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Facilitators and Barriers to Implementing IMS/ICS in Limited Resource Settings

The Incident Management System (IMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) structures have been widely used to mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of public health emergencies worldwide. The goal of this literature review was to assess available literature to determine the facilitators of and barriers to ICS/IMS implementation in low-resource countries around the world. This can assist in identifying what is working well and what can be improved with incident management strategies for areas with finite resources for emergency responses.

The key research objectives of this literature review were to:

- 1) Determine which IMS functions are used during emergency responses in low-resource countries,
- 2) Understand the facilitators of and barriers to IMS implementation, and
- 3) Find any similarities and differences in the use of IMS functions among low-resource countries.

In this assessment, the primary themes that emerged as facilitators of successful IMS administration included Emergency Operations Center (EOC) management, effective leadership capabilities, risk communication,

community engagement, and partner coordination. In contrast, key barriers included poor leadership; lack of funding; and undeveloped emergency response plans, protocols, and systems.

These findings suggest that prioritizing capacity-building efforts can improve incident management efforts in low-resource settings. Examples include training response personnel and forming partnerships with other emergency response agencies to pool funding/resources.

Presentation Theme: Global Emergency Management Research

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