

Preliminary findings

***Challenges to United Nations
emergency preparedness,
humanitarian coordination &
response in the event of
nuclear detonation events***



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Project on humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons
(phase II)

Oslo conference summary point

#1:


“It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. Moreover, it might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted.”

Our research indicates

- Huge variation in potential scenarios in which nuclear weapon detonation events could occur.
- However, the **Oslo conference finding appears to be valid** in most plausible scenarios involving a nuclear weapon detonation event in a highly populated area.

Full study to be published in mid-2014.

Supporting points

1. For the UN to be called upon presupposes the situation is already beyond a state's capacity to respond effectively to assist the victims (i.e widespread harm has already occurred / is occurring).
 2. The UN is unlikely to be able to offer coordinated humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath.
 3. At present there are several major challenges to prompt and effective use of the humanitarian cluster system in the context of a nuclear weapon detonation event.
 4. Threat of further detonations could vastly complicate humanitarian decision making.
 5. Even if there is not much the UN could do in the immediate aftermath, more consideration and planning within the system could reduce longer term harm and suffering significantly.
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