

Healthcare Support Operation in Humanitarian Assistance: Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services (MAFHS) Experience.

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Operational medicine is an important component of MAFHS. MAFHS has been active in providing healthcare support operation during disaster/conflict in and outside Malaysia since 1992. Operational Medicine is the healthcare provided in unconventional settings where important resources may be significantly restricted. These resources include limited supplies, expertise, time, location, or climate extremes. The application of the principles of war in planning and execution of medical missions during disaster as well as applying the principles of military logistic supply system in sustaining the medical operations in unconventional settings was proven to be very useful. The principles of suitability, distinguishability, flexibility, sustainability, acceptability and feasibility are being used regularly during planning and execution of any military medical mission. These principles coupled together with the Military Medical Appreciation Process (MMAP) has helped military health providers to cope with the challenges in operating under pressure and severe limitations by having a well thought out and well assessed medical support plan during HADR. **CONCLUSION:** This paper entails the deliberate planning process and systematic execution of HADR medical support missions in and outside Malaysia involving the MAFHS.

KEYWORDS: Operational Medicine, Military Medicine, Military Medical Appreciation Process, HADR.

Field Hospital Mission for Refugees - The Ministry of Health Malaysia Experience

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: In early September 2017, Malaysia pledged to send an integrated humanitarian mission to help the Rohingya refugees sheltering in Bangladesh after fleeing alleged suppression by the Myanmar military. The Malaysian Field Hospital (MFH) mission aimed to provide secondary medical care to Rohingya refugees in order to reduce morbidity and mortality. **METHODS:** The MFH operational activities were recorded using daily returns and situation report (SitRep). Data were analysed weekly using Microsoft Excel Office 365 whereas an overall MFH data for the first 3-month mission under the MOH Malaysia flagship were further analysed using Epiinfo version 7.2.2.2 from the US CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. **RESULTS:** As of 14 February 2018, the MFH received 6,578 patients. Among all cases, non-communicable diseases contributed to 59% of diseases seen followed by acute respiratory infections (25%); injuries (9%); skin diseases (3%) etc. Among inpatients (556 cases), the majority of them (82 cases or 14.7%) had acute respiratory infection (ARI) and pneumonia. The MFH recorded eight deaths between 1 December 2017 and 14 February 2018. **DISCUSSION:** In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, i.e., Goal 3: Health and Well-being, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals, the MOH Malaysia successfully embarked upon strategic partnership in providing acute medical care to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh through the MFH.

KEYWORDS: Malaysian Field Hospital, Rohingya refugees, Cox's Bazar