

# Hot topics

Jean Luc Poncelet, MD, MPH  
Area on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



*Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization*

# Dead Bodies

- It is a myth to believe that dead bodies are creating large epidemics
- All effort must be done to preserve identity





# Mental Health

- Most people recovered from disaster stress
- Stopping spreading myths before the disaster will reduce fear



# Field Hospitals

- The cost-benefit of field hospitals in natural disaster is different than its use in more long term crisis situations.
- Deployment of field hospitals is very attractive but frequently has serious consequences on the recipient countries at medium and long term.
- Top level technical and political authorities of both donor and recipient countries must be better aware of the conditions for a FH to be useful in sudden-impact disasters