

Australia



Definition of a Disaster

- A serious change in the functioning of a community, as a result of human, material, and/or environmental damage, which exceeds the ability of a community to respond using only its own resources

Health Disaster Management Guidelines for Evaluation and Research in the Utstein Style -
WADEM



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A lot of people feel ... morally responsible ... they feel they have a duty this is ...**an invisible line in the job description...** they feel there's a duty. (FG4, p7)

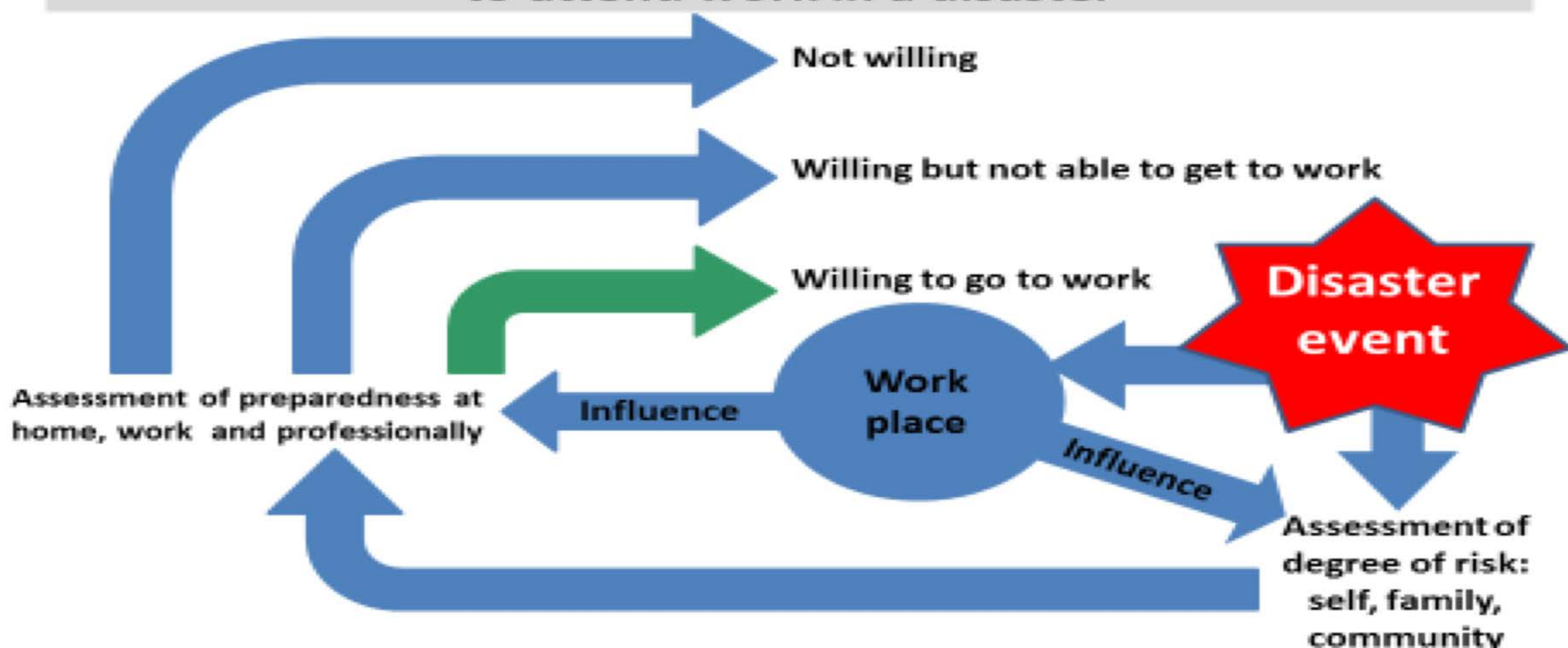
‘It would tear at the heart’.





I suppose that goes back to our code of conduct and a code of ethics that we do have a duty of care, whether that be in Australia or international. (FG4, p8)

The willingness of an emergency nurse to attend work in a disaster



Willingness of an emergency nurse to go to work is influenced by the type of disaster. The type of disaster will determine the degree of risk to self, family and community. Willingness can be influenced by increasing the feeling of preparedness to respond to a disaster and manage the risks at home, work and professionally. By increasing preparedness the emergency nurse will then feel more confident in their own and their families safety, their work environment and their professional ability to respond and therefore more willing to go to work, if they are able to get there (Cusack 2011).

Implications for Practice Standards

The standards “are the rules or definition of what it means to provide competent care. The registered professional nurse is required by law to carry out care in accordance with what other reasonably prudent nurses would do in the same or similar circumstances” (American Nurses Association, n.d.).

Koenig, Lim and Tsai (2011) prefer the term ‘**crisis standard of care**’ to indicate the degree of change in practice that may be needed under extreme conditions. Other discussions have used ‘**altered standards of care**’ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2005) or ‘**adapted standards of care**’ (Gebbie et al 2009).

Critical Conversations for Nurses in Australia

- Do current standards of care documentation provide adequate guidance for application under extreme conditions?
- Are there emergency laws or regulations that would have an impact on nurses' practice during an emergency or disaster?
- What content on adapting standards of care should be included in pre-registration nursing curricula?
- What content on adapting standards of care should be provided routinely to all practicing professional nurses?
- How will the nursing profession engage with the community in these discussions?
- How will the nursing profession engage other health professions and the broader national emergency services in these discussions should they need to work together under unusual circumstances if necessitated by a disaster?

Reflections from United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Chief Nurse on Ethical Challenges, Regulations, And Implications Responding to Ebola Crisis and Disasters”

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Susan M. Orsega, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Admiral
Chief Nurse Officer
U.S. Assistant Surgeon General



Disclosures

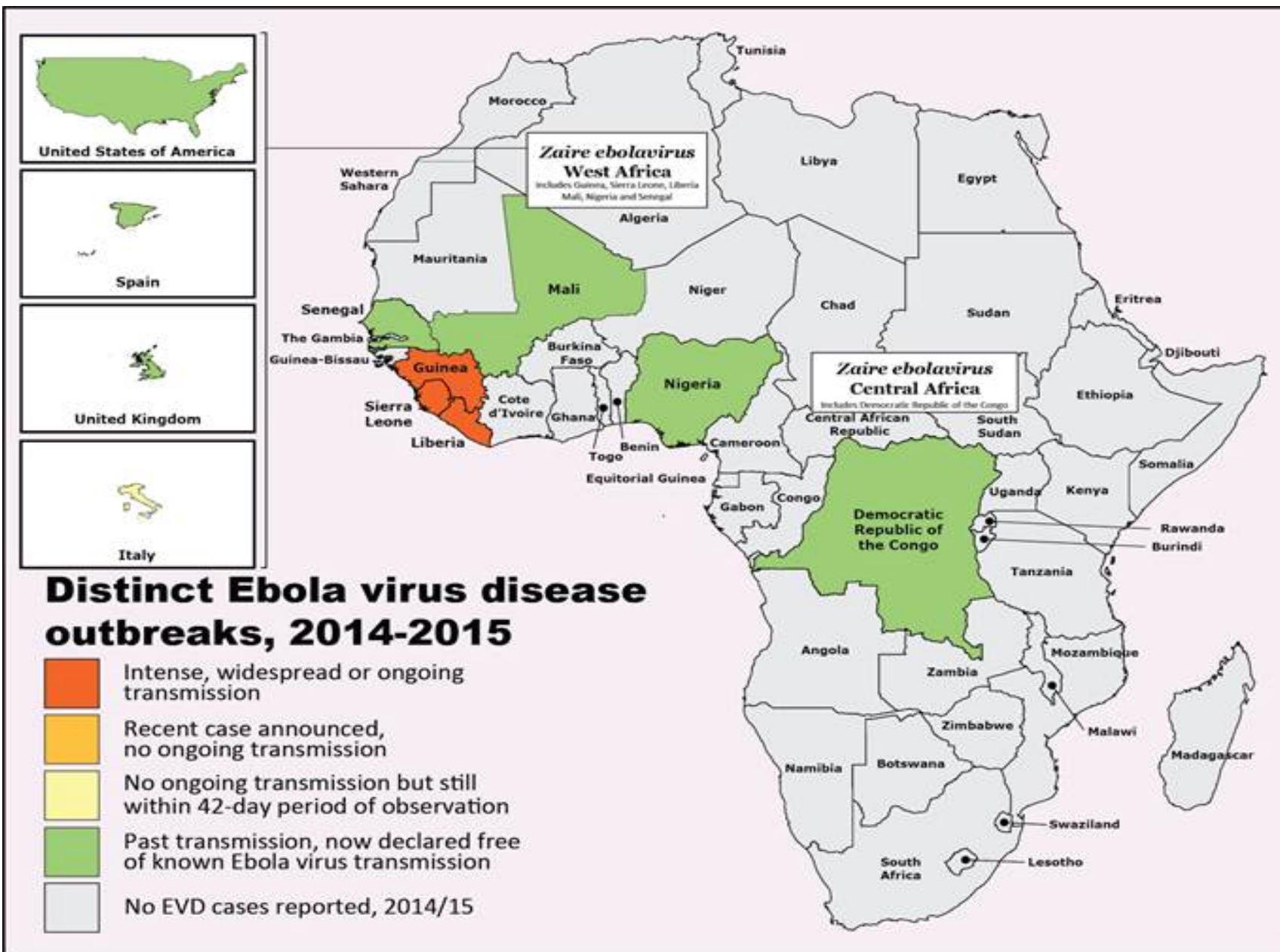
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Objectives:

- Understand the history of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps nursing response component disasters and humanitarian efforts.
- Understand the challenges that impact regulations, practice authorities and ethical delivery of care.
- Prepare nurses for resilience in complex environments



Source: Office of the Surgeon General and personal



Reflections and Challenges- Ebola





USPHS responding and working with local nurses in Puerto Rico - Hurricane Maria

Closing

- Regardless of the geographic boundaries, workforce challenges, regulations, and health issues, we as nurses have to be more innovative in this health care climate.



Questions?

