Committee: Forensics Group Discussion

Question: The impact of New Technologies on Emergency Aid

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Esteemed delegates,

Our names are Noha and Haris and we will be serving as co-chairs of the Forensics Group Discussion Committee of the 6th CSMUN conference.

MUN is an incredible extracurricular activity and one that we encourage you all to deeply to pursue. It enables you to overcome your fears, discuss and share your opinions on topics you are passionate about, as well as come into contact with new people and ideas. Since it will be our first time chairing, we look forward to meeting and working with you all. This study guide will provide you with a comprehensive outlook on the topic of "New Technologies for Emergency Aid". However, we strongly encourage you to do your own research, regarding your country's policy.

For any inquiries on the topic or the committee work do not hesitate to contact us via email at Noha2450@hotmail.com &c.seimanidis@acg.edu

Sincerely,
Noha & Haris

INTRODUCTION

The topic that will be debated is new technologies for emergency aid. Living in a world which has endured a plethora of atrocities and natural disasters, this topic is of primary significance. This was the year of natural disasters, from deadly earthquakes to record-breaking floods and California wildfires still burning today. It is estimated that the USA alone experienced 15 natural disasters that each cost at least $1 billion in damages.

Nowadays, rapid advancements in technology on a multitude of fields has resulted in both emergency response crews and survivors being better equipped at providing emergency aid to people in immediate distress when required.

The use of social media, drones, satellite imaging and instant disaster modelling, means that information is transmitted more efficiently to areas in need and consequently saves more lives.

Emergency medicine is also a vital aspect of emergency aid, playing a key role in assisting individuals that have suffered during or after a manmade emergency (e.g war) or a natural disaster. Technology has proved very important in the development of this field by providing doctors with much-needed equipment and knowledge in order to treat their patients.

Taking those into consideration, we need to be aware of the fact that there are numerous factors that pose a threat to Emergency Aid. For instance, lack of funding can be detrimental to this process as in South Sudan so far in 2019 has received only 30% of the funding appealed in the UN, hence little to no progress has been made. Another major factor, is the inefficiency of the international humanitarian system and the potential need to reform it. Similarly, the synergy between Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid Organisations is rather weak, thus initiating a new strategy is an initiative to bear in mind . Finally, the lack of infrastructure such as minimal research facilities and equipment plays a key role in the slow rate of development and implementation of new technologies in emergency aid.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The use of new technologies in emergency aid

Emergency medicine, also known as accident and emergency medicine, is quickly spreading as a medical specialty. It assists people all over the world when faced with accidents or unforeseen events providing them with universal treatment and care without restrictions thus, allowing people that may normally not have access to health care get help. Recent advancements in technology have proven to be very useful, allowing medical professionals to become not only more efficient in treating their patients but also to detect and identify victims of domestic violence and to diagnose specific illnesses while treating already existing ones.[1] For example, car accidents are one of the most common accidents that occur, so one can imagine the importance of rapidly identifying and treating a fractured or blocked airway in an emergency medical facility. The C-MAC Tip System has been a great innovative way to avoid laryngoscopy allowing quicker airway management. This system has helped a lot during intubation providing a visualization of indirect laryngoscopy. In addition to that, wireless vital signs monitoring systems have been proven to be incredibly useful. These systems allow for more space which is extremely valuable in emergency vehicles and in small spaced hospitals allowing for more patients to be monitored and cared for, having constant readings of their respiratory rate, pulse, blood pressure and temperature. Having devices that are small and are attached to the wrist of a patient while at the same time being connected to a Wi-Fi network can allow the hospital to monitor collectively all patients. Dealing with wound care is especially important in emergency medicine. Fire accidents occur quite often and victims that have burns may be administered to emergency clinics. New bandages that can be attached safely throughout the

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[1] "Definition of Emergency Medicine." *ACEP //*,
www.acep.org/patient-care/policy-statements/definition-of-emergency-medicine/.

body are commonly used due to them containing a fluid which moistens the wound and has antimicrobial properties that care for any possible infection.

New Practices in Emergency Departments

Emergency Departments have started implementing several vaccines while treating patients since a substantial percentage of the population visits them; something that could have an important impact on vaccination trends and group immunity[2]. This began as a study to see the response that patients would have for such programs when they were at high risk for a disease. Many people decided to take the vaccination and were pleased with the results and upon them, there has been a steady inclusion of important vaccines in emergency medical facilities.

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[2] Group immunity or herd immunity generally refers to the state in which a big part of the population is immune to a certain disease through vaccination most of the times. This limits the spread of diseases and helps people that cannot get vaccinated or gain immunity

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

❏ Emergency Aid: offering help to people in areas which have been affected by human conflicts(ie wars) or natural disasters.

❏ Crisis management: actions that take place, to deal with an emergency in an organized manner.
(https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/crisis-management)

❏ Emergency planning: a process that prepares systems in case of any future contingencies(ie natural disasters).
(https://oxfordre.com/naturalhazardscience/abstract/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389407.001.0001/acrefore-9780199389407-e-12)

❏ Disaster Management: the organisation and delegation of resources and humanitarian responsibilities in emergencies for; preparedness, response and recovery in order to decrease the impact that disasters have on us.
(https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disaster-management/)

❏ Disaster Recovery Plan: is a business plan that outlines how jobs can be resumed effectively and rapidly after a ie a disaster.
(https://www.techopedia.com/definition/1074/disaster-recovery-plan-drp)

❏ Scenario method: contains a set of rules, assumptions and tools, for the process outline of scenario planning.

❏ Disaster Reconstruction: refers to longer term activities taken to increase critical infrastructure and promote development goals; of tertiary priority to Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation.[3]
(https://definedterm.com/disaster_reconstruction)

❏ Emergency medicine: A medical specialty that treats and diagnoses illnesses or injuries that may have occurred unexpectedly or through an accident.

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[3] "Disaster Reconstruction." *Defined Term - A Dictionary of Defined Terms for the Legal Profession*, definedterm.com/disaster_reconstruction.

TIMELINE[4]

Natural disasters and application of technology

Date	Description of event
1984-1985	The US created the FEWS (Famine Early Warning System), in order to respond to the prevalent famines in Sudan and Ethiopia, estimated to have resulted in 1 million deaths.
1990	The International Decade for Disaster Risk Reduction was set to spread awareness of the great potential of early warning systems.
1994	The World Conference on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction in Yokohama, Japan produced the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. It gave guidelines concerning disaster prevention and preparedness.
1995	The UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) requested further research of new science-based methods to improve the accuracy & timeliness of short-term forecasting.
2004	The Indian Ocean Tsunami occurred. So, relevant to this committee, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) adopted a resolution. It established a global early warning system framework for ocean related hazards.

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[4] Gregersen, Erik. "History of Technology Timeline." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/story/history-of-technology-timeline

2005	The Hygo World Disaster Reduction Conference adopted risk assessments.
2011	The Tohoku tsunami and earthquake in Japan killed 15,000 people. Nevertheless, on a greater scale it proved that the warning tech systems & evacuation routes were effective. In fact, the response was way better than seven years earlier.
2015	Robin Murphy proposed that a robot be used in Emergency Aid in a TED talk. This was proven successful, as the robot could swim, crawl through debris, aiding firefighters in detecting more people and as a result saving more lives.
2019	DLR has been working with the WFP for a number of years on various projects. The partners are now set to intensify their successful cooperative efforts. During the Humanitarian Technology Days, the partners have signed an agreement to develop and implement technologies for the 'Zero Hunger' mission.

Medical Developments over time

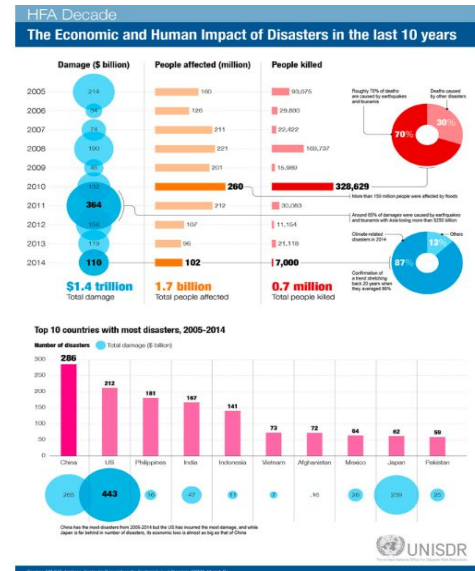|	
1590	The invention of the microscope
1656	Experimentation with canine blood transfusions
1670	The discovery of blood cells
1701	The first smallpox inoculation
1763	A successful appendectomy is performed
1816	The invention of a stethoscope
1842	Use of a General anesthetic
1895	Discovery of X-Rays
1899	Development of aspirins
1967	First heart transplant
2012	The creation of CRISPR

TOPIC DISCUSSION

There is an array of factors that contribute to the need for Emergency Aid. Primarily, the most prominent of those are Natural

Disasters. By the term 'natural disasters' we are alluding to floods, earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes etc.

Correspondingly, a notable factor for the need of emergency aid is global warming which stems from climate change. The United Nations has warned that by 2030 climate change will be irreversible. Thus, this is especially relevant to our topic as climate change is responsible for the increased frequency of natural disasters in our world, puting hundred,thousands sometimes millions of people in need of emergency aid to

be rescued and saved. Additionally in the light of Global Warming, increasing research has indicated that higher temperatures cause longer periods of storms and droughts. Similarly, around the world natural disasters are occurring more frequently (those triggered by mankind's actions & nature). Nevertheless the most devastating matter of all in this topic is that the most vulnerable members of our globe are the most affected by such atrocious disasters and hence in need of emergency aid.

With a world enduring global warming and consequently natural disasters of increasing severity and more detrimental consequences events such as the following have enrolled; during 2015 Nepal was hit with a powerful earthquake, one that affected 8 million of its citizens. To decrease the impact of this horrific earthquake Nepal's youth utilised Information and communication technology (ICT) to communicate. In compliance with this Global Position System(GPS) mapping tools aided to locate and alleviate more quickly the victims. Hence events such as this set the baseline for discussions such as our motion.

Another main output of emergency aid is directed towards victims of war and conflict. In fact, the World Food Programme (WFP) branch of the UN is responsible for aiding relief efforts in the case of victims of war. As, every single day the organisation deploys emergency

response teams to provide supplies to those victims of war. And today, 70% of the WFP supplies go to victims of war.

More specifically in civil war zones such as South Sudan, as recently as in 2017 billions of dollars were invested into the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan(SSHRP). Consequently, such assistance has persisted in providing 3 million children with emergency health kits. To aid this approach, both the EU and the organisation Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) have been devoted to conducting air services, in order to transport humanitarian logistics, to access demolished areas with no access to roads.[5]

Simultaneously, the EU has taken advantage of new technologies in order to combat famine and malnutrition in the area. Furthermore, through the use of new medical supplies they have tried to prevent certain outbreaks.

[5] "Accessing South Sudan: Humanitarian Aid in a Time of Crisis." *Accessing South Sudan: Humanitarian Aid in a Time of Crisis | Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 9 Sept.

CAUSES OF HEALTH ISSUES AND ACCIDENTS

Emergency Medicine is usually used in situations when an accident or an unpredicted drama or disease has occurred to individuals. Most of the times emergency medicine is associated with car accidents, fires, natural disasters, cardiovascular diseases, epidemics and man-made disasters.

Fires

Most of the times fires that happen in urban areas are accidents at houses or lack of maintenance of electrical equipment. Unfortunately, patients that were present during an urban fire other than burns they may also have respiratory problems and generally face several external injuries.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes occur suddenly thus, governments worldwide have tried to adapt to this problem through the implementation of new technologies such as drones in order to scan the area for damage control and robots in order to accelerate the process of rescuing survivors.

Wars

Unfortunately in times of war, civilians may end up hurt and with limited resources emergency aid may be proven difficult to be provided. Through the use of new systems and the utilization of more recent medical equipment medical aid is administered to the population.

Car Accidents

Car accidents can occur for various reasons. Illegal consumption or consumption over the legal limit of drugs and alcohol can prove to be fatal in the road. These substances affect the sense of direction and sight and at the same time reduce the control and reflexes of the driver. However, they can also occur due to weather conditions such as rain, snow or mist that lower the visibility of the driver and make the road difficult to traverse. Individuals that are administered to the emergency departments of hospitals after being at a car or motorcycle accident may suffer from bone fractures, burns and internal injuries.

Cardiovascular diseases

Cardiovascular diseases and episodes can be triggered by any number of reasons that may have to do with the physiology of a person, their psychological state, their habits and their families history. A lot of times these diseases or episodes may happen suddenly and patients maybe in serious need of medical attention within minutes.[6]

[6] "What Happens When a Medical Condition Causes an Accident?" *Lorenzo & Lorenzo*, www.lorenzoandlorenzo.com/personal-injury-guide/medical-condition-accident/.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are an array of solutions that are advancing with the prevalent innovations in technology that are aiding us in seeking effective responses for Emergency Aid.

Firstly for Natural Disasters, we can deploy **Social Media** ie: WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to instantly warn citizens of a real-time Natural Disaster. In compliance with this, **The Aftershock app** was created to identify the location of earthquakes and prepare areas & points for temporary shelter.

In terms of innovation for on ground aid, Honda released the **"Autonomous Work Vehicle"** that was instructed to follow the group to give aid and support in seeking victims of avalanches.
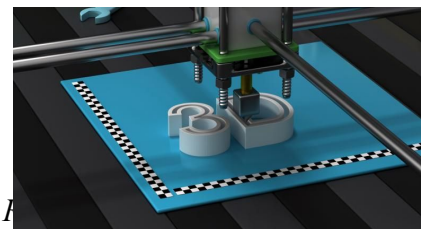
Regarding the Ebola epidemic, programs alike **Internet.org** were founded with the goal of making internet access available to ⅔ of the global population that to this date don't have it. Medically for Ebola, Internet.org's **Satellites** provided free high speed internet access to medical facilities in Liberia Sierra Leone and Guinea.[7]

Correspondingly for diseases more broadly, technologies such as **3D printing** can be used to manufacture medical apparatus.

In addition, **drones** prove to be a safer and cheaper alternative to deliver humanitarian logistics ie in a case of an emergency.

Furthermore, to gather data in Emergency Aid the **IDSUE** (Indicator Development for Surveillance of Urban Emergencies) project was initiated. With the core goal of forming a means for the humanitarian community and governments to provide immediate support in urban slums.

Moreover, regarding mobile banking the **Doha Emergency Cash Programme** was established for online cash transfers via your mobile.

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[7] "MSF Emergency Response to Cyclone Idai and Flooding - Mozambique." *A* reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/msf-emergency-response-cyclone-idai-and-flooding-0.

Finally, accounting for the volunteers of Emergency Aid, **Watergen** was designed to retrieve the water from the atmosphere and produce clean water to hydrate victims, firefighters etc.

MAJOR ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
This organisation is a prominent part of the United Nations System which ensures the implementation of the Sendai Framework for 81 countries to monitor the progress of risk reduction projects around the world to ensure the citizens' safety.Correspondingly in 2007,resolution A/62/320 "Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" was adopted.

Then, the "Global survey of early warning systems" resolution A/62/340 was introduced in order to secure that the systems in place were sufficient. Later that year, the "Sustainable Development:International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" resolution A/62/419/ADD.3 was presented to attain long lasting and effective solution for tackling Disasters.

Medecins Sans Fronties (MSF)
This is an organisation that sends emergency aid to people facing health issues, and those suffering from disasters on a broad scale.Most recently in the light of emergency aid relevant to this committee,in the case of flooding and cyclone Idai which struck Mozambique and Zimbabwe from the 14-16 March in 2019.[8] The MSF ran mobile clinics to give healthcare to the communities that were most in need and had doctors treating 200 cases per day. Similarly, they have created initiatives to install water treatment plants to ensure sanitation and access to clean water in the affected areas.[9]

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[8] "MSF Emergency Response to Cyclone Idai and Flooding - Mozambique." *ReliefWeb*, reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/msf-emergency-response-cyclone-idai-and-flooding-0.

[9] "Mozambique Flooding and Response: Both Enormous in Scale | Cyclone Idai." *Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International*,

Direct Relief International

It aids people who have survived natural disasters and experienced poverty across the globe in more than 80 countries .This organisation recruits As they work to develop and distribute emergency medicine after Hurricane Katrina they collaborated with health centres to create the Hurricane Prep Pack, which includes a standard first aid kit, antibiotics, syringes, and an array of pills and medications to alleviate severe allergic reactions , diabetes and hypertension. With the ultimate goal of helping to save as many people's lives as possible in such atrocious conditions.

The Red Cross

Every 8 minutes it responds to an emergency, as it tackles a multitude of emergencies from natural disasters (floods, hurricanes,wildfires) all the way to armed conflicts in perilous war zones. Funded by numerous nations worldwide, namely those that are part of the EU, it has therefore attained an array of connections and acquired knowledge that enables it to be one of the most effective organisations in the entire world.[10]

Relevant Resolutions:

❏ New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts (the role of social networks and info) in 2009
http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/pdf/UNF_tech/emergency_tech_report2009/Tech_EmergencyTechReport_full.pdf
❏ A list of UN humanitarian resolutions:
https://interactive.unocha.org/publication/globalhumanitarianoverview/

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[10]● Long, Gideon. "Venezuela Receives First Delivery of Red Cross Emergency Aid." *Financial Times*, Financial Times, 17 Apr. 2019, https://www.ft.com/content/41f7f828-60aa-11e9-b285-3acd5d43599e.

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