



# THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOCIETY Newsletter - Special Edition - ISSUE 9 - November 2019

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*A TIEMS Special Issue Covering  
Rhodes University Workshop*



Workshop Participants

## Articles in this issue

*This issue is dedicated to*

**The 1st Eastern Cape workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations**

- ✓ *TIEMS Introduction to the Organisation and TQC*
- ✓ *Workshop presentations/papers*

## The International Emergency Management Society Newsletter - Special Edition

*TIEMS network constitutes a large international multidisciplinary group of experts, with different educational backgrounds and various experiences. Their knowledge and experience are important to share with other experts worldwide. TIEMS has therefore decided to issue this additional newsletter, which we now call TIEMS Newsletter - Special Edition. This is the ninth issue, which we have dedicated to the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster situations, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. We invite other conferences and workshops, and RTD projects to use the opportunity to present the conference and workshop presentations and RTD projects to present articles of their results in the upcoming Special Edition Newsletters. We plan to have an issue three times a year. Please, give us feedback, and send us new articles for publication.*

**Alex Fullick  
TIEMS Scientific Newsletter Editor**

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## Message from TIEMS President

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TIEMS first workshop in South Africa took place 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Rhodes University in Grahamstown/Makhanda in South Africa, in cooperation with Rhodes University. The newly formed TIEMS South Africa chapter was the host, under the leadership of Roman Tandlich, TIEMS Regional Director for Africa. The topic of the workshop was «*Ethics in Disaster Situations*»

I am very pleased to see that TIEMS put this important topic on the agenda, a topic which does not have too much attention internationally yet. People in a disaster situation are very vulnerable and having them being used by people overstepping their ethical boundaries, may be felt as an additional disaster to them. Therefore, putting international focus on this topic is therefore very important.

The workshop presentations put the disaster ethics into the total perspective of a disaster situation, and many examples from cases in South Africa were presented. Below is mentioned some of the presentations which put direct focus on ethics:

*Ethical Dilemmas During Natural Disasters*

*Strengthening the Mainstreaming of Gender in Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Reconstruction:*

*Technology Social Media and Ethics During Disaster and Emergencies in Africa*

*Ethical Dilemmas Confronting Journalists Covering Disasters*

*Ethical Challenges that Pharmacists are Faced with in South Africa*

*An Ethical and Disaster Management Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance in South Africa*

Abstracts of most of the workshop presentations are included in the newsletter below, and I like to thank all authors for their participation in the workshop and putting focus on this emerging topic.

The initiative of this workshop came from Roman Tandlich, who was newly elected as TIEMS Regional Director for Africa in TIEMS 2018 AGM in the Philippines, He is an Associate Professor at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa.

The initiative was also a start-up of TIEMS South Africa Chapter. The chapter is currently operational and being registered in South Africa, under the leadership of Roman Tandlich. His ambitions are to promote TIEMS throughout African countries, with the aim of seeing more Chapters operational in Africa, before TIEMS 2021 Annual Conference will be arranged in South Africa.

South Africa has of course already organizations working for making South Africa and beyond more resilient, and during my trip for attending TIEMS South Africa start-up with the “Ethics in Disaster Situations” workshop, both Roman and myself were speakers at the DMISA (Disaster Management Institute, South Africa) Conference in Hartenbos. I had the opportunity to address the audience on “*Emergency Management Around the World - Challenges and Lessons Learned*”, and Roman’s presentation was “*On the Role of Pharmacists in Disaster Management in South Africa*». We had the opportunity to meet with the leaders and participants of the DMISA conference, and we look forward for future cooperation with DMISA, and the participants. I finally like to thank Roman for the initiative and good work with establishing TIEMS South Africa and arranging the workshop.



Oslo 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
K. Harald Drager, TIEMS President

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## Editor's Message

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*Hello dear readers,*

*The fall season is in the air once again and you're either excited about the onset of warm weather or if you're like me, excited about a fun filled snowy season. Either way, the year seems to be flying by.*

*Welcome to another TIEMS Special Edition Newsletter. This edition is focused on the 1st Eastern Cape workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations that took place at the Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village of Rhodes University in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa on September 20, 2019. Herein, we have many of the paper extracts discussed at the workshop, which was organized by the South African TIEMS Chapter President, Roman Tandlich. Roman presented a paper at the 2018 TIEMS Annual Conference in Manila, Philippines and has now become an active member of the TIEMS community. Well done, Roman! (Note: Roman has also been a guest on my internet talk-radio show, Preparing for the Unexpected on the VoiceAmerica.com radio network.*

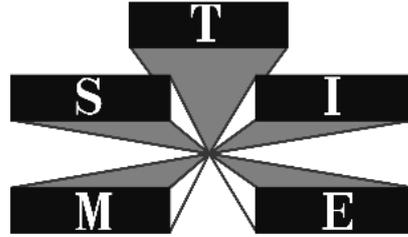
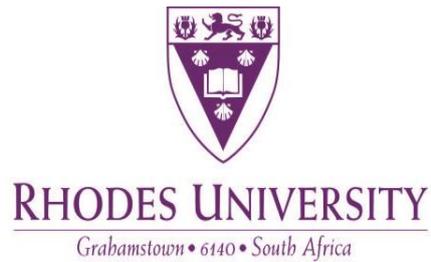
*Don't forget the Annual TIEMS Conference in Seoul, South Korea coming up on Nov 12-15, 2019. It's sure to be a success with many speakers and topics; heck, even I'm presenting (Face the Fear - Increase the Resiliency). Our next Special Edition Newsletter will focus on the TIEMS Seoul, South Korea Conference.*

*If you have an idea for a special edition newsletter, please let us know and we'll see about getting your papers published to our 100,000+ recipients. Or, if you just want to do an article, we can look at getting you into the next scheduled TIEMS Newsletter.*

*Happy reading!*



**Alex Fullick, MBCI, CBCP, CBRA, v3ITIL**  
TIEMS Special Edition Newsletter Editor  
Member - TIEMS Advisory Board of Directors



*Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa, and the International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) welcome you to*

## **The 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Cape workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations**

taking place at

the Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village of

Rhodes University in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



## Preface

Every action that humanity takes in the current context of 21<sup>st</sup> century has knock-on effects on the socio-ecological systems that humanity is part of. These systems have human and non-human components, i.e. humans are integrated into their surroundings. As humans interact and drive the main changes in their surrounding environment, humans ultimately have a strong influence on the factors that control the variables governing the disaster risk. These variables include hazard, vulnerability and capacity. Exposure, resilience and preparedness are also important factors in this context. As humans take actions that have direct and indirect impacts on their surroundings, human positionality is at the core of all considerations in disaster risk management (DRM).

Disasters are a shock to the socio-ecological systems, i.e. sense of normalcy of the functioning of these systems is disrupted. Specific challenges can include breakdown for services delivery, e.g. breakdown in provision of water and sanitation. Challenges that a disaster risk management practitioner (DRMP) will face will also be affected by the breakdown of lifelines, e.g. interruptions in communications, which might lead to the delays in the mobilisation of the resource and assistance in the affected area. These interruptions often have major knock-on effects on the most vulnerable segments of the disaster-affected population. In addition, non-human components of the environment are also impacted by disasters, e.g. decimation of livestock and the potential for human contact with carcasses and the spread of disease. As DRMPs are generally at the centre of the planning and execution of the activities during the disaster management cycle, they are commonly faced with many challenges in the scope of their professional practice. Balancing needs of various stakeholders, the time-sensitive nature of the unit operations of disaster management activities and other considerations demand that DRMPs commonly make difficult choices and take decisions with wide-reaching implications.

Conduct of DRMPs must therefore be driven by a strong, locally-centred and culturally relevant sense of “right” and “wrong”. In the scope of DRM, the “right” and “wrong” ultimately drive the conduct of a DRMP which needs to adhere to acceptable and avoid unacceptable behaviour in their professional conduct. These principles and guidance on the DRMP conduct are standardised by various organisations and institutions in the DRM space. Examples of such codes of conduct include the Professional Conduct of Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA, 2019), Standards of Conduct for International Civil Service (UN/UNESCO, undated) and the Sphere Handbook (Sphere, 2018). Disaster management systems must be ethical in nature, i.e. must be based on the core ethical principles of DRMP behaviour in the disaster zones or in the disaster-prone areas.

Currently, TIEMS is in the process to establish an international platform for certification of emergency managers and DRMPs. One of the elements of this strategy is the establishment of the courses on ethics in disaster situations. These courses will be spearheaded by the TIEMS chapters and stakeholders across Africa. The process of course development is currently underway and its first pinnacle is this the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster situations. We welcome you to it and please browse through the abstracts of the presentation in the next section of this Book of Abstracts.

## Programme for the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations

Venue: Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Time slot	Activity/Presenting author	Topic
8:30-9:00	Registration	Registration
9:00-9:15	Roman Tandlich	Opening remarks
9:15-9:45	K. Harald Drager	TIEMS - introduction to the organization and its activities in Africa
9:45-10:15	Professor Godwell Nhamo	Ethical dilemmas during natural disasters: Emerging findings from cyclones and floods in Southern Africa
10:15-10:45	David Chikodzi	Review of ethical issues in the use of Earth Observation Technologies during disaster times
10:45-11:15	Tea	Tea
11:15-11:45	Felix Donkor	A tale of two disasters and the critical insights on how ICT can overcome fragmentation and inform measures for enhanced disaster risk reduction
11:45-12:15	Hugh van Niekerk	New SA Weather Service Impact based severe weather warning service
12:15-12:45	Siviwe Shwababa	Ethical approach to managing disasters in land reform farms, a case study of the South African Land Reform Programme
12:45-14:00	Lunch and informal conversations	Lunch and informal conversations

## Programme for the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations

**Venue: Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Time slot	Activity/Presenting author	Topic
14:00-14:30	Hlengiwe Precious Kunene	Strengthening the mainstreaming of gender in disaster preparedness, relief and reconstruction: A case of South African floods
14:30-15:00	Kaitano Dube	Technology social media and ethics during disaster and emergencies in Africa
15:00-15:30	Peter du Toit	Ethical dilemmas confronting journalists covering disasters
15:30-15:45	Tea	Tea
15:45-16:15	Kuvashna Singh	Ethical challenges that health care professionals such as pharmacists are faced with
16:15-16:45	Elias Sithole	To be announced
16:45-17:15	Jean Rusere	Antimicrobial resistance and disaster management ethics
17:30-20:00	Cocktail function	Provost Café

Roman Tandlich Charing the Workshop



## TIEMS - Introduction to the Organization and TQC

### K. Harald Drager

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) - President, Norway, Rue Des Deux Eglises 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, email: [khdrager@online.no](mailto:khdrager@online.no).

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) is an international not-for-profit NGO, which is currently registered in Belgium and it has chapters or regional branches in 14 countries around the world. In 2019, we are seeking to open a chapter in South Africa. When it comes to the workshop of our NGO, we organise annual international conferences and workshops in the fields of emergency management, disaster management and disaster resilience. We have also been partnering and participating in research and development activities; and education, training and certification programs worldwide.

TIEMS was founded in 1993 in Washington DC, USA and has developed to an international presence over the years since its inauguration. Since 2006 TIEMS has participated as a consortium partner in EU R&D programs to improve emergency preparedness. In addition, TIEMS experts have been members of user groups and advisory boards for a variety of other EU projects focusing on preparedness in Europe and worldwide. The present running EU program is Horizon 2020, which will have invested more than 100 billion Euro in RTD by the end of 2020, by EU RTD funding and private investment. Four EU projects where TIEMS has been a consortium partner are: NARTUS (addressing important public safety communication issues); ASSET (improving trust between authorities and the public for pandemics and epidemics); HERACLES (protecting cultural heritage sites from climate change), and DG ECHO Wildfire HUB (establishing an expert HUB in Europe to support wildfire fighting and to serve as a prototype for additional expert HUB's for other disasters in Europe).

TIEMS annual conference is moved around the world with the different chapters as host, and last year it was in Manila in the Philippines and this year it will be in Korea, and next year it is planned for Marseilles in France. The annual conference focus on the risk and disaster challenges in the host country and invites and bring in TIEMS international members and other international experts for an international dialogue for making the host country and societies around the world more resilience. TIEMS has also launched its own internal R&D project to develop a curriculum and on-line system for TIEMS International Certification - TQC, which aims to become an internationally recognized certification of qualifications in global emergency management. TIEMS worldwide experience of 26 year of operation will be covered in the paper.

**Keywords:** international education, emergency management, non-governmental organisations

K. Harald Drager preSenting his keynote at  
DMISA Conference.



**Ethical Dilemmas During Natural Disasters:  
Emerging Findings from Tropical Cyclones and Floods in Southern Africa.**

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**Abstract**

Southern Africa has witnessed increased activity in tropical cyclones and floods. However, throughout the disaster cycle, issues of ethics always emerge, especially concerning survivors and those involved in search and rescue, relief and recovery phases. From tropical cyclone Eline in 2000, through Favio, Dineo, Idai and Kenneth in 2019, this chapter seeks to document some of the ethics dilemmas that emerged. From a southern African perspective, the most documented unethical engagement with a large scale disaster was Operation Noah. Operation Noah was the programme to rescue about 6,000 animals trapped in many submerging islands during the filling of Kariba Dam shared by Zambia and Zimbabwe between 1959 and 1964.

With boats and rescued call from all over the world, drowning animals were prioritised, with people left dying in flood waters. Writing on Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People's Resilience, some authors identified a range of principles. Prior to disasters the following principles apply: Introduction of prevention measures, Education, training and awareness-raising about resilience to disasters, Prior

information, and Special prevention measures for the most vulnerable groups. Some ethical principles applied during disasters include: Humanitarian assistance, Information and participation during disasters, Compulsory evacuation of populations, respect of dignity, respect of persons, Emergency assistance for the most vulnerable persons, The importance of rescue workers, Measures to safeguard and rehabilitate the environment, and Necessary measures to safeguard and restore social ties. Ethical principles applied after disasters include: Strengthening resilience to the effects of disasters; take necessary measures; Protection of economic, social and cultural rights; and Protection of civil and political rights.

From the Chennai floods of 2015, a number of ethical issue emerged, among them: inequity in the relief and response activities, conflicts between government and non-government relief and response, focus on short-term relief rather than rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and the lack of crisis standards of care in medical services.

Some of the issues to be traced include: food distribution; donated rejects of materials; conditional ODA donations; television philanthropy; exaggerated impacts from politicians; aid agencies shrinkage - steaking and holding on for long before distributions; cheating for more handouts from victims themselves, e.g., use of multiple names and inflated household numbers; rescuers taking advantage of victims to gain sexual or other favours; use of social media; academia and research in DRR; and the elite and or traditional leader capture of humanitarian process.

Keywords: ethics, cyclones, floods, Eline, Favio, Dineo, Idai, Kenneth, Southern Africa



The audience at the DMISA Conference

## Review of Ethical Issues in the use of Earth Observation Technologies During Disaster Times

David Chikodzi and Professor Godwell Nhamo, PhD

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Earth observation technologies (EOT) in all their forms are increasingly playing an indispensable role in disaster risk reduction (DRR). The utility of EOT during disaster periods is derived from their tremendous power to collect data over Earth at hyperspectral levels and at many spatial and temporal resolutions. Data from EOT can be used in near real-time monitoring of disasters and throughout the DRR cycle from issuing early warnings to the at risk populations, guiding rescue operations, damage assessments and recovery efforts.

However, the adoption of EOT in DRR without proper ethical grounding has been flagged to be a problem that can potentially limit its uptake in the process slowing the pace of crisis management. Ethical issues in the utilisation of EOT during disaster time relate to the explosion of unverified and highly disorganised big data information during the initial phase of a crisis. This usually trend faster than official communication, with the possibilities for unethical behaviour on the part of either the providers or consumers of the data. Therefore, the debate arises as to whether there should be safeguards regarding the handling of such big data, which although is gathered solely for humanitarian purposes could be valuable to other potentially malicious uses. Security and privacy issues also cannot be ignored given the obtainability of such near real-time and high resolution satellite imagery that is acquired and circulated online by foreign nations and private companies.

During Tropical Cyclone Idai, for example, the most accurate information came from foreign sources. Yet that information was quickly used for swift DRR interventions, including mobilising for humanitarian aid. However, there is a paucity of information on the ethical issues that emerge when there is utilisation of Earth observing technology during periods of disaster. Using ethical theories and frameworks, document analysis, and in-depth interviews, this paper explores the ethical issues surrounding the utilisation of EOT datasets during disaster times. The paper also develops an ethical model through which EOT data can be collected, analysed, validated and disseminated to the needy population without compromising the bigger picture such EOT is used for - DRR.

Key words: Earth observation, DRR, ethics, remote sensing.

## A Tale of Two National Disasters and the Critical Insights on how ICT can Overcome Fragmentation and Inform Measures for Enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction

Felix Kwabena Donkor and Kevin Mearns

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### Abstract

Recent mudslides and associated disasters in Sierra Leone as well as South Africa's worst drought in over a century have both been declared national disasters given their unprecedented scale and impacts. A common denominator in both scenarios is that climate change and weather events do not cause disasters in isolation but are exacerbated when extreme weather events intersect with impoverished communities, dysfunctional governance and poorly maintained infrastructure. Furthermore, the fragmented approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation compromises effective coordination for government departments, and results in a lack of efficiency and effectiveness in preparing for and responding to extreme weather events. The study assesses accounts of victims and disaster management organizations in the two countries to draw insights on how information communication technology can help overcome the fragmentation in the multi-sectoral governance of disaster risk in the two countries and the core ethical issues to be addressed so as to inform measures at enhancing structural and non-structural measures essential to improving the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. Given the devastating impact of disasters on the vulnerable, this is crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the global objective of Not Leaving Anyone Behind.



**Keywords:** disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, sustainable development goals, vulnerability, leaving-no-one-behind

Roman presenting at the workshop.

## New South African Weather Service Impact-Based Severe Warning Service (IBF)

**Hugh van Niekerk**

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### Abstract

The World Meteorological Organization identified the need for National Weather Services to modernize their forecasting capabilities by giving the end user more meaningful information to help protect life and property and reduce risk. The SA Weather service is in the process of launching an “Impact Based Forecasting” and Warning service, moving from threshold based warnings to impact based warnings. This means that the forecasts will forecast what the weather will DO as opposed to what the weather will BE. This service has been piloted for a year with disaster management and an example of the change is as follows: -Current Warning: 60mm of rainfall is expected in the next 24 hours. Impact Based Warning: The anticipated rainfall of 60mm is expected to flood low level crossings, cut off vulnerable informal settlements, result in rock falls and/or mudslides, disrupt traffic and temporary closures to vulnerable passes are expected. These warnings will be issued in accordance with the SAWS ACT 8 of 2001 as amended.

**Keywords:** early-warning systems, forecasting, vulnerability and impact reduction.



TIEMS President K. Harald Drager with a DMISA conference participant from Zimbabwe

## Ethical Approach to Managing Disasters in Land Reform Farms; A case of the South African Land Reform Programme

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### Abstract

The Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Reform is entrusted with a constitutional mandate of delivering land reform as corrective and restorative measure to the historical injustices which transpired in South Africa. Land reform beneficiaries are part of the state's programme which strives to supply the poor and the previously disadvantaged population with land to advance their livelihoods, and also use the land for developing farming enterprises. To date this programme has achieved numerous strides such as acquisition of a number of hectares for poor districts, acquisition of a number of hectares to be allocated to smallholder farmers made up of women, youth and persons with disabilities for agricultural production and provision of financial support to a number of beneficiaries who acquired farms. The land reform agenda therefore goes beyond the transfer of land for social and economic outcomes, but ensures equitable distribution aligned to a transformed and thriving agricultural sector. Notwithstanding these remarkable strides, the land reform programme is void of an ethical approach for managing disaster events which often occur on land reform farms resulting into indescribable damage. The lack of this approach deters progress and development on these farms and further suppresses the gains already attained. This paper highlights the various ethical principles which can help guide the integration of disaster management into the land reform programme.



**Keywords:** ethics, disaster management, land reform programme

An old English prison in Grahamstown, where the workshop participants gathered after the workshop for food and drinks.

**Strengthening the Mainstreaming of Gender in Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Reconstruction:  
A case of South African floods**

**Hlengiwe Kunene, MSc and Professor Godwell Nhamo, PhD**

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**Abstract**

Gender mainstreaming remains a critical element in disaster risk management. Literature showing increasing levels of gender inequality mainly attributed to the frequency and intensity of recent extreme weather events has prompted the need for proper disaster risk management strategies. This is because members of a population experience the impact of disasters in different ways due to various factors from socioeconomic conditions, cultural beliefs to traditional practices, which have repeatedly put women at a disadvantage. However, disaster risk reduction policies have often overlooked women vulnerabilities, which has led to more women losing their lives when disaster strikes. This vulnerability also makes it hard for women to rebuild their lives post-disaster. It is for this reason that, this study seeks to review the strengths and weaknesses of South African government policies in mainstreaming gender in disaster preparedness, relief, and reconstruction. To draw out lessons from current disaster risk management policies and strategies that have worked and those that have not worked, as well as to draw recommendations for strengthening gender mainstreaming in government responses. The study proposes to use triangulation research methodology, a semi-structured questionnaire and participatory research appraisal (PRA) exercises as data collection instruments. This study intends to bridge the gap between policy and practice through strengthening pre and post-disaster gender-mainstreaming strategies in South Africa.



**Keywords:** Gender, Disaster, Policy, Floods, Inequality

Inside the old prison at the get together

## Technology Social Media and Ethics During Disaster and Emergencies in Africa

**Kaitano Dube and Professor Godwell Nhamo, PhD**

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### Abstract

The high rate of internet penetration and the march towards the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial revolution has seen a rapid boom in ICT usage, and social media uptake in Africa as mobile penetration advances towards 100%. In as much as the advent of ICTs and social media has cast light on the 'dark' continent of Africa bringing hope and some form of transparency in governance issues, there are a host of challenges that the march towards the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) has brought upon society. The use of ICT and social media during disasters most of which are occurring with high intensity and frequency due to climate change attributed extreme weather events have seen the deployment and extensive usage of ICT and social media where intrusive drones and other ICTs have been used in a rush by journalists and citizens journalist in race to be the first to break the news given the associated bragging rights that goes with it. In this study that utilises key informants and secondary data, the study shows that in a rush to cover disasters by both citizen and professional journalists' ethical practices are often abandoned or ignored usually are with long-lasting impact on the families and communities that are affected by various disasters. The demand to be part of the trending news on either twitter or Facebook has disastrous consequences. The paper calls for the rigorous application of machine learning to ensure content that is posted on social media blogs and microblogs meets the privacy and content policies of such platforms especially in Africa where policies around social media content in many counties are at best weak. The paper further recommends the return to basics of respect, decency and protection of the deceased and vulnerable communities as a norm to minimise damage and injury of sensitive community and those affected by disasters. There is a need for professional journalists to adhere to set standards and for counties to develop policies and guidelines that balance the need for information dissemination and respect for dignity and humanity.



**Keywords:** Social Media, Natural Disasters, Ethics, Africa, Drones

Entertainment at the get together

## Ethical Dilemmas Confronting Journalists Covering Disasters

**Peter du Toit**

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### Abstract

This paper explores the ethical challenges journalists employed by “traditional” news providers must confront when reporting on disasters. It surveys recent research and professional publications to identify how changes in the media environment have exacerbated the uncertainties journalists must resolve. It considers how the rise of social media and citizen journalism have contributed to the transformation of reporting practices, both in terms of the speed at which reporters must work and with regard to the way in which reporting practices have changed. Today’s news media must compete for attention against content producers who are not bound by the same professional values and who are not responsible to their audiences. This paper also includes a focus on the dilemma journalists encounter when it comes to making decisions on how involved they should be in the stories they cover. It also examines how the crisis in journalism has seen even leading media organisations having to cut back on the resources they can allocate to disaster coverage and how this has impacted on the media’s ability to bear witness during times of crisis. One outcome has been an increased number of collaborations between NGO’s responding to disasters and poorly resourced journalists who rely on these organizations to help get them on the ground. But what does this mean for journalistic independence? The paper considers some of the ways in which professionals have responded to these critical questions.

**Keywords:** Reporting disasters, journalism ethics, reporting dilemmas.



During the DMISA conference, we needed a golf cart to reach our living quarters

## Ethical Challenges that Pharmacists are Faced with in South Africa

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### Abstract

The Pharmacy Code of Conduct is a standard of professional conduct which is to be abided by all pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel with professional registration in South Africa. It provides, amongst others, an ethical framework for professional practice of pharmacists in South Africa and for their accountability to their professional body and the South African society at large. The primary focus of the pharmacists' professional activities in South Africa has shifted towards the patient-centred care over the years. Pharmacists perform this mandate by identifying the concerns and needs of individual patients. They work with other healthcare professionals, in order to ensure correct, safe and effective use of medicines, as well as to achieve the desired health outcomes for individual patients. Ethical conduct of pharmacists in South Africa is often tested by medicines shortages and stock-outs. Dispensing medicines under these conditions can threaten the pharmacists' ability to act towards improving the wellbeing of the patient and to minimise harm. Medicines stock-outs and the long distances which many patients travel to get to healthcare facilities in South Africa can de-motivate patient from coming back, resulting in discontinuation of their treatment. Such treatment or interruption of treatment can negatively affect the health outcomes from a particular drug regimen. Further ethical challenges for pharmacists arise from complicated communication and interactions with other healthcare professionals. There is a greater demand for healthcare, especially in the public sector in South Africa, results in pharmacists having to do tasks outside of their legislated scope of practice. Being understaffed also prevents the pharmacist from ensuring good dispensing practices because, instead of prioritizing on ensuring that each patient receives quality care by, for example, checking every prescription for possible drug interactions and checking for understanding in the patient, the primary focus is instead shifted to dispensing as many prescriptions possible for the day.

**Keywords:** professional code of conduct, stock-outs, staff shortages

## An Ethical and Disaster Management Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance in South Africa

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### Abstract

Response to a health crisis conventionally includes four key areas that may be addressed, to reduce the consequences of the crisis on the health status of affected populations. These four areas include food and nutrition; water supply, hygiene and sanitation(WASH); decent living conditions and sound health. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been on a slow onset into a health disaster and it is of high concern because the number of strains of resistant microbes, particularly bacteria, have been directly proportional to time (years). Given that, AMR requires adoption of a comprehensive disaster management approach which zooms into identification of risks and hazards of AMR; vulnerability assessments that can result in quantification of factors such as WASH and water quality which can be used to partly address gaps in health and environmental management systems in South Africa; strategic planning that promotes access to health and equal allocation of health resources in rural, urban and marginalized areas. This approach to AMR also allows for incorporation of frameworks, into the response; recovery and mitigation phases of the disaster management cycle, which can be used for monitoring and evaluation of AMR-targeted health research. An example is a risk-benefit assessment framework for the Faecal Microbiome Transplant (FMT) procedure which is proposed to treat recurring diarrhoeal infections caused by the *Clostridium Difficile* strain. Addressing AMR requires an ethical holistic approach to avoid or minimise inflicting further harm on affected populations and to safeguard public health.

**Keywords:** WASH, disaster management, ethics, vulnerability, risk

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