Conclusion: The results call for a comprehensive understanding of the scene: the teams are working in a scene that has not been secured, with possible presence of additional perpetrators. Personnel has to work using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to that risk. Dealing with an injured perpetrator requires security checks, authorization of the security authorities on the scene, and moral dilemmas. Transportation times might be prolonged. This creates a unique environment that calls for specific on-scene protocols, as well as training of the personnel (staff and volunteers) to be able to successfully perform their tasks in this hostile environment. On-scene procedures, as well as unique procedures developed (eg, police escort to overcome traffic), and revised treatment protocols as result of lessons learned from incidents will be presented.

Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors (CCSAS): the Use of a Multimedia Training Tool.
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Study/Objective: Evaluate a multimedia training tool used to train Health Care Providers (HCPs) as key actors in improving the delivery of quality Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors (CCSAS).

Background: Sexual assault rises as a global public health issue, in conflict-affected populations, where SGBV becomes a strategy of war. Training HCPs has been prioritized by humanitarian actors globally to improve the quality of CCSAS. Few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of such training.

Methods: Four ToT days were provided to relevant community HCPs working in a conflict area in Jordan, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. The CCSAS multi-media tool developed by the IRC was used as a unified training tool aiming at improving clinical care. The recruitment process included a general call for application, entailing a detailed syllabus for the training course whereby individuals expressed their interest in attending and submitted their resume to ensure that their qualifications were in-line with the pre-set selection criteria for the training.

Results: Six ToT took place; in Jordan, two groups of 25 have improved by 142% and 57.6% on average at post-test in knowledge and attitudes to care for survivors. The third ToT in Turkey, 13 participants have improved by 47% on average and nine participants have improved by 82.6% on average. In Lebanon, 19 participants have improved by 62.5% on average. In Syria, 18 participants have improved by 46.2% on average. Key barriers to quality care identified included poor or lack of access to services, lack of privacy and confidentiality, and lack of essential resources and treatment including PEP, as well as an unclear referral mechanism. Action plans were developed by participants to address these barriers and follow-up to the evaluating progress was planned.

Conclusion: The CCSAS multi-media training tool showed an initial positive impact and has demonstrated effectiveness in promoting compassion and competence among trained HCPs and improving quality of care in humanitarian settings.

Paris Terrorist Attack on November 13, 2015 - Applying Wartime In-hospital Triage and Damage Control Strategies
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Study/Objective: The Paris terrorist attack of November 13th 2015 caused 130 deaths and 351 injured.

Background: Our work aims to show how in-hospital triage and damage control strategies, acquired during the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Sahel, enable a rational and appropriate management of the patients.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the cohort of 17 patients treated at the Percy Military Teaching Hospital on the nights of November 13-14, 2015.

Results: The mean age was 39 ± 8 years. Eight patients (47%) had a thoracic injury (mean AIS = 3 [1-6]), 5 (29%) an upper limb injury (mean AIS = 2 [1-3]), 4 (24%) an abdominal injury (mean AIS = 3 [2-4]), 3 (18%) a face injury (AIS 2 = medium 1-3], 3 (18%) a lower limb injury (AIS = 1), 2 (12%) a spine injury (AIS = 5) and 1 (6%) a brain injury (AIS = 5). There was no patient identity error. Two patients (12%) were categorized immediate with extreme mention (T1E) (ISS 19 and 29), 6 (35%) immediate (T1) (average ISS = 24 [13-41]), 4 (24%) delayed (T2) (average ISS = 6 [1-16]) and 5 (29%) minimal (T3) (average ISS = 1 [1-3]). Four patients (24%) had a damage control procedure with a mean surgical time of 68 min (43-84). All patients were treated according to the deadlines imposed by their categorization. One patient died of multiple organ failure in the aftermath of a resuscitation thoracotomy. All patient records were reviewed and three were analyzed as perfectible, without consequences for the patients involved.

Conclusion: The current context exposes us to the threat of new possible terrorist attacks and requires that the medical community get prepared to manage multiple war casualties. The familiarization to the modern principles of war surgery seems mandatory to face this type of situation.

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Lessons from the Field

April 2017

Prehospital and Disaster Medicine
Pray for the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Cholera Treatment Ward Preparation of Novice Haitian Healthcare Staff

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Study/Objective: To describe the preparing of Haitian Healthcare staff for triaging and management of cholera patients.

Background: Haiti has endemic cholera. This is exacerbated by our (yearly) rainy season. In 2016, this was further worsened by Hurricane Matthew, allowing massive contamination of water supplies in southern Haiti. This resulted in a much greater need for Haitian healthcare workers with no previous exposure to this patient population, to be able to effectively recognize, treat and contain potential cholera patients.

Methods: Observational discussion and lessons learned from setting up a Cholera Treatment Ward in Southern Haiti, post Hurricane Matthew.

Results: Haitian Healthcare workers with no prior experience or capacity for treating cholera developed an effective knowledge base, skillset, and Cholera Treatment Ward (CTW), thereby proactively heightening local disaster management capabilities.

Conclusion: Many of our lessons learned are applicable to a wide variety of disasters, infectious diseases, capacity building situations and would be of interest to WADEM members' attendees.

Does Planning and Preparation Help in Disaster Risk Management? A Nepal Experience

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Study/Objective: To review the response mechanism and the preparation before the Nepal earthquake, for effective preparation and response.

Background: Nepal which lies between two large countries of China and India and is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides and severe weather events. Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) ranks Nepal as the 11th most at risk country in the world in terms of relative vulnerability to earthquake. The (last year) earthquake in Nepal had caused nearly 9,000 deaths compared to the expected 100,000 deaths, and this is due to the timing of the event. The earthquake occurred on Saturday, so all the schools and offices were on holiday, that is the one important reason for the lower number of casualties; and the other is the preparedness of the Ministry of Health and the hospitals. The first factor was not in our hands to modify but the second one was. Two factors, one was that the government had taken the lead of all the disaster preparedness by various International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) through the cluster system. The Second is the training in disaster preparedness by the course called Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies developed by US Aid.

Methods: Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE), Primary Trauma Care (PTC), Emergency protocols were conducted and the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) was prepared before the earthquake which helped in saving many lives. The HUB hospital system was implemented by Ministry of Health to coordinate better among the hospitals.

Results: All of this preparedness may not have worked completely, but the review organized by WHO and Ministry of Health, Nepal after the disaster showed that these training protocols and HEOC had really helped to treat patients systematically.