Emergencies and disasters

Needs assessments, vulnerability analysis, priority setting, impact assessment

Bhopal and the CIET methods
In 1984, an explosion at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal, India, exposed thousands living nearby to methyl isocyanate, killing several thousand people.

CIET set up the only community-based epidemiological study in the two weeks after the disaster, before the exodus from the city, with instruments made from local materials. The 5-year follow-up reached 93% of 11,000 survivors in “cluster cohorts”. Contemporary CIET surveys and CIET trainees in many countries still use the “Bhopal book”.

Evaluating humanitarian aid
Aid agencies manage large budgets in difficult circumstances. CIET social audits play a key role in measuring impact and equity: does the aid work and is it going to the most needy? Participation of intended beneficiaries in studies is possible even in emergency situations.

CIET social audits in emergencies demonstrate gaps and inequities, indicating where efforts can have most impact on those in need.

CIET in emergencies
1984-1989: Bhopal survivors follow-up
1989-2013: Mexico measles epidemic, floods, and hurricanes
1994-1996: Social impact of landmines in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cambodia, Mozambique
1994, 1997: Afghanistan mine awareness
1999: Angola mine awareness
1993-1999: Balkan war food security surveys
2000: Nicaragua – impact of Hurricane Mitch
2001: Ethiopia, monitoring of relief food aid
2008: Afghanistan – essential health services in times of war

For more information:
British Journal of Industrial Medicine, 1990; 47(8):553-558
Lancet, 1986 Nove; 2(8516):1152