Constitution, Ilaco, Talcahuando and Dichato. The national authorities reported 512 dead and 81,444 homes were affected. It was the one of the five most powerful earthquakes in the human modern history. The most affected regions were Maule (VII) and Bio (VIII).

Results: The impact of the quake in the health sector was enormous especially on the health care infrastructure. The preliminary evaluations showed that 18 hospitals were out of service due severe structural and no-structural damages, interruption of the provision of water or because they were at risk to landslides. Another 31 hospitals had moderate damage. The Ministry of Health lost 4249 beds including 297 (7%) in critical care units. Twenty-two percent of the total number of beds and thirty-nine surgical facilities available in the affected regions were lost in a few minutes due to quake. At least eight hospitals should be reconstructed and other hospitals will need complex repair.

Conclusion: The effect of the earthquake was significant on hospital services. It included damages to the infrastructure and the loss of furniture and biomedical equipment. The interruption of the cold chain caused loss of vaccines. National and foreign field hospitals, temporary facilities and the strengthening of the primary health care facilities had been important to assure the continuation of health care services. *Based on information from PAHO – Chile.

(A4) Emergency Health Interventions in Earthquakes: Red Cross Experience from Haiti and Chile, 2010

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On 12 January 2010, the fate of Haiti and its people shifted with the ground beneath them as the strongest earthquake in 200 years, and a series of powerful aftershocks demolished the capital and multiple areas throughout the southern coast in thirty seconds, leaving some 220,000 people dead, and 300,000 persons injured. On 27 February 2010, at 03:35 hours local time, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 struck Chile. As a consequence, the tsunami generated affected a coastal strip of more than 500 kilometers. Approximately 1.5 million people were affected and thousands lost their homes and livelihoods. The emergency health response of the International Red Cross Movement to both disasters was immediate, powerful and dynamic. The IFRC deployed seven emergency response units (ERU) to Haiti: one 150-bed referral hospital, one Rapid Deployment Emergency Hospital, and five basic health care units. One surgical hospital and two Basic Health Care Units were deployed to Chile. The ERU system of the IFRC is a flexible and dynamic tool for emergency health response in shifting and challenging environments. Evaluations show that the system performs well during urban and rural disasters. Despite a very different baseline in the two contexts, the ERU system of IFRC can adapt to the local needs. As panorama of pathology in the aftermath of an earthquake changes, the ERU system adapts and continues supporting the local health care system in its recovery.

(A5) Search and Rescue Underestimated

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Background: Search and rescue plays a major role in today's society. Whether lost at sea, stranded in a remote area, or trapped in a confined space, countless rescuers and volunteers will attempt to find you and get you to safety.

Discussion and Observations: Rescue teams consist of highly trained professionals including firefighters, EMT's, paramedics and other local volunteers who are willing to risk their lives to help others. Special teams and robotics were sent into ground zero after 9/11, locating and providing immediate extrication to those who were injured. The U.S Coast Guard's search and rescue efforts during Katrina were crucial saving countless lives in New Orleans.

(A6) Animal Search and Rescue

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Background: In the United States, animal search and rescue (ASAR) is becoming a recognized component of Search and Rescue (SAR).

Discussion and Observations: Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams have long recognized the importance of having trained animal rescuers available to handle the animals that are often with humans seeking rescue. Animals are such an important part of most U.S. families, that in many cases, if the animal isn't included in the rescue efforts, the human will refuse to evacuate. The International Fund for Animal Welfare received a grant in 2010 to develop an ASAR curriculum and to train two Type II ASAR teams in Mississippi and Louisiana. This presentation will provide an overview of that curriculum and the courses that were developed for the unique tasks, skills, and equipment needs for animal search and rescue.

(A7) Beyond Illness and Trauma: A Study of the Interface between Disaster Mental Health and Recovery

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Today there is adequate research evidence at national and international level regarding the health and mental health consequences of disasters. The realization of the larger impact of mental health on the recovery process has been instrumental in prioritizing mental health and psychosocial well-being of affected populations in recent years. Traditionally the bio medical models were used to understand the disaster mental health outcomes, however over the last two decade a gradual change is visible in the understanding of the mental health and psychosocial consequences of disasters. It is more inclusive of varied expressions of distress and the services to address the same. A review of various disaster mental health research and interventions documented since 2001 reveals that most