From recovery to development: What knowledge should we use in this transitional phase?

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A two-way street

Breaking the cycle or spinning in a “chronic crisis”
main buzzwords: “sustainability” and “resilience”
recovery means return to pre-disaster state, which may have been very unsatisfactory
some would say that ‘development’ is not part of disaster response; however, the word appears over 100 times in UNISDR Sendai Framework report
Sendai Framework Priority 4 is: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
Sendai Framework Roadmap

• Sendai Framework Roadmap recommends:
  • disaster risk reduction is essential to sustainable development.
  • “facilitate the link between recovery and development” p. 21
  • incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into development assistance programs p. 25
  • Sendai monitoring group should work closely with SDG monitoring group p. 47
There are many gaps in the evidence base, and few practices are supported by valid evidence.

- general critique of most RCTs and systematic reviews – time frame too short to establish ‘causation’
- long view necessary; real ‘outcomes’ unknown for decade(s), often well into development phase
- issues or ‘metrics’: security, basic needs and services, resettlement, governance (participation), rule of law (justice and reconciliation), economic stabilization, health indicators (Gl. Burden of Dz)
Cochrane Library has nearly 10,000 systematic reviews listed. Three Special Collections on disaster-specific topics are available through the Cochrane Library – Burns, PTSD, and Flooding and Poor Water Sanitation. When searching the Library for ‘disaster’, only 6 reviews come up. Three are PTSD, one on oral cholera vaccine, one on maternal waiting facilities, one on unconditional cash transfers. None on resettlement, none on economic stabilization.
Evidence Aid Library

• Partners with Cochrane and Int Rescue Committee USA
• Several disaster-specific Special Collections are available directly from the Evidence Aid website – Windstorms, Earthquakes, Ebola, Zika, and the Health of Refugees.
• The Spanish literature is well represented in the Evidence Aid database, and Evidence Aid has a host of fine translators.
Social determinants of mid- to long-term disaster impacts on health  
FEBRUARY 23, 2016

This review found that regardless of health outcomes and event types, the influence of disasters on chronic health persists beyond the initial disaster period, affecting people’s health for months to years. Using the World Health Organization’s conceptual framework for the social determinants of health, a total of 35 themes were identified across the three conceptual domains (determinants related to the socioeconomic and political context, structural determinants, and intermediate determinants) as potentially influencing disaster impact.

Disability and Rehabilitation: Disability and Health Related Rehabilitation in International Disaster Relief  
APRIL 27, 2015

Little scientific evidence on the effectiveness of health-related rehabilitation interventions following natural disaster exists. It is known, however, that absolute numbers of injuries as well as injury to death ratios in natural disasters have increased significantly over the last 40 years and that persons with pre-existing disabilities are more likely to die in a natural disaster.
Cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies  
JUNE 23, 2016  
Cash transfer and voucher programs, if appropriately designed and managed, can be effective and efficient modalities for addressing the needs of crisis-affected populations in a range of contexts. **Robust evidence on the effects and efficiency of cash-based interventions are strongest for food security.**

Food supplementation for improving the physical and psychosocial health of socio-economically disadvantaged children aged three months to five years  
MARCH 6, 2015  
*In low- and middle-income countries,* providing additional food to children aged three months to five years can lead to small gains in weight and height, and moderate increases in haemoglobin. There are also positive impacts on psychomotor development but mixed evidence on mental development.
3.4 Challenges and approaches to overcoming the challenges of the expected outcomes of the UNISDR Road Map for Implementation of Sendai

1. Provide scientific evidence to enable decision-making of policy options for investment and development planning for vulnerable communities and locations.

2. Identify and respond to the needs of policy- and decision-makers at all levels for scientific data and information to strengthen preparedness, response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction to reduce losses and impact on the most vulnerable communities and locations.
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“The silly question is the first intimation of some totally new development.”

- Alfred North Whitehead