Disaster Governance through Opening Up Public Data:
Trends and Perspectives
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Study/Objective: This study is aimed to map and review existing uses of open public data for disaster preparedness and management, from both a top-down (international organizations, public authorities) and bottom-up (formal and informal civil society entities) end, and to provide specific recommendations for developing and delivering effective a disaster response mechanisms.

Background: Sharing data and creating open systems promotes transparency, accountability, and ensures a wide-range of actors are able to participate in the challenge of building resilience aiming to reduce the impact of disasters. Empowering decision makers with better information and the tools to support their decisions is considered to be essential for better planning, preparedness, and response activities. Open data are therefore recognized as key enablers towards this direction.

Methods: A comprehensive review of the peer-reviewed and grey literature, as well as internet research and mapping of existing open public data sets and their use by country and by data provider (international organization, public authority).

Results: A comprehensive search was performed to identify the specific challenges that the open data movement are facing in the disaster risk management context, as well as existing experience from early attempts at building open data initiatives around both natural and manmade disasters. As crucial parts of disaster management are the acquisition, assessment, processing, and distribution of information, opening up public data can become a powerful enabler in enhancing preparedness and raising awareness for both natural and manmade disasters. They are beginning to play an important role in boosting disaster management capabilities for cities and towns, engaging residents and civil society representatives in facing disaster management efforts challenges; or for their effective use that policy makers and the public must have access to the right data and information to inform good decisions. Too often, this data and information are fragmented across government ministries and in the private sector, is unavailable to decision makers and at-risk populations.

Conclusion: Strengthening public and civic resilience to disasters can be found by using open public data, an ally enabling all community members to contribute their unique skills and perspectives; promoting transparency, accountability, and ensuring that a wide-range of actors are able to participate in the challenge of disaster preparedness, management, and recovery while building resilience.

International Emergency Medical Teams, A Working Group on Training

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Study/Objective: To establish a “core curriculum” for the Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) internationally, by conducting a systematic mapping study of all training programs currently targeting EMTs internationally.

Background: Standardized education and training are essential components to improve global emergency response, by providing mechanisms to ensure the coordination, quality and accountability of deployable national and international EMTs. The purpose of this Working Group is to guide the development of global EMT training standards, and to foster a collaborative approach to the production and procurement of tools and frameworks for effective and operational EMT training. The working group will need to provide technical advice based on their own expertise, follow an evidenced-based approach, and coordinate inputs from EMT stakeholders to help generate consensus and deliver implementable outputs for training. The WADEM EMT Training Working Group will also assist with the process of setting a standardized curriculum for all EMTs.

Methods: Using a systematic approach, organizations, academic institutions, professional bodies and EMTs involved in training and deployment will be approached. Members from each will be requested to complete a standardized questionnaire on training competencies and curriculum, and to provide information on the trainings offered or used. Data will be organized and analyzed as to common content or competency themes and presented at WADEM.

Results: of the mapping study will be reviewed to identify current and potential elements of a core curriculum for EMTs.

Conclusion: The findings will be presented at WADEM and the ensuing discussion incorporated into the final conclusions.