REHABILITATION IN EMERGENCIES

Pete Skelton
Humanitarian Rehabilitation Advisor
Humanity & Inclusion and the UK Emergency Medical Team
Better trauma responses to emergencies mean a higher rehab need not a lower one
Sphere Humanitarian Standards

“Surgery provided without any immediate rehabilitation can result in a complete failure in restoring functional capacities of the patient.”

“Early rehabilitation can greatly increase survival and enhance the quality of life for injured survivors.”
MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REHABILITATION

Emergency Medical Teams

Rehabilitation in Sudden Onset Disasters
Edited by Pete Skelton and Alice Harvey

RP | 06
Coming: “Early Rehabilitation During Disasters and Conflicts”
Despite the high (and increasing) need and recent advancements, rehabilitation remains an after thought in most emergencies and is absent (with a few notable exceptions) from most emergency management plans.
So what to do?

• Know the hazards you face in your country: [http://www.inform-index.org/](http://www.inform-index.org/)

• Personal Preparedness Plans

• Organisational/Institutional Preparedness Plans

• National Preparedness Plans
Preparedness Planning – SSS

**Staff** – are safe, trained and prepared, knowing their role

**Stuff** – hold enough basic stock to be able to manage surges in trauma patients or replace destroyed assistive devices

**Systems** – rehabilitation should be integrated into emergency management plans, including not just the immediate acute phase, but also with full consideration of continuity of care following a surge in trauma
TRAUMA PROTOCOLS / GUIDELINES

On Medical, Surgical and Rehabilitation Management of Expected Injuries during an Earthquake Scenario

Kathmandu, Nepal
November 2011
In Summary

• Disasters create huge rehabilitation needs that can overwhelm even strong health systems
• Rehabilitation professionals have a key role to play in disaster management
• Planning and preparedness is relevant to us all
• Despite a few positive examples, we are not yet part of the conversation
• We all have a role to play to ensure that rehabilitation is integrated into emergency preparedness
• If we wait for the disaster to happen, it is already too late.
Thank you

p.skelton@hi.org