

*A*ppeals for International Assistance



All appeals for health assistance should be endorsed by or issued through the Ministry of Health.

The Participants,

Believing that one of the main problems in post-disaster health management is the often conflicting quality of the information available from the various sources for rapid decision-making by potential donors,

Recognizing the importance that requests or appeals for international assistance reflect genuine emergency health needs of the entire population affected by the disaster; and

Encouraged to note the considerable improvement in this regard following the disasters in 1985 in Latin America,

Recommend that:

1. Affected countries continue efforts to limit their appeals for international assistance in the health field to genuine needs for the emergency, clearly identifying the priorities but making a distinction between needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction

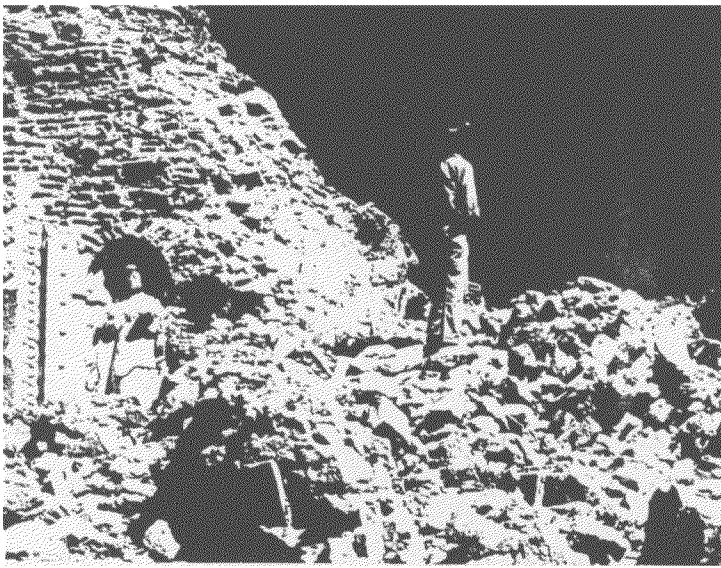
2. Information on what has been requested or pledged be shared among all donors.

3. Affected countries take into account the time required to provide assistance from the international community and, therefore, carefully request assistance that has the greatest probability of arriving in time to be used.

4. Affected countries specify, to the extent possible, the most urgently needed items (e.g., drug dosage, the manufacturer and the model of equipment) in order to avoid delays or misunderstandings.

5. All appeals for health assistance be endorsed by or issued through the Ministry of Health

*D*isaster Management



All countries must identify their vulnerability to disasters and establish appropriate measures to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable populations.

The Participants,

Recognizing the health focus of this meeting,

Aware that disaster management and related political aspects have a significant impact on the provision of short and medium-term health care,

Recognizing that disaster relief in its initial phases often requires other technologies associated with health;

Referring to the United Nations General Assembly's resolutions giving UNDRO the responsibility to support country preparedness plans and prevention programs; and

Aware of the fact that the establishment of a communication system can be no longer postponed,

Recommend that:

1 All countries identify their vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters.

2 All countries establish appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable populations.

3 International agencies and countries encourage the development of common relief management systems.

4 These management systems include on-site management of the emergency, as well as the support systems of communications, search, rescue, and logistics and their related technologies.

5 Countries and international agencies develop plans, training methods, and simulation exercises as part of their preparedness activities. and

6 Countries promote and carry out, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, the establishment of a quick, continuous and permanent communication system among the countries of the Americas.

P *reparedness*



The Participants,

Stressing the need for the countries to be self-reliant in the provision of immediate health care to disaster victims,

Considering the need to grant to disaster preparedness the importance it deserves, and

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the PAHO Directing Council,

Disaster preparedness must be granted the importance it deserves.

Recommend that.

1 PAHO Member Countries increase their efforts to comply with the resolutions adopted by the PAHO Directing Council.

2 Donor countries and organizations support, to the extent possible, the activities of international agencies, national health services, and other groups in disaster preparedness activities

3 Countries and international organizations, taking advantage of acquired experiences, support field investigations in order to determine the needs related to the different types of disaster.

4 Countries develop, to the extent possible, bilateral collaboration projects between neighboring countries in order to provide timely regional assistance.

5 Training of emergency preparedness in case of disaster be encouraged at all educational levels