How can we do better?
Measuring results of health interventions in disasters

Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005

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

1. Physical
2. Psychological
3. Socioeconomic
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hierarchy</th>
<th>Of different actors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. System-wide</td>
<td>1. Governments</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Partial system</td>
<td>2. UN agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Single agency response</td>
<td>3. Other International agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Single agency, single project</td>
<td>4. NGOs, CBOs, faith-based org – local, int’l</td>
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<td>5. Military</td>
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<td>At various levels</td>
<td>6. Donors – bilateral and multilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Global</td>
<td>7. Private industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional</td>
<td>8. Affected communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Country</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Region within country</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Field</td>
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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