



# HANDBOOK ON ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS – ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR DISPLACED POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ACUTE AND PROTRACTED EMERGENCIES



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## Facts: Global Trend of Drug Use

- IN 2019, 494,000 DEATHS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO DRUG USE (GBD)**
- AROUND 284 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE USED DRUGS IN 2020 (UNODC, 2022)**
- 38.6 MILLION PEOPLE SUFFERED FROM DRUG USE DISORDERS (DUD) IN 2020 (UNODC, 2022)**
- ONLY 1 IN 8 PERSONS IN NEEDS HAS ACCESS TO DUD TREATMENT**

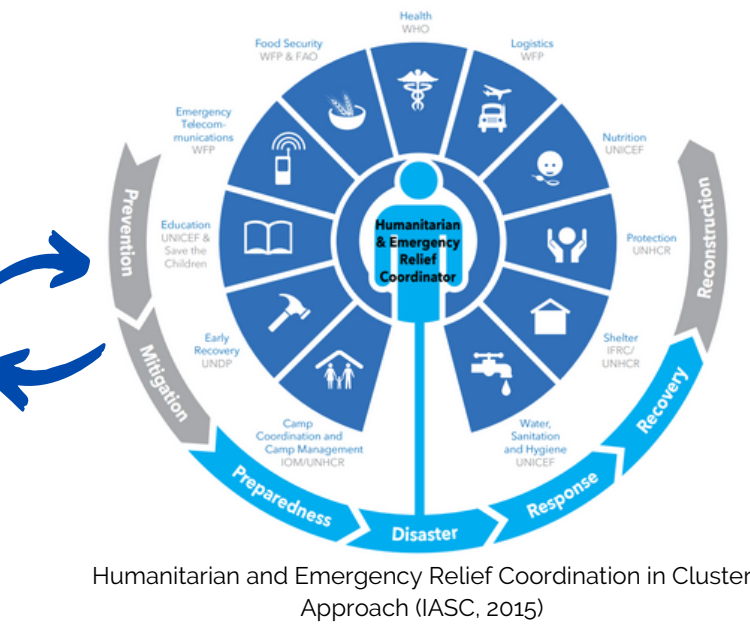
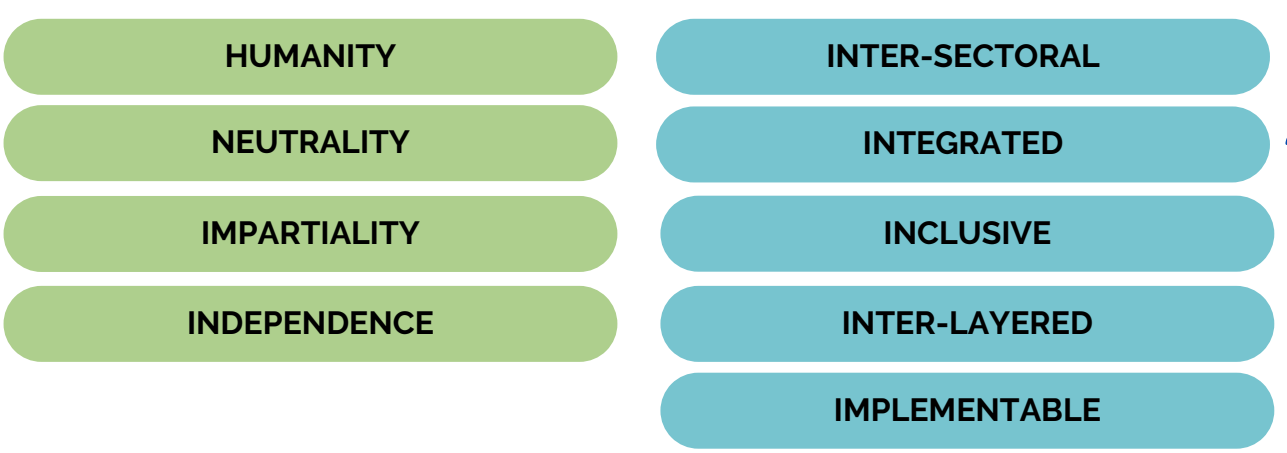
## In Humanitarian Settings

**AROUND 100 MILLION PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE (UNHCR, 2022)**

**274 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (OCHA, 2022)**

**DRUG USE AND DUDS ARE RECOGNIZED AS MAJOR CAUSES OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY AMONG THESE POPULATIONS**

## Humanitarian Principles and 5 "I"s of Service Delivery



## Access and Availability of Treatment of DUDs in Humanitarian Settings

Affected populations in humanitarian settings may be vulnerable to DUDs for numerous reasons, including psychological distress and trauma, loss of homes and livelihoods, violence, torture, and family separation etc. Prevention and treatment continue to fall short in many parts of the world. In these settings, there is likely less access to services due to risks associated with violent conflict in acute emergencies, overall instability, limited and reduced resources to address DUDs and related harms, weakened health systems and stigma.

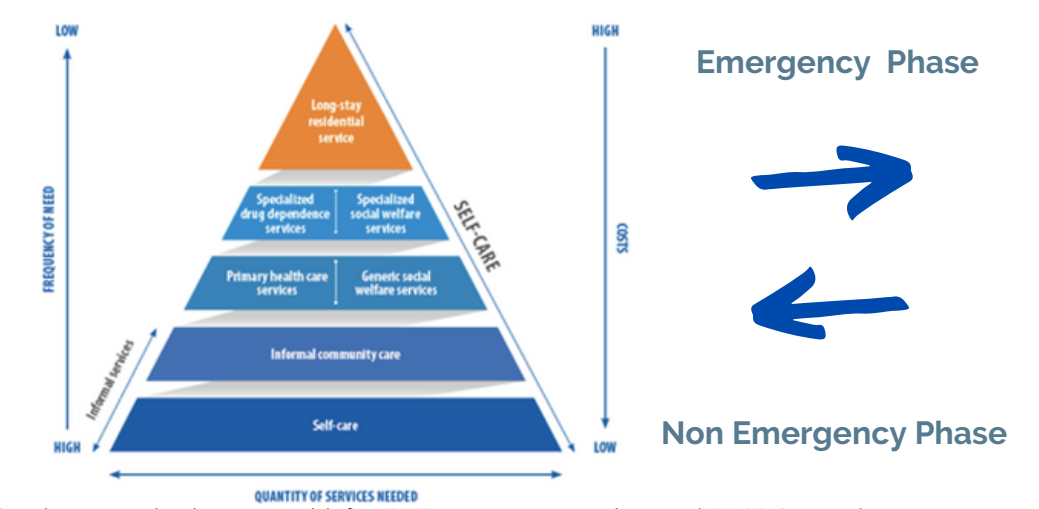
## The Handbook - Substance Use Disorders in Humanitarian Settings

The handbook is developed jointly with UNODC, WHO, UNHCR and other relevant partners to enhance and evaluate the integration of DUD treatment and care in humanitarian settings. In preparation, an online Expert Group Meeting was held in September 2020 with over 120 participants sharing existing good practices, common challenges, and specific needs in the field. This was followed by a Delphi survey on "Priorities for addressing substance use disorder in humanitarian settings" (Greene et al., 2021). The handbook acts as a decision-making tool to address substance use in humanitarian settings and to support service provision and implementation. More than ever, it is crucial to provide the much-needed care for people with drug use disorders in humanitarian settings.

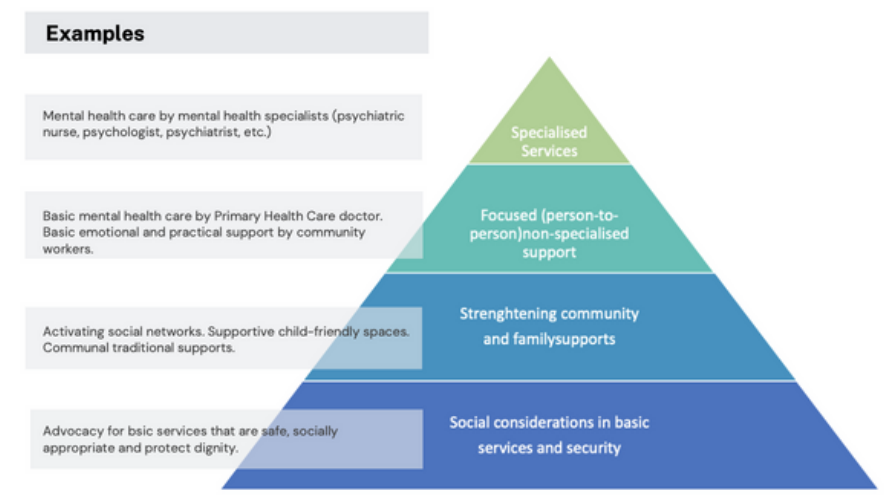


Four steps to address substance use disorders in humanitarian settings

## Adaptation of Service Delivery Models and Interventions



Service organization pyramid for DUD treatment and care (UNODC, 2014) based on WHO Pyramid of Mental Health Services (WHO, 2003) (UNODC-WHO, 2020)



Intervention pyramid for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies (The Sphere Handbook, 2018)

**UNODC's WORK:** UNODC conducted rapid assessments to increase the understanding on alcohol and other drug use, prevention and treatment in selected refugee settings in Pakistan and Uganda (Ezard, Manji & Busse, 2021), and has been assisting continuation of drug use prevention, treatment and care for those in needs in Afghanistan and Ukraine in 2022. The Handbook is to be published shortly for field testing.

