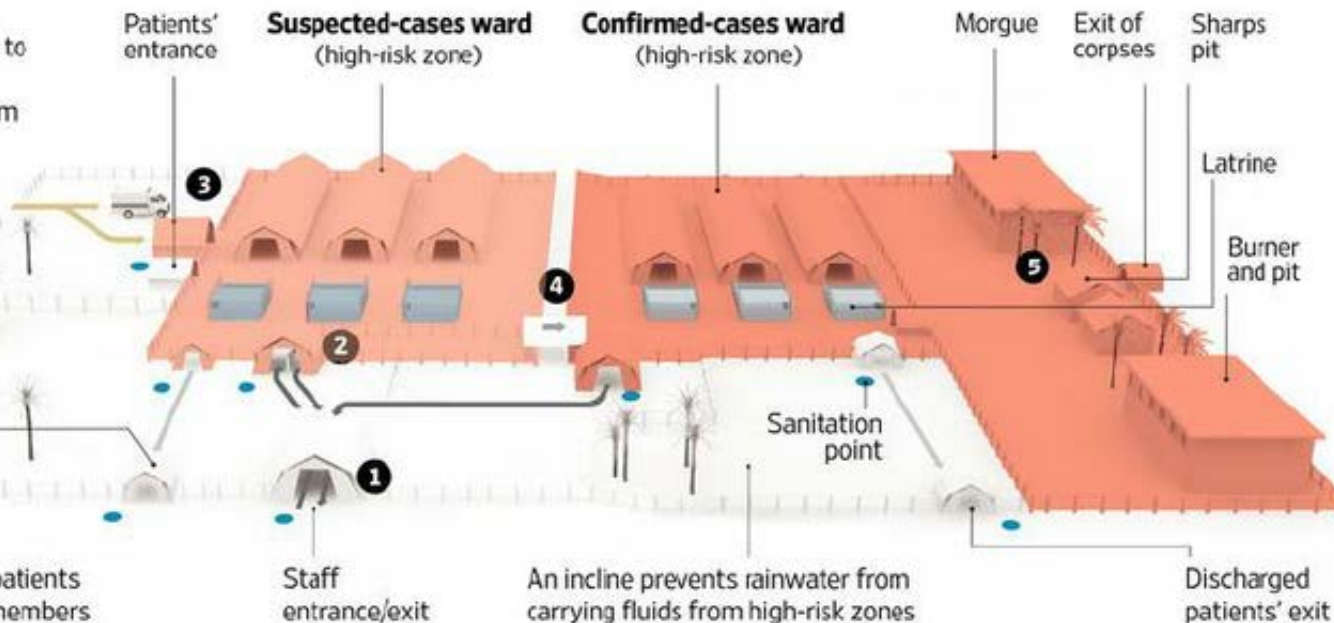
- Hospital Organization
 - Specialized Centers
 - Structural Requirements
 - SOPs

Designing an Ebola Treatment Unit, the WHO Way

The World Health Organization recommends a layout that tries to keep people who are suspected of having the virus separate from patients with confirmed cases. The U.S. and international community are building 27 such facilities in Liberia.

Chlorine preparation
Nursing station
Discharged patients' exit

Mesh fencing is often used so patients can communicate with family members



- **Medical**
 - **Disease Specific**
 - **Expertise**
 - **Medications**
 - **Equipment**

- **Medical**
 - **Disease Specific**
 - **Expertise**
 - **Medications**
 - **Equipment**

Disaster Pathophysiology Biologic

- Outbreaks
- Wound Infections

Outbreak

Outbreak - Health System Implications

- Public Health
 - Vaccinations & Medications

• **Outbreak - Health System Implications**

• **Hospital Organization**

- **Specialized Centers**

- **Structural Requirements**

- **SOPs**

Outbreak - Health System Implications

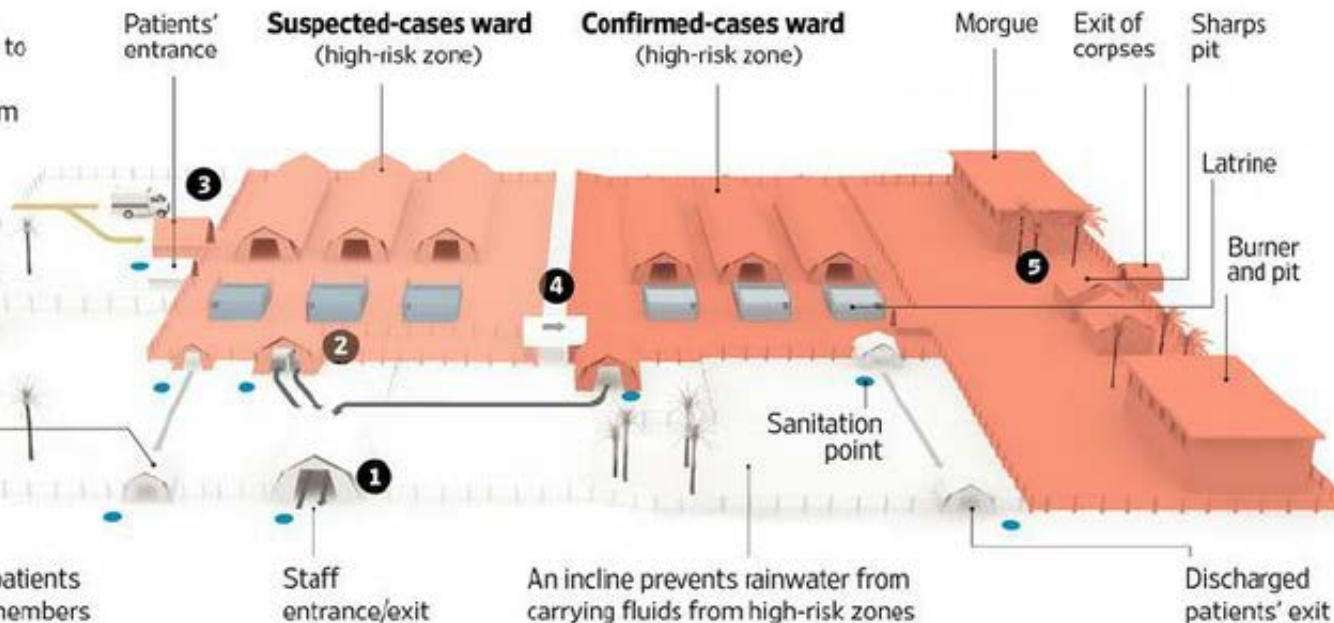
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Load Summary

Medical Load

- **Famine**
- **Outbreaks**
- **Pandemics**

Surgical Load

- Earthquakes
- Conflicts

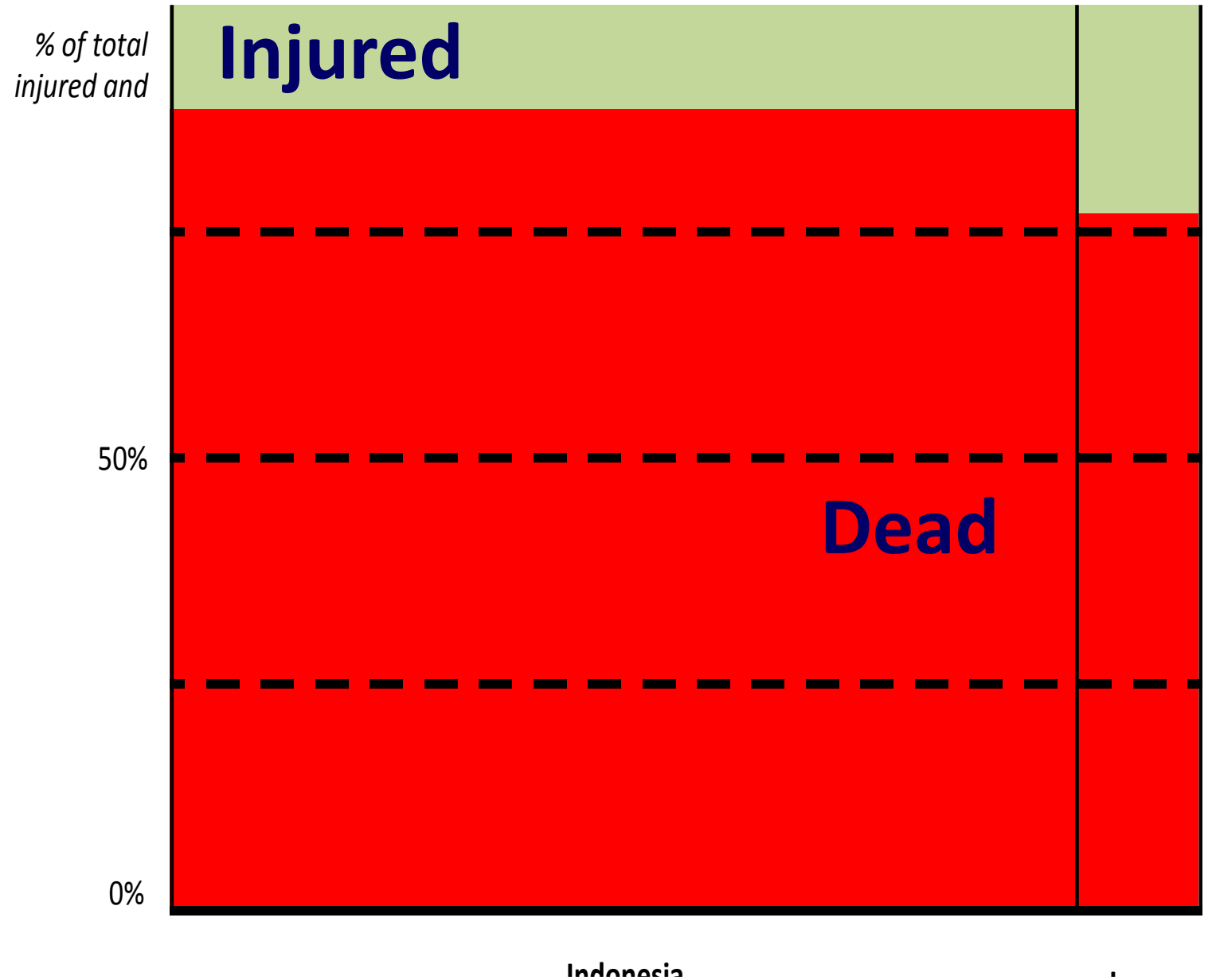
Earthquake Injuries >>> Other Disasters

Tsunami

- **Medical**
 - **Aspiration**

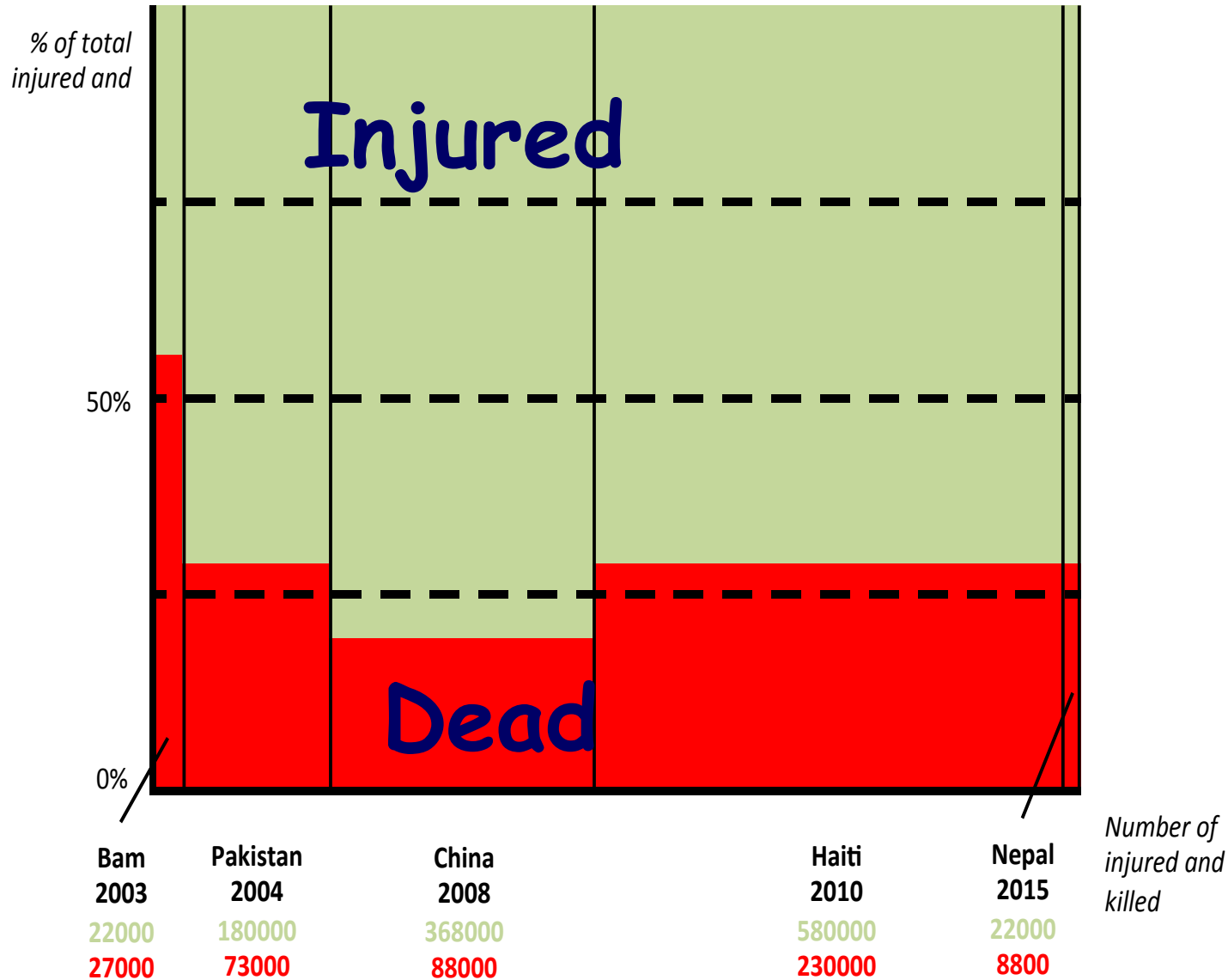
- **Surgical**
 - **Fractures**
 - **Lacerations**

Relationship between killed and injured in two recent tsunamis



Earthquake Injuries >>> Other Disasters

Relationship between killed and injured in five recent earthquakes



- *Huge Amount of Energy*
- *Mostly Mechanical*

Sudden Onset Disaster (SOD)

- No Forewarning
- All Energy Released in a few Seconds

Casualties Caused by:

- *Falling Debris*

*"Earthquakes don't kill people.
Buildings do"*

Casualties Caused by:

- *Falling Debris*
- *Jump / Fall from Height*
- *Dust Inhalation*
- *Burns*

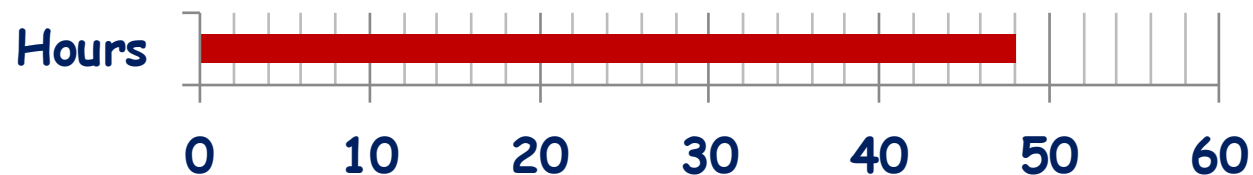
Injuries Following Earthquakes

Affecting Factors

- Earthquake Magnitude
- Depth of Epicenter
- Hour in Day of Earthquake
- Distance from Population Center
- Urban vs Rural
- Type & Quality of Buildings
- Hazmat Escape

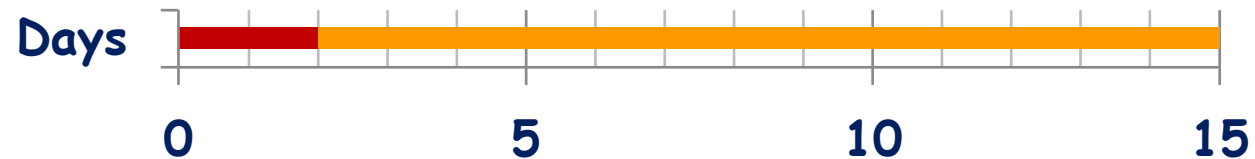
Post Earthquake Phases

- Phase I: Day 1-2
 - Life Threatening Injuries Salvageable
 - Breakdown of Local Infrastructure
 - Foreign Medical Teams Not Yet arrived



Post Earthquake Phases

- **Phase II: Days 3-15**
 - Many Foreign Teams Operational
 - Life Threatening Injuries Perished or treated
 - Predominant Fractures
 - Open Infected Wounds
 - Beginning of Routine Medicine



Post Earthquake Phases

- **Phase III: 2-6 weeks**
 - Shift to Routine Medicine
 - Possible Epidemics
 - Trauma Residua
+Early Rehabilittation
 - Foreign Teams Depart
 - Recovery + Establishment of Larger Facilities



Hospital Overload



Medical Infrastructure Damage

Medical Infrastructure Damage

Medical personnel Affected

- Killed or Injured
- Searching / Caring for Family

- **Underserved Regions Often Affected**

- **Low Baseline Capabilities
of Local Health System**

- **Number and Severity of Injuries**
- **Treatment Capabilities**



Massive International Aid Response

- **300 Foreign
Medical Teams**

WHO Emergency Medical Team Initiative



Type 1 EMT - Ambulatory Care

Mobile

Fixed

Type 2 EMT

Diagnostics, Basic Surgery

Type 3 EMT
Specialized Surgery + Intensive Care

Operational Medical Facilities

- **Ambulatory Treatment Point / EMT 1**
In the Disaster Focal Point
- **Emergency Medical Teams - EMT 2/3**
Local + International
- **Primary-Dispatching Hospital**
In the Disaster Zone
- **Receiving Hospital**
Remote from the Disaster Zone

Operational Medical Facilities

- **Primary-Dispatching Hospital** In the Disaster Zone
- **Receiving Hospital**
Remote from the Disaster Zone
- **Emergency Medical Teams - EMT 1/2/3**
Local + International
-

Primary-Dispatching Hospital

- Structure Damaged
- Reduced Capabilities
- Essential Components
Functional: ER, OT, ICU,
Imaging, Lab, Blood Bank

Primary-Dispatching Hospital

- Patient Feed from Type 1+ Direct
- Hospital flooded
beyond
Surge Capacity
- Evacuation
Difficulties

Receiving Hospital

Receiving Hospital

- Remote from Disaster Zone
- Infrastructure Unaffected
- Full Capabilities Preserved
- Surge Capacity +50% Beds & OTs
- Medium Hospital: 300-400 pts
- Large Hospital 800-900 pts

Receiving Hospital Capabilities

- Longer Operations
- Advanced Imaging
- Definitive Fracture Fixation
- Secondary & Reconstructive Procedures
- Increased ICU
- Hemodialysis

Change Priorities due to Overload

Shortages

- Space Shortage
- Emergency Department

Shortages

- Space Shortage
- Emergency Department
- Wards

Shortages

- **Space Shortage**
 - **Emergency Department**
 - **Wards**
 - **Operating Theatres**

Shortages

- Space Shortage
 - Emergency Department
 - Wards
 - Operating Theatres
 - Recovery
 - ICU

Shortages

- **Personnel Shortage**
 - **Traumatologists**
 - **Surgical Subspecialties**
 - **Pediatrics**
 - **Anesthesiologists**
 - **Nurses**

Shortages

- **Equipment Shortage**
 - **Fixation Hardware**
 - **Surgical & Power Instruments**
 - **Autoclave**
 - **C Arm Fluoroscopy**

Conceptual "Change Diskette"

Hospital

- Organization
- Logistics

Treatment

- Priorities
- Treatment Methods
- Ethical Considerations

- Single Patient
- Routine Time
- Fully Equipped Hospital

- Disaster Scenario
- Infrastructure Damage
- Health System Overwhelmed



Clinical Solutions

Early
Total
Care



Damage
Control
Surgery

Damage Control in MCI, Disasters and Austere Environments

Rationale for DamageControl:

Greatest Good for the Greatest Number

NOT

Everything for Everyone

Triage

(Fr.) = Separate, Sift, Select)

Prioritizing Treatment of Patients according to:

- **Severity** of Patient's Condition
- **Available Resources**

Orthopedic Damage Control Surgery

"Life Over Limb"

Minimal surgery for fracture stabilization in
physiologically unstable multitrauma patient

- **Optimize Surgical Efficiency**
 - **Avoid Long Procedures**

Regional Anesthesia/Conscious Sedation

→ Decrease Recovery Room Stay

Hospital Organization & Logistics

- **Increase hospitalization capacities**
- **Increase surgical capabilities**
- **Maximize resource utilization**

Earthquake: *General Hospital* → “Orthopedic Hospital”

- *Geographic Changes*

- **2 Tables in Theatre**

Logistic Solutions

- **Field Hospital on hospital grounds**
 - **Combining forces**
 - **Utilization of existing infrastructure**

Concept Change: Surgery in Re-designated Areas

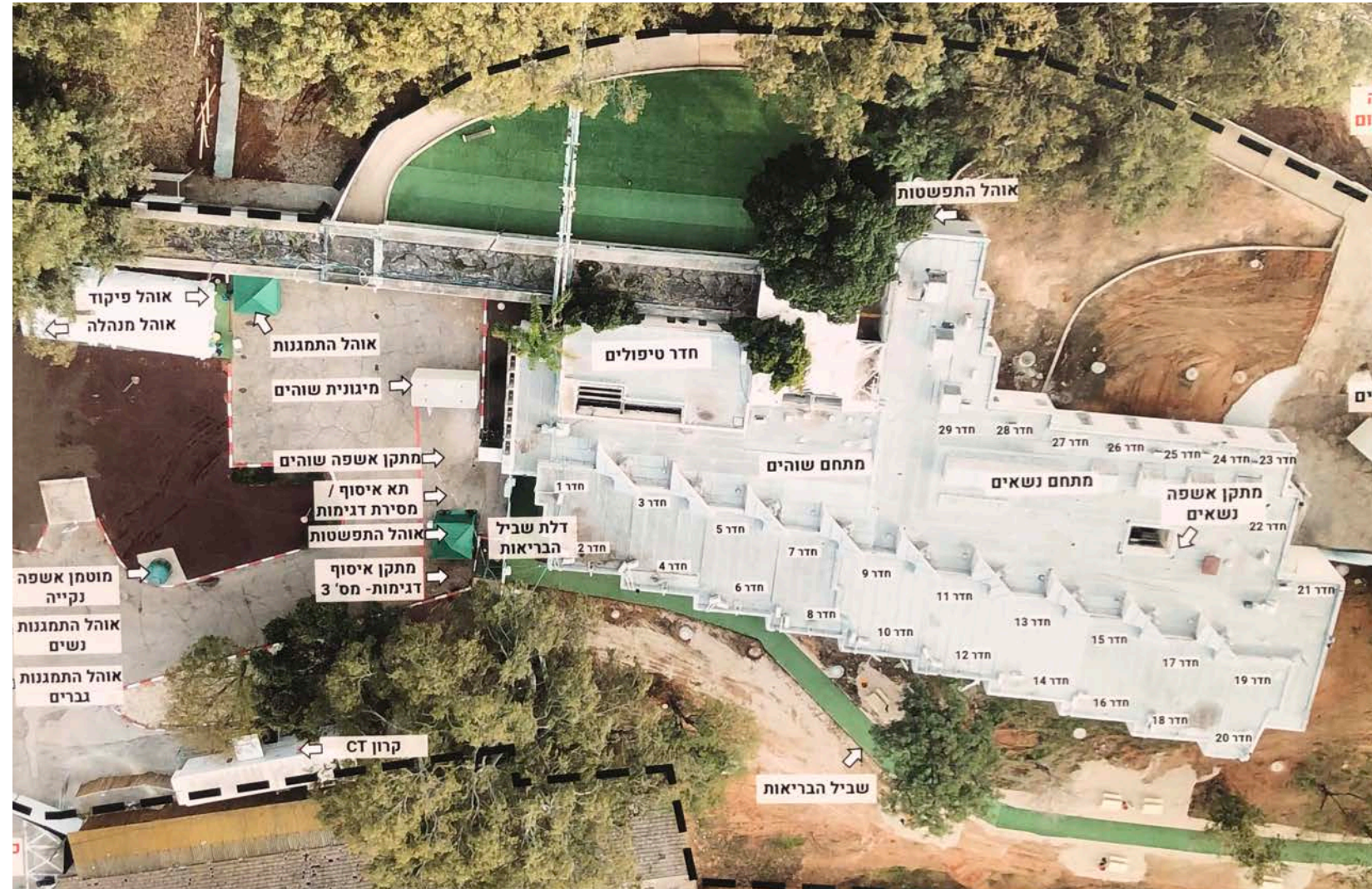
- Port Au Prince - Haiti

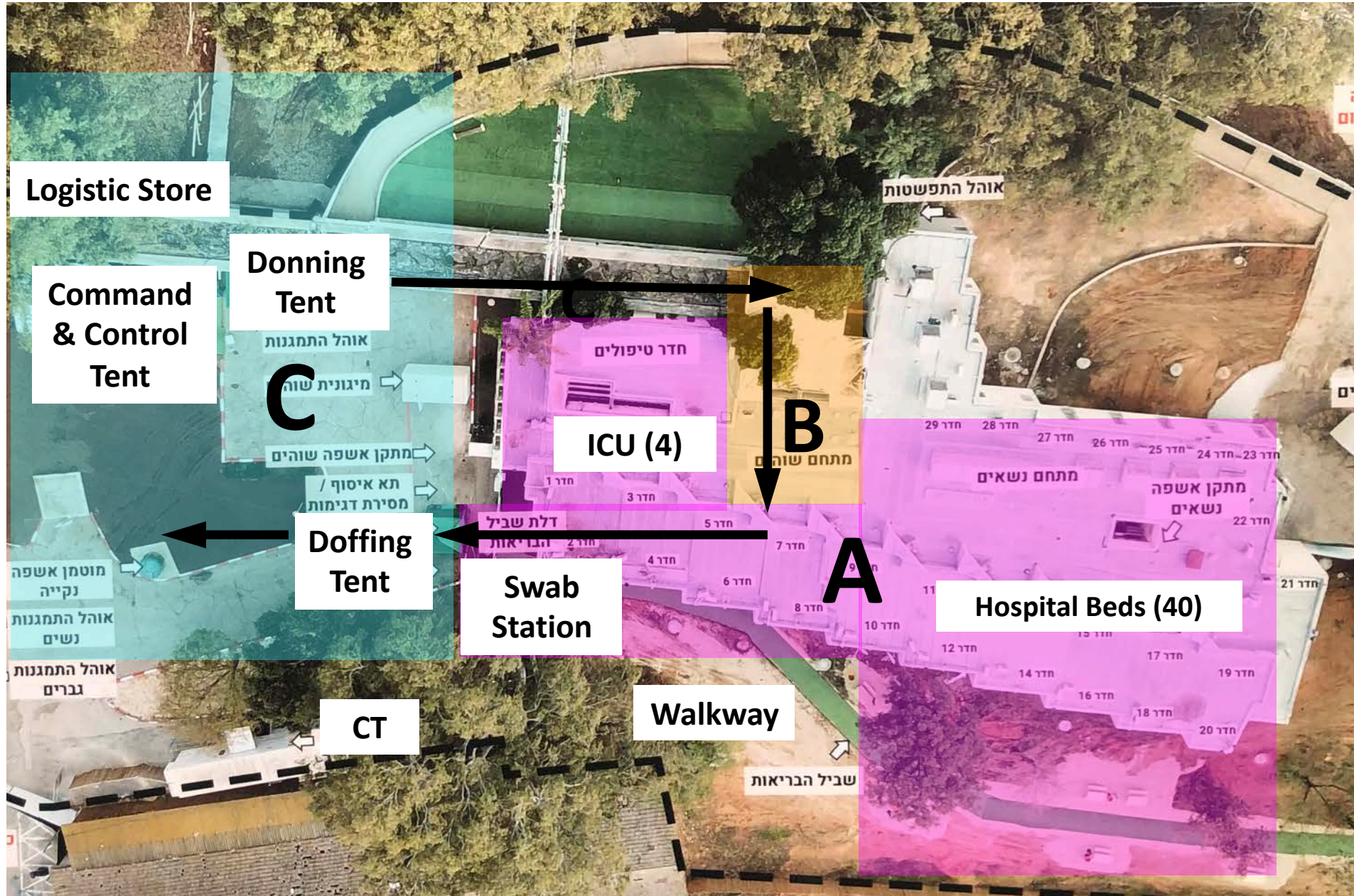
- **Shri Birendra**
Military
Hospital
Kathmandu

Pre-Map Potential Alternative Sites

- **Surgical Areas**
- **ICU**
- **Lab**
- **Blood Bank**

- Staff quarters → COVID facility





Food & Supplies (Ambulatory pts.)

- Double door cubicles
- Timed by CCC

Swab Testing

- Across Window
- No patient Contact
- Specimen collection in cubicle

Underground Parking Lot → CCCU

100 Bed Critical Care Corona Unit

Underground Parking Lot → CCCU

100 Bed Critical Care Corona Unit

Area Out of Main Hospital

- **Superficial Wounds**
- **Closed Light Injuries**
- **Stress Disorders**

Patients Delayed in Area Out of Main Hospital

- **Superficial Wounds**
- **Closed Light Injuries**
- **Stress Disorders**
- **Morgue**

Severely Injured Patients with Poor Chance of Survival

- **Separate Enclave for Palliative Treatment**

Preparation Before the Crisis

Logistic Planning

- Organisation of Space
- Organisation of Infrastructure
- Organisation of Equipment
- Organisation of Supplies

Preparation before the crisis

Requires:

- Planning
- Training
- Drilling

Initial Drill

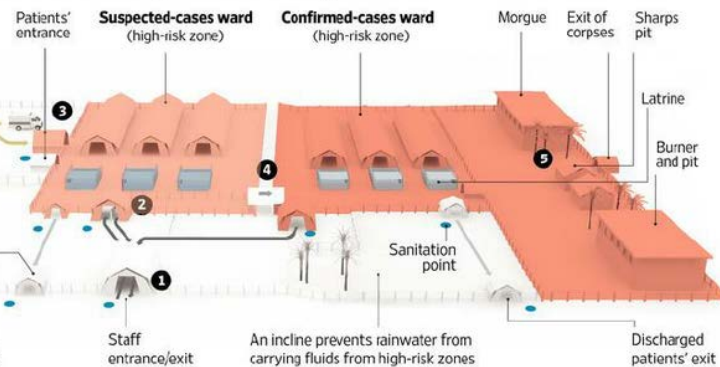
Construction of Tented Model of COVID-19 Facility

- WHO - Ebola principles
- Clean, intermediate & contaminated zones

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Chlorine preparation
Nursing station
Discharged patients' exit
(Not to scale)



Mesh fencing is often used so patients can communicate with family members

Staff entrance/exit

An incline prevents rainwater from carrying fluids from high-risk zones

Discharged patients' exit

1 Staff change into protective clothing. Normal clothing is left here. Shoes and hands are disinfected.

2 Second changing room between low-risk and high-risk zones. Staff put on waterproof plastic gowns, surgical masks, hoods, aprons, goggles and three pairs of gloves.

3 Potential patients are screened and, on availability, admitted to the suspected-patients ward. They are disinfected with chlorine solution and tested.

4 Patients who test positive for Ebola are moved to the confirmed-cases ward. They are given supportive care until they either die or recover and are discharged.

5 All waste from the low-risk zone is transferred to the high-risk zone for disposal. Waste is separated, disinfected and either buried in pits or burned. Corpses are cremated off-site.

Drill

- **Work-flow**
- **Patient-flow**
- **Logistics**
- **Patient transfer from/to
main hospital**

Stage 3 - With Establishment of COVID-19 Facility

- Off-Site in MSR
- On-Site in facility - "System Check" before patient upocation

Stage 3 - With Establishment of COVID-19 Facility

- **Simulation-based Telemedicine Training:**
 - **Staff**
 - **Patients & families**

Solution: Task Shifting

Establishment of Mechanical Ventilation Support/Reinforcement Unit

- 300 Staff members
- 60 Multi-disciplinary teams

MSR Just-in-Time Training Program

Preparation before the crisis

- **Organisation of the personnel**
 - **SOPs**
 - **Call Roster**
 - **Ward Evacuation Plan
(Reverse Triage)**

Earthquake: General Hospital → “Orthopedic Hospital”

Personnel Implications:

- Task Shifting

Preparation before the crisis

Logistic Planning

- Organization of the space
- Organization of Infrastructure

Preparation before the crisis

Requires:

- Planning
- Training

EMT - Israeli Experience

Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)



IDHM (Sheba MC)



IDF Aid Missions

1968 Sicily *Earthquake*

1979 Cambodia *Refugees*

1985 Mexico *Earthquake*

1986 Cameroon *Gas Eruption*

★ 1988 Armenia *Earthquake*

1989 Russia *Train Accident*

★ 1994 Rwanda *Refugees*

1994 Argentina *Bombing*

1998 Kenya *Bombing*

★ 1999 Kosovo *Refugees*

★ 1999 TurkeyX2 *Earthquakes*

1999 Greece *Earthquake*

★ 2001 India *Earthquake*

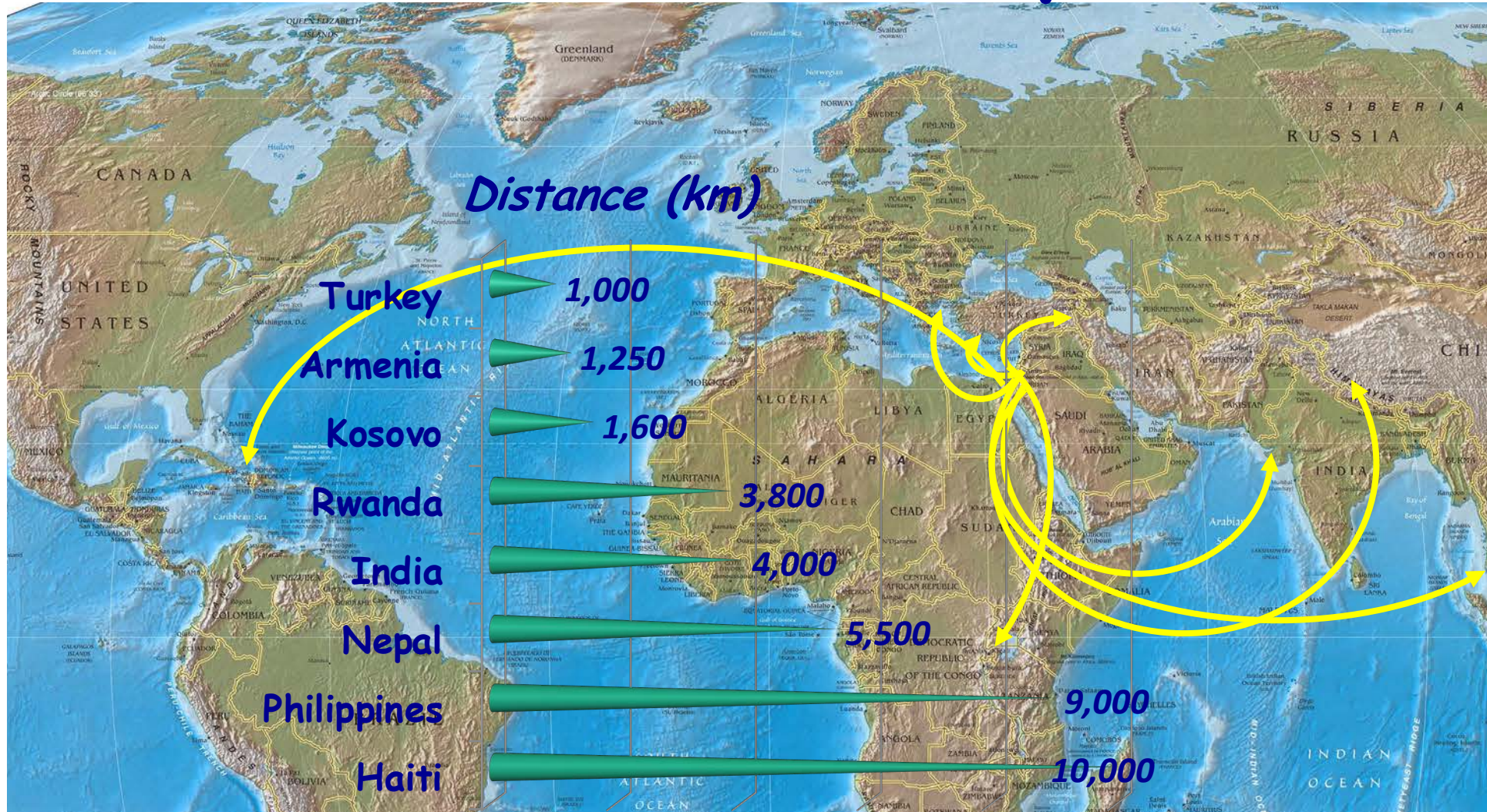
★ 2010 Haiti *Earthquake*

2011 Japan *Tsunami*

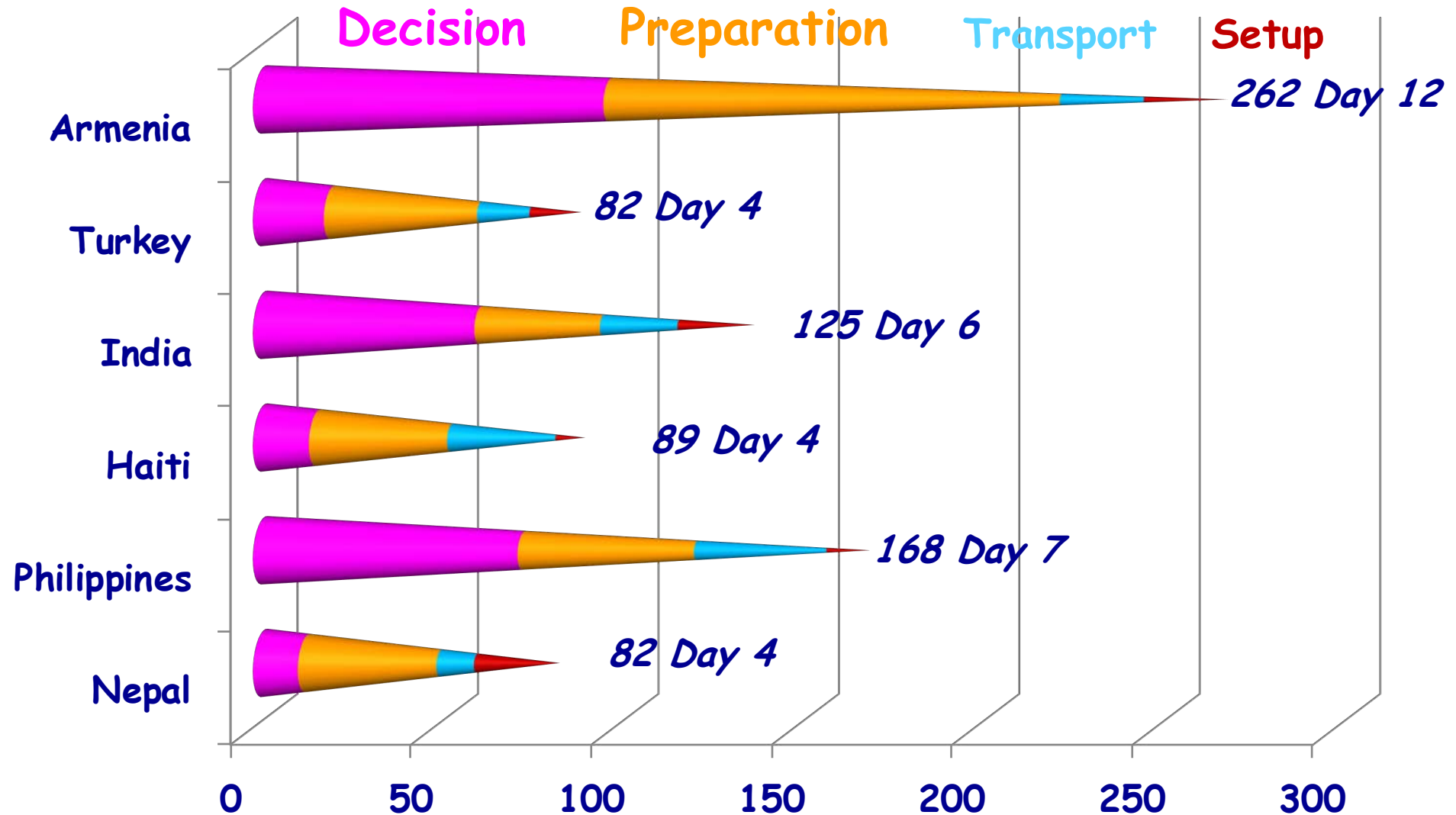
★ 2013 Philippines *Typhoon*

★ 2015 Nepal *Earthquake*

Deployment Distance & Transport



Initiation of Operation Hours from Event



January 12, 2010

16:53

Magnitude: 7.0

Epicenter:

25 km W. of Port au Prince

Depth: 10 km

Haiti 2010

- No Local Health System
- No Evacuation Destination
- Stand Alone Field Hospital

Nepal 2015 - Magnitude 7.8

- Epicenter 80 km from Kathmandu
- Depth 15 km

- **160,000 Buildings destroyed**
- **9 Million people affected**
- **2.8 Million homeless**
- **9,000 Killed**
- **23,000 Injured**

- **Whole Villages Destroyed**
- **Severe Road Infrastructure Damage**
- **Land Evacuation Difficult**

Nepal 2015

- Injuries +++
- Functional Medical System

- **Evacuation FROM Rural areas to Field Hospital**

- **Full Collaboration with Functioning Medical Facility**
- **Mixed Teams**
- **Patient Distribution according to Hospital Capabilities**

The Israel Center for Disaster Medicine and Humanitarian Response

Est. 2017



SHEBA
Tel HaShomer
City of Health

The Vision

A World Center of Excellence Dedicated
to Medical Preparedness and Response in
Disaster Areas, Emergency Situations,
& Humanitarian Aid



Activities

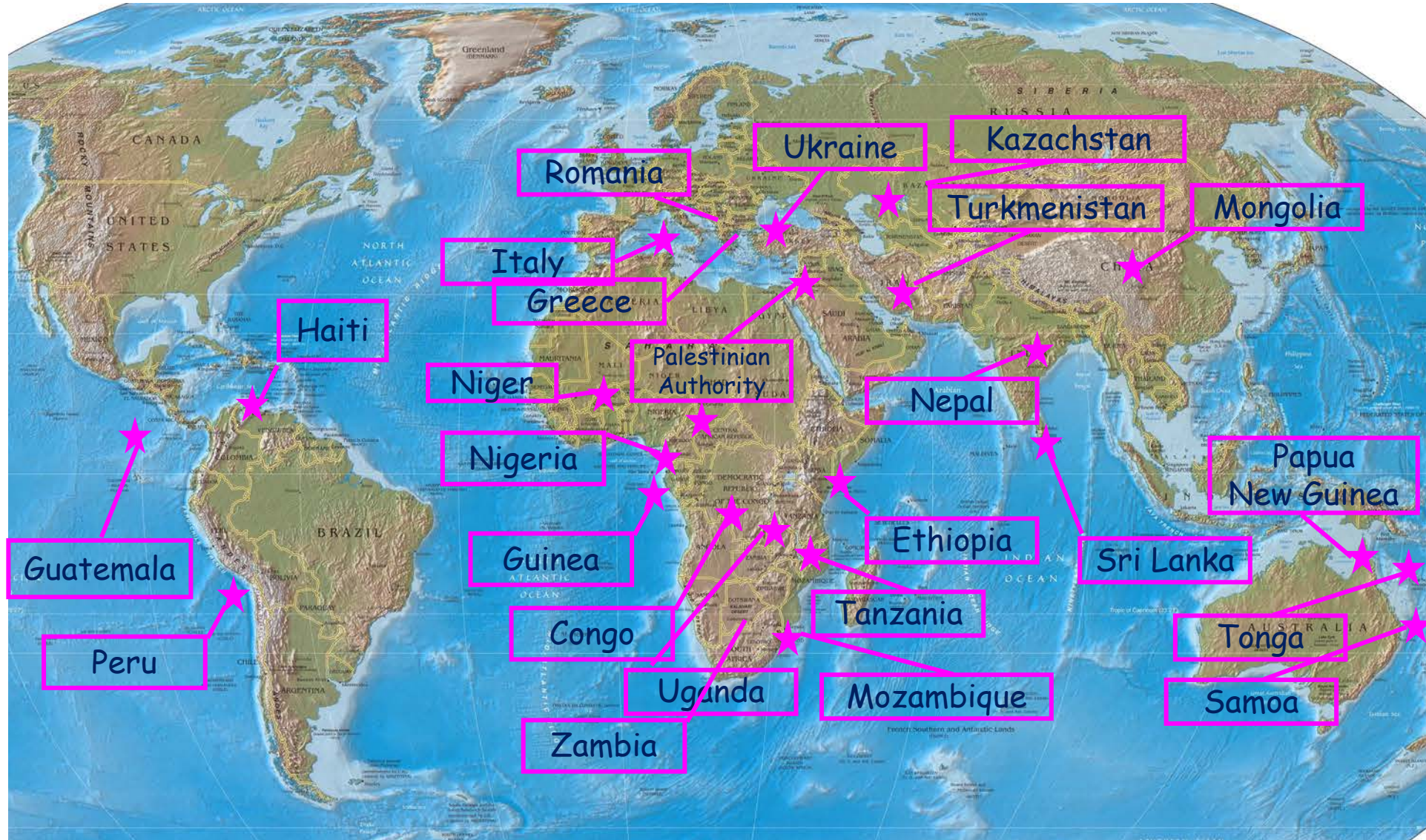




Worldwide Activity



SHEBA
Tel HaShomer
City of Health



Zambia 2018 - Cholera Outbreak

Papua New Guinea 2018

Cataract Surgery

Nigeria 2017- 2019

Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Guatemala 2019 - Volcano Eruption

Samoa 2019 - Measles Outbreak

Mozambique 2019- Cyclone

Haiti 2020 - Burn Treatment

Sheba 2020

First Israel COVID-19 Facility

Palestinian Authority 2020

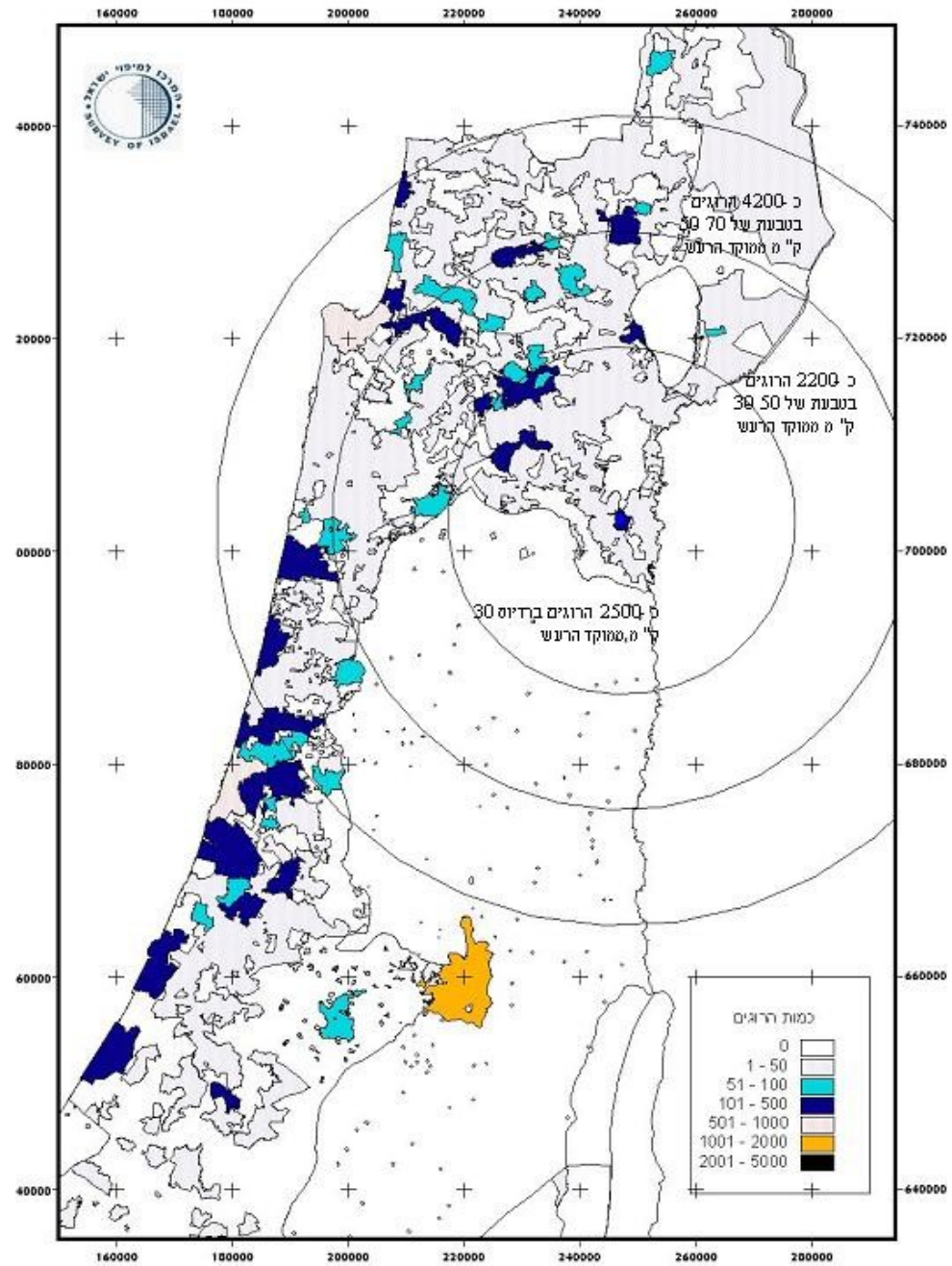
COVID-19 Training

Jericho

Gaza Strip

Greece 2020 - Refugee Crisis

Italy 2020 - COVID-19





Expected Casualties (MOH)



Dead	7,000
Severe Injuries	8,600
Light Injuries	37,000
Displaced	170,000

+ Unknown Number of Post Trauma Stress Victims



Projected Medical Infrastructure Capabilities (MOH)



- **50% Decrease in Hospital Capacities**
- **8,000-10,000 Available Beds**
- **Occupancy by 6,000 Injured & 4,000 Sick**

Field Hospital on Sheba Grounds

**Goal: Operational Continuity
in case of Massive Structural Damage**

Thank You

<https://eng.sheba.co.il>

[Elhanan.Baron@sheba.health.](mailto:Elhanan.Baron@sheba.health.gov.il)

[gov.il](https://eng.sheba.co.il)

