

# DRC achievements over the past year and plan for upcoming year

Dr Maria Paul  
Secretary ISPRM-DRC since July 2022  
Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine and Head of Unit  
State-wide Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services , South Australia



Sydney

# Current DRC leadership committee from July 2022. Established at ISPRM, Lisbon

☐ Dr Farooq Rathore -Chair, Pakistan



☐ Dr David Crandell -Vice Chair, USA



☐ Prof Taslim Uddin -Treasurer, Bangladesh



☐ Dr Maria Paul-Secretary , Australia







**Fary Khan**  
Chair 2018-2022 Disaster Rehabilitation Committee ISPRM





What ISPRM Disaster Rehabilitation Committee (DRC) has done for rehabilitation in disaster settings

# Meetings across several time zones

## So far- 18 !! 5 full membership



- **International meeting scheduler**
- [Time Zone Converter – Time Difference Calculator \(timeanddate.com\)](https://timeanddate.com)

 <b>Boston, MA, USA</b> EST (UTC -5)	Wed, 1 Mar 2023	10:00 pm 😐	:
 <b>Lahore, Pakistan</b> PKT (UTC +5) 10 hour(s) ahead	Thu, 2 Mar 2023	8:00 am 😐	:
 <b>Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> BST (UTC +6) 11 hour(s) ahead	Thu, 2 Mar 2023	9:00 am 😊	:
 <b>Adelaide, Australia *</b> ACDT (UTC +10:30) 15:30 hour(s) ahead	Thu, 2 Mar 2023	1:30 pm 😊	:

# Achievements



Spreading the knowledge: short videos to share disaster rehabilitation experiences



Climate change: United Nations - Climate change refers to long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels that emit CO2 and other gases.

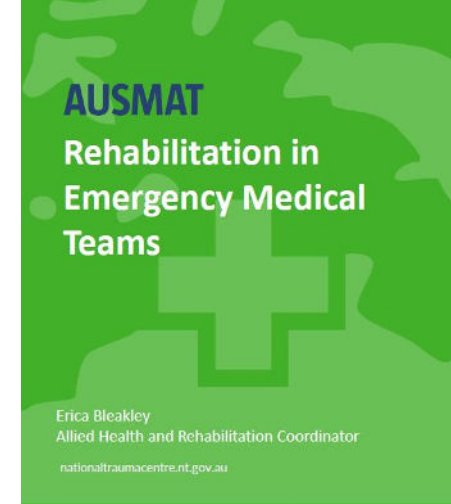
Climate Change: The impending global disaster with Marcalee Alexander

1. Climate change webinars presented by Dr Marcalee and colleagues
2. French/ Arabic speaking presenters sought for educational webinars on TBI following Moroccan earthquake
3. Raising profile of rehab and role in disaster areas- 2-3 min videos– Dr Tawab Khalil
4. Prof. Dr. İlker Yağcı's –Feb 2023 Türkiye earthquake
5. Prof.Dr Abderrazak's –Sep 2023 Morocco earthquake
6. Dr Raju Dhakal –Nov 2023 Nepal earthquake
7. Clarified DRC role in natural versus human induced disasters
8. Presentation from Erica Bleakley from AUSMAT
9. ISPRM 2024 DRC scientific session



Prof. Fary Khan and Disaster Rehabilitation. What it takes to provide it?





- Erica Bleakley, Occupational therapist who works with NCCTRC (National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre) and AUSMAT (Australian Medical Assistance Team) gave short presentation about her experience in providing disaster relief in Australia, Pacific and other regions which is co-ordinated through DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

### Some takeaways from the talk

- Importance of local capacity building
- Having deployable teams that are self-sustaining and have members with a wide range of skills including core competencies (Burns, SCI, amputee rehab) and have experience in working in austere environments.
- Importance of personal and workplace preparedness and prioritisation

Video series- Key learnings from providing disaster relief-Where? What worked? Lessons learnt

“You have to learn from the mistakes of others as you won’t live long enough to make them yourself” - Eleanor Roosevelt-collating rich experience



Spreading the knowledge: short videos to share disaster rehabilitation experiences

# Video series- Sharing experience Dr Ganchoon- Supertyphoon Haiyan, Philippines 2013-2016



Super Typhoon Haiyan and rehabilitation. Dr. Filipinas G. Ganchoon's experience



# Prof Taslim Uddin-Nepal earthquake 2015



Disaster rehabilitation: the experience of Prof. Taslim Uddin from Bangladesh

# Dr Colleen O'Connell- Haiti 2010, Nepal 2015, Ukraine – ongoing capacity building



Disaster rehabilitation: from assessment to long term care, with Colleen M. O'Connell

# Prof Fary Khan- Floods Pakistan, Bangladesh, Earthquake Nepal



*Muhammad Tawab Khalil*

*Fary Khan*



# Key messages-Disaster relief

## What worked

- ❑ Portable relief kits/ emergency kits
- ❑ Having local contacts
- ❑ Have physical and mental resilience
- ❑ Relief team members being self sufficient
- ❑ Leadership- Importance of knowing language , culture

## Learning points

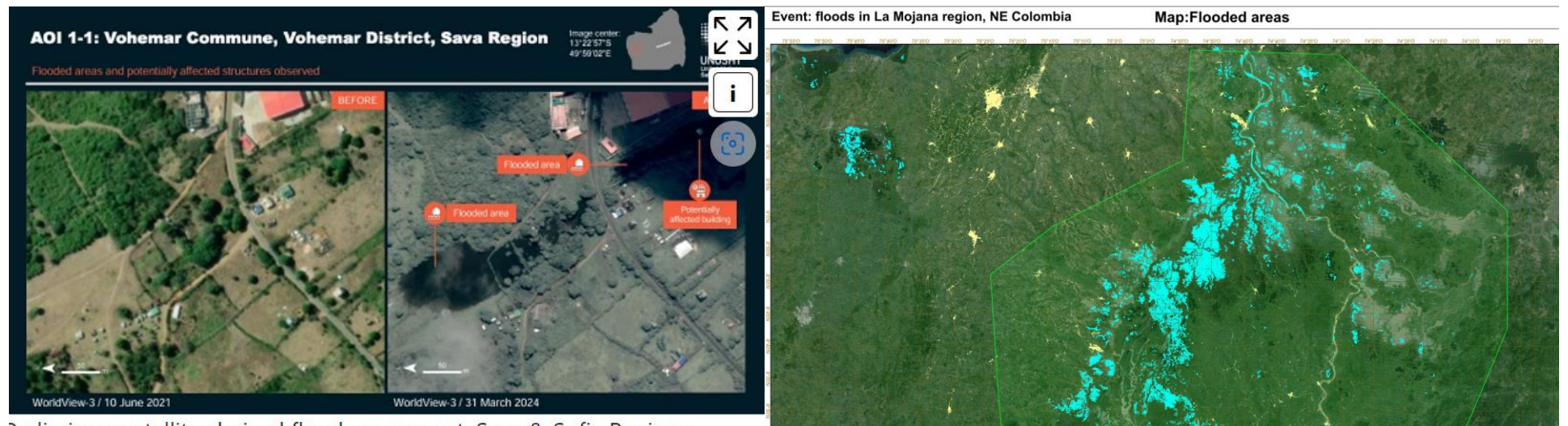
- ❑ Sustainability through education and capacity building locally
- ❑ The appropriate training to provide disaster relief
- ❑ Registry with trained and ready people who can be deployed

# Dr David Crandell-Trauma and Amputee rehab education to Ukraine



# Useful resources

- As supplied by Bhasker Amatya and Jim Gosney [EM-DAT - The international disaster database \(emdat.be\)](https://emdat.be)
- Dr David Crandell - [REHABILITATION MEDICINE | Health Tech Without Borders \(htwb.org\)](https://htwb.org)
- NASA -International disaster Charter Activations [International Disaster Charter Activations \(nasa.gov\)](https://nasa.gov)



Preliminary satellite-derived flood assessment, Sava & Sofia Regions, Madagascar



# Plans for the next year

- Formulating a **survey form** to assess disaster rehabilitation needs in the immediate post disaster phase. The C.A.R.E form

- **Comprehensive**

**Acute**

**Rehabilitation**

**Evaluation**

C.A.R.E working group members

1. Eric Weerts (Belgium)
2. Kimia Zaraban (USA)
3. Jim Gosney (USA)
4. Taslim Uddin (Bangladesh)
5. David Crandell (USA. Leading the working party)

## PLANS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2023

- ❑ Create a pool of experts in Disaster Rehabilitation , who can be called upon for advice, online consultation and education
- ❑ Continue DRC working group focus on Disaster research, Communication, Impact of climate change
- ❑ Consolidate disaster response resources including resources on ISPRM website
- ❑ Closer liaison with UNLC ( United Nations Liaison Committee)
- ❑ Continue collaboration with the Ukraine Rehab colleagues
- ❑ Study the impact of Covid-19 on the health sector and rehabilitation efforts for long covid impairments
- ❑ Strengthen health systems especially in resource limited countries and ensure that rehabilitation services are integrated into disaster preparedness and response plans.

# Thank you

[maria.paul@sa.gov.au](mailto:maria.paul@sa.gov.au)

