



# MICRODIS SYMPOSIUM

## Call for papers: Health and Health Systems Impacts of Natural Disasters

International symposium at the Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg, Germany

*November 18th 2010, 900 a.m. – 500 p.m*

### Introduction

There is an obvious shift in the frequency, burden, and intensity of disasters in the recent past. Most disasters strike developing countries where the population in general is vulnerable to one or the other type of disaster. A combination of various mutually influential factors, determine the intensity of impact. Often the inter-relations between social, health, and economic impacts take their toll on overall development. Assessment of human impacts of disasters to date remains a challenge. In both Asia and the Europe, three types of extreme events, (i.e., floods, earthquakes, and windstorms) account for nearly 75% of the occurrence of all extreme events. The “MICRODIS- Integrated Health, Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events: Evidence, Methods and Tools” project focuses on these three events. The overall goal of the project is to strengthen preparedness, mitigation, and prevention strategies in order to reduce the impacts of extreme events on communities. The project funded under the European Commission’s 6th Framework Program, looks at the **MICRO** level of **DIS**asters in Asia and Europe.

The Institute of Public health at the University of Heidelberg calls for a MICRODIS symposium with a focus on the health and health systems impacts of natural disasters in Asia and Europe on **November 18th, 2010**. The symposium will be organized along three main lines and **abstracts are invited along the following main themes:**

### Epidemiology of Disasters

Research that aims at understanding the geographical distribution and the anatomical aspects of floods, windstorms, and earthquakes will be considered. The methodological reflections should include shifting intensities, frequencies, and the contribution of climate change to the occurrence of extreme events. Advances in physical study methods such as use of GIS mapping are welcome.

### Health and Health Systems Impacts of Disasters

Hoping to go beyond the theoretical boundaries that lead to more simplistic and descriptive dichotomies of disease, we encourage papers that investigate confrontations between health, health systems, and disasters. Field studies that demonstrate health and health system impacts of disasters that will help inform and guide preparedness policies are invited. By observing the local experiences, interventions of national and international actors we wish to question the concept of prevention vs. preparedness for health and health systems.

Hosted by



MICRODIS



# MICRODIS SYMPOSIUM

**November 18 2010, 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

## **Measuring the impacts - challenges and opportunities**

Morbidity and mortality constitute major part of disaster impacts. By reintroducing the advantages/disadvantages of measuring isolated health impacts of disasters we want to understand the challenges in measuring integrated impacts. Research targeted at development of methodological tools for impact assessments are welcome in this section. Challenges with disaster health data collection, processing and presenting will also be considered.

## **Event Description**

The event will include key note speeches, presentations, and panel discussions. All accepted papers and presentations will be published in a MICRODIS CD-ROM. The symposium aims to identify high priority areas for further research.

## **Target Participants**

The symposium aims to bring together policy makers, researchers, Humanitarian aid workers from NGOs in the field, and students for contributions.

## **Registration Fees**

No registration fees will be charged to the participants.

## **Scientific committee**

Prof. Debarati Guha Sapor (CRED), PD Dr. Michael Marx (UKL-HD), Prof PC Joshi (University of Delhi), Revati Phalkey (UKL-HD).

## **Practical details and schedule**

- Abstracts in English must be sent before the **1st of October 2010**. They must clearly mention:
  1. The title
  2. A summary of 350 words maximum.
  3. The last name and first name of the author or of the co-authors along with their position, discipline, institution and electronic mail.
- The abstracts must be sent to Ms Revati Phalkey at rphalkey@urz.uni-heidelberg.de
- The scientific committee will select the communications and announce its choice no later than the **10th of October**.
- The final papers must be sent before the **10th of November 2010**.
- The symposium will take place in Heidelberg on the **18th of November 2010**.

**A few number of travel grants are available to present at the symposium.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Michael Marx or Ms Revati Phalkey for further questions or clarifications at +49 (6221) 56 8280.

**Hosted by**

HEIDELBERG  
UNIVERSITY



**MICRODIS**

