

RICOMET 2017

Risk Perception, Communication and Ethics of exposures to Ionising Radiation

Session: Integrating societal concerns and ethical considerations in emergency preparedness and response (part 1)

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Session outset

- Intertwined character of **social and technical aspects** of radiation protection and emergency planning and response
- Inclusion of **stakeholders' values, needs and concerns** in all aspects of decision-making related to the governance of nuclear emergencies

Building community resilience

- **With national actors, as well as with local actors and communities**
 - IAEA Safety Standards and technical guidance
 - IFRC practical experience
 - Involving effective consultation processes to inform decision making
 - Making communities resilient enables faster recovery and social and economic growth in the aftermath of an emergency
 - Keeping decision-making with responsible authorities was one key point in the presentations
- **Engage communities in dialogue and create space for feedback**
 - Part of consultation processes
 - Bottom up initiatives from local communities
 - “Last mile [should be] our first mile” - taking care of most vulnerable groups




Robust emergency preparedness and response, involving all relevant actors

Social and psychological aspects

- **First responders**
 - Humanitarian organisations such as the IFRC play a leading role in providing disaster support, communication to affected population, social welfare activities, psycho-social support
 - For RN incidents there still are important challenges, e.g. related to information and communication, potential emotional distress of medical response staff, need for specific training
 - IFRC Digital archive nuclear disaster resource centre, e.g. Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Guidelines
- **Concerns and reactions of affected populations**
 - Social and cultural factors, feelings of attachment influence individual decision-making
 - Disruption of social networks, loss of work and social stigma of evacuees were key concerns after Fukushima
 - Lack of information, fear, emotional feelings may interfere with prudent decision-making
 - Additional insights can be provided by empirical studies grounded in social psychology
- **Trust and communication go hand in hand**
 - Which type of communication about protective actions is most effective?

Ethical issues

- **Good governance** of nuclear disasters should include ethical issues
 - Procedural (fairness) and distributional (currency, shape and scope) justice
 - Complexity of knowledge and information
 - Care to avoid technocratic disaster governance was suggested in the presentations
-  Citizen science → increased accountability, reliable and transparent information, co-production of knowledge, empowerment
- Supra-national overseeing mechanisms → regional / global governance
- **Ethical implications of post accident health surveillance**, e.g. thyroid screening
 - Justification of health surveillance programmes → ICRP ethical foundations of radiological protection provide a framework for evaluation
 - Recommendations: more attention on societal and psychological consequences, good communication, stakeholder engagement in planning of health surveys