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Technical information and articles concerning communicable diseases are plentiful and accessible to most senior public health professionals. However, scientific publications concerning epidemiologic surveillance and the organization of surveillance systems are surprisingly scarce and these usually deal with only a single disease. Reports about the epidemiologic surveillance of communicable diseases after disaster have been infrequent. Although the collective experience of individual epidemiologists with the organization of surveillance activities in disaster situations during the past fifteen years has grown, it is not readily available in scientific literature.

The following publications served as sources for many of the ideas and material incorporated into this document:

- 1. Western, K. A. The Epidemiology of Natural and Man-Made Disasters: The Present State of the Art. Dissertation for D.T.P.H., London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, 1972.*
- 2. Sommer, A., and W. H. Mosley. West Bengal cyclone of November, 1970. *Lancet* 1: 1029-1036 (1972).
- 3. Epidemiología: Guía de Métodos de Enseñanza. PAHO Scientific Publication No. 226. Washington, D.C., Pan American Health Organization, 1973.
- 4. Romero, A., et al. Some epidemiologic features of disasters in Guatemala. Disasters 2: 39-46 (1978).
- 5. Spencer, H. C., et al. Disease surveillance and decision-making after the 1976 Guatemala earthquake. Lancet 2: 181-184 (1977).
- 6. Western, K. A. Organization and administration of communicable disease control programs in developing countries. *Bulletin of the Pan American Health Organization* 14: 65-76 (1980).

7. Benenson, A. S. (ed.). Control of Communicable Diseases in Man. 13th ed. Washington, D.C., American Public Health Association, 1981.**

Additional publications of interest are cited in Annex 6. *Copies available from the author. **In the XIII Edition the risk of individual communicable diseases in disaster situations is discussed. This is a new feature not contained in earlier English editions and translations into French, Portuguese and Spanish.