

Report about the earthquake in Emilia for WHO committee for rehabilitation relief in natural disasters.

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(SIMFER)

When and Where

• On 20 May 2012 at 4.03 am a violent earthquake (6.1 Richter)struck the province of Modena (Map), in particular the area north in the towns of Carpi, Mirandola, Concordia and San Possidonio The more serious damages were mainly in urban centers and in the countryside. Rescuers managed by the Region of Emilia Romagna and the Civil Protection immediately began their activities through the channels of historical and consolidated in experience the Italian territory.

On May 28, at 9:00 in the morning two aftershocks over 6.0 on the Richter scale shook the area again aggravating an already serious situation. And again (5.9) twice in 1 june.



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Some data

- A lot of Houses destroyed, especially the older one.
40 churches destroyed on 44 in the area.
400 injured people
30 dead people
20,000 displaced
Fields for help homeless people 45
Prepared meals every day about 50,000 for the first
2 months

The data

- A lot of volunteers managed by Emilia Romagna Region and Civil Protection in the area, in which they are also in this time to help the homeless people also if rebuilding of houses started so soon as possible.



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The Rescues

- A Committee for aids' coordination was created at the headquarters of the Regional Council in Bologna. Tents were immediately erected for immediate assistance to those who had their homes destroyed, the wounded were immediately taken to hospitals in the area and, if necessary, also in Bologna, Reggio Emilia and Parma. The civil protection sent volunteers for the daily management of the fields..



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The earthquake

- Then shocks of adaptation follow one another every day for about 15 days until about 100 every day , to September 19 have been counted more than 2000 shocks ..



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What Italian rehabilitation did ?

- The Simfer (Italian Society of Rehabilitation), two days after the first earthquake was present in Mirandola and Modena with the vice president delegated for cooperation dott. Germano Pestelli and then again, after the strong shock at the end of May, repeated by a strong shock at the beginning of June.



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Rehabilitation relieves

- The Health Care Rehabilitation was not immediately implemented by the regional government in the best way.

They made good choices on the perceived emergence but less valid in other areas.

It was decided to remove disabled people from places of residence, or send them to the provincial capital (Modena) or to other hospitals also more than 100 km away.

Could have been otherwise manage the situation existing on disability and chronicity sending out of the area only those who had a certain gravity, and giving some answers close to home for the less serious , establishing places of assistance with prepared volunteers managed by the Civil Protection and in which care the disabled and the elderly people..

Rehabilitation pathways

- The rehabilitation rooms of the Hospitals of Carpi and of Mirandola were unusable and rehabilitation professionals have been transferred, in large part, to the hospital in Modena that was not damaged, but that is about 50 km from the epicenter.

Was not expected to create any reference point (tent or container) for rehabilitation in Mirandola and other neighboring countries (see map San Selice, Finale, Cavezzo, Concordia and surrounding areas), but only in Carpi in a not destroyed room (30km) and Modena central hospital (50 km). They continued in some cases to do rehabilitation at home.

Rehabilitation pathways

• This is despite the suggestions of SIMFER given to the regional administration through its delegate dott. Germano Pestelli, who sent letters to all the local officials of the health system and civil protection for the restoration of the rehabilitation service points closer as possible to the epicenter. Germano Pestelli met also some political members of Emilia Region.

In practice, it had given a great help to the wounded in the earthquake or to those who were in emergency but have forgotten, or at least not handled in the best way, people with disabilities before the earthquake, and in particular in rescue 's fields did not include any rehabilitation activities despite the suggestions and the presence in the fields of disabled and elderly people.

Rehabilitation pathways

- The SIMFER physiatrists and physical therapists of various Italian organizations began to ask for provide for all the rehabilitation needs of the resident population, but it was not done anything official to that effect.

Practically not a lot has been done in the emergency to facilitate rehabilitation activities in the villages most affected by the earthquake, with the exception of people who have been able to do 60 to 100 miles a day to go to practice their rehabilitation in more distant centers (immediatly Modena and after 30 days Carpi). The build tents or temporary container in an emergency was probably considered as a negative social (and political) message to the people and they choose other solutions.



Parade del Grande Campo
di Stato Italiano
Crevalcore giugno 2012

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The rehabilitation starts.....

- The activity in Mirandola, the epicenter of the earthquake, started at about the middle of August and only in part. It was not possible to reactivate the hospital in beds that were in the unusable hospital and therefore the wards was transferred to Modena.

It should however be noted that the local public physiatrists and physical therapists have tried to do all that was possible to positively assist the recovery of persons with disabilities and to reactivate the paths of rehabilitation.

Better late than never.....

- In early September (three months after the earthquake), the Regional Civil Protection and the Regional Department of Health asked the dott. Germano Pestelli (who, meanwhile, had met with the regional and national levels for explain what should have been done) for produce a document with lines of rehabilitation in the earthquakes. What in agreement with the SIMFER national board, was regularly made. The document explains the actions that the WHO's Committee for earthquakes recommended, on the basis of experience in the earthquakes of various parts of the world .

Italy is history of humanity....

- The earthquakes of May and June 2012 caused severe damage to buildings and rural industrial work of water canals and historic buildings and monuments and public buildings and especially antique stone or pebbles. In particular, have been severely damaged or partially collapsed most of the monuments and places of artistic interest, including a large area, from Mantova to Modena to Ferrara, whose respective provinces were found to be the most seriously affected and damaged by the earthquake. In some cases were also damaged residential buildings of recent construction, such damages are often attributed to widespread cases of liquefaction of sands.



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Solidarity actions

•Solidarity actions have been many from around the world. I list some of them:

On 22 May, the government announced the allocation of fifty million euro for damage caused by the earthquake.

By Decree-Law 74/12, the government establishing the Fund for the reconstruction of areas hit by the earthquake of 20 to 29 May 2012 for a minimum amount of EUR 2.5 billion, of which:

- 500 million found by means of an increase in excise duty on fuels of 2 euro cents per liter;
- 2 billion found between 2013 and 2014 due to reductions in spending for the purchase of goods and services for the operation of the government, as provided for in Annexes 1 and 2 of Law 225/92.

On 19 September, the European Union has allocated, on a proposal from the Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn, the amount of € 670 million, the highest ever awarded by the European solidarity.

Solidarity actions

- Sunday, June 10 the CEI has promoted a collection of all the Italian parishes, to be devoted to Italian Caritas aid to victims of the earthquake.

June 25 was organized the concert for Emilia.

On 22 September at Airport of Reggio Emilia great artists of Emilia-Romagna have performed in front of 150,000 people, the collection has reached 4 million euro.

Although the government was not willing to seek help abroad, there have been offers from France, Greece, Hungary and Switzerland.

Solidarity actions

- His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, who had already donated \$ 50,000 to the Emilian section of the Red Cross, during a visit to Mirandola 24 June 2012 announced its intention to donate additional \$ 50,000.

The State of Israel, in the person of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, has donated € 50,000 to Mirandola and four mobile homes intended for new mothers and their babies, waiting for the new structure of the city hospital.

The soccer team of Bayern Monaco has donated € 100,000 to the municipality of San Felice sul Panaro.

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Summary

- It was a big earthquake, luckily in a well built area , so only ancient houses were destroyed .
- Not a lot of dead people, a right number of wounded people (especially SCI, TBI, Fractures of the bones...)
- Rehabilitation services start perhaps just a little late than due.
- The Italian Society of Rehabilitation was present directly in the earthquake and donated 5000 euros to the Rehabilitation service of Mirandola.

Summary

- We know that it will be a lot of time to restore again the towns and all the services
- Now rehabilitation Department is fully in action in Modena, only in part in Carpi and in the beginning to start in a correct way in Mirandola and surrounding.
- Good the level in the hospital, less in the surrounding areas especially in very small town and in the country. Also because of in Italy we have not experiences about CBR.

Perspectives

- We think that the ideas of WHO Committee for Rehabilitation relief in natural disasters must be written in a document for all the World in a short time to put in mind of Governments ,local administration, politicals and also Medical Doctors and workers in Rehabilitation that Rehabilitation is not a secondary kind of intervention in natural disasters but it is very important for restoring as shorter as possible the quality of life of disable people because of Earthquakes but also the people who were disable before the Earthquake.

Perspectives in EQs

- We think that a point of rehabilitation is to be built in every place to serve about 5000/7000 persons (we can speaking about) ,and that a MD in Rehabilitation and a right number of Physios should be available in this area to help the needs of population and of disabled people. It is more necessary that rehabilitation volunteers stay out of the Hospitals however in tents and containers and the local Mds and Physios (if they are in) continue to work into the Hospitals.

Proposals

- It is important also that rehabilitation local and national teams continue to work together for the complete restore of disable people wounded during eaertquake.
- All is better if we can do all together

The life start again: we are here to work !



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