

Besrouer Center for Global Family Medicine

Poster Presentation Besrouer/FMF 2020

Title: Perspectives in multi-disaster preparedness from Indonesia and Canada (in-progress)

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Context:

COVID-19 has undoubtedly pushed us to reflect on disaster preparedness. It is however important to remember disasters rarely occur in isolation. Calamities such as epidemics are often intertwined with others, including natural disasters, armed conflicts or famine. Primary care providers therefore need to be prepared for multi-disaster situations. This poster focuses on lessons learned from primary care physicians in Aceh Jaya, Indonesia and Hamilton, Ontario.

PIVOT points:

Since early 2020, physicians in both Aceh Jaya and Hamilton had to quickly adapt their clinical care model in response to COVID-19. Measures were implemented to ensure the safety of patients and staff, new methods were developed to deliver care, and partnerships with broader support networks were strengthened. Interestingly, many structures developed in response to COVID-19 were modifications to existing ones, such as the response to annual floods in Indonesia. It is anticipated developing these structures will continue to be helpful in the future, such as the need to prepare for the advent of winter and flu season in conjunction with the pandemic in Canada.

Lessons learned:

In sharing perspectives from both Indonesia and Canada, certain overall themes were elicited:

- 1) Primary care works as part of a larger network, often involving public health and the government, when responding to disasters
- 2) Protocols developed and lessons learned when responding to one disaster are transferable to others
- 3) There is an identified need for education in disaster-preparedness in primary care

Conclusion:

The lessons learned in both Indonesia and Canada highlight the importance of being prepared to provide clinical care in multi-disaster situations. They also speak to the need for further knowledge advancement in this field.