Substance Use Disorders in Humanitarian Settings

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The purpose of the upcoming handbook is to enhance and evaluate the integration of SUD treatment and care in humanitarian settings. In preparation, an online Expert Group Meeting was held in September 2020, where valuable input was provided by over 120 participants on existing good practices, common challenges, and specific needs in the field of substance use disorders, prevention, and treatment in selected refugee settings in Pakistan and Uganda (Ezard, Manji & Busse, 2021).

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT AND ACTION

A humanitarian emergency is a disaster or series of events that disrupt and threaten the safety, health and wellbeing of people and include natural disasters, armed conflicts, epidemics, famines, environmental emergencies, and other situations resulting in mass displacement. Humanitarian emergencies usually require immediate action and international assistance as portrayed and structured in the graph.

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AND THE 5 “I”s OF SERVICE DELIVERY

UNODC’s WORK

In response to the lack of information on the experience of drug use disorders of individuals in humanitarian contexts, as well as in DUD treatment services, the UNODC has 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).

THE HANDBOOK

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.


Service organization pyramid for substance use disorder treatment and care (UNODC, 2014), based on the WHO Pyramid of Mental Health Services (WHO, 2000)

intervention pyramid for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies