



THE EPISODIC HUMANITARIANS

SPONTANEOUS UNAFFILIATED VOLUNTEERS

AND

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF



The Episodic Humanitarians Project

Integrates together

- International Relations/International Disaster Relief Perspectives
- Domestic Emergency Management Approaches
- International Disaster Response Law (IDRL)/role of soft law guidelines and protocols

Research base

Case studies back to the 1980s (Mexico City and Armenia through Nepal)

Interviews with:

- Current and former UNOCHA and WHO officials
- National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMA) officials
- Relief NGOs

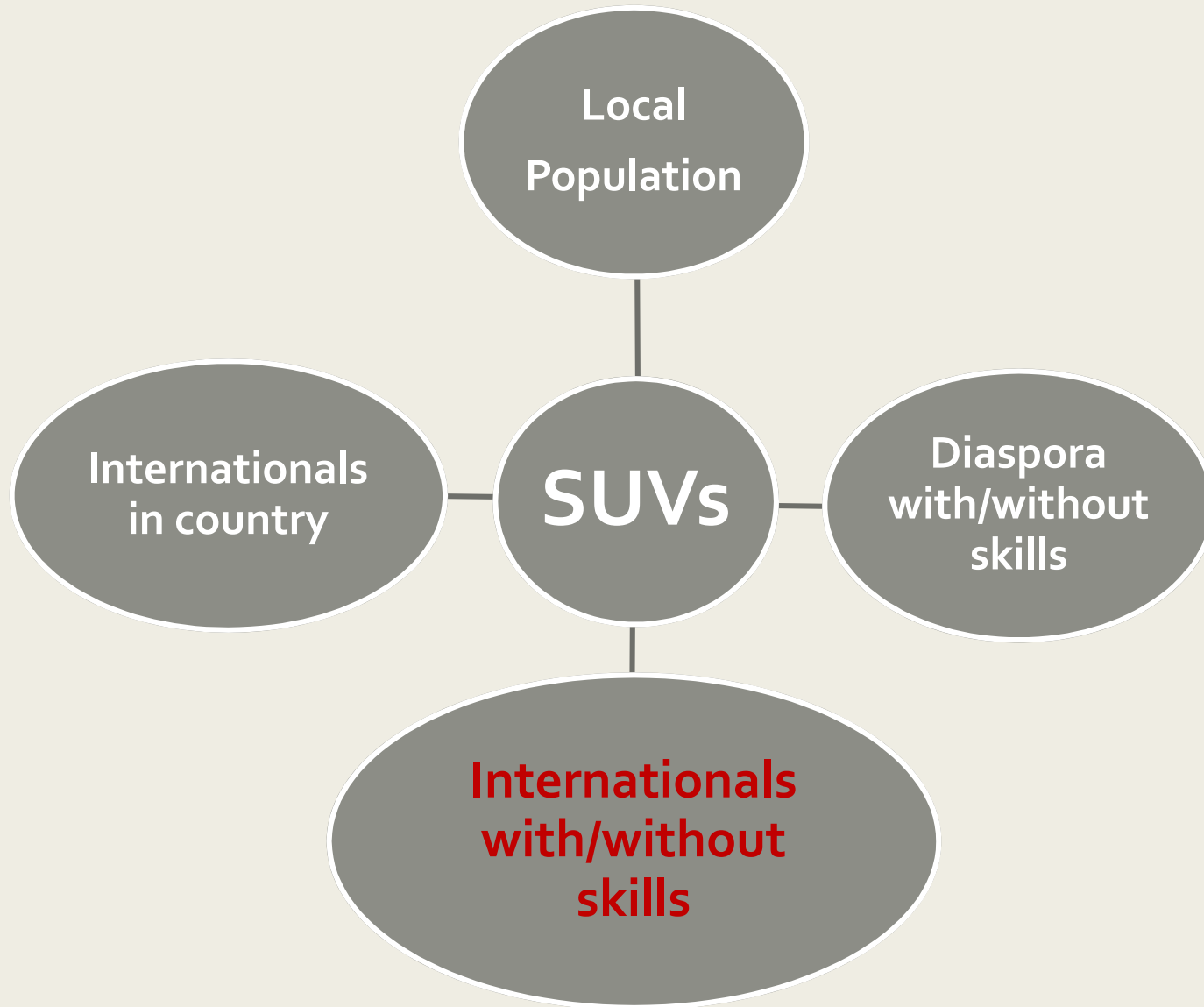
WHAT IS A SPONTANEOUS UNAFFILIATED VOLUNTEER (SUV)?

SPONTANEOUS

- **Convergent**
- **Emergent**
- **Walk in**
- **Vigilante**

UNAFFILIATED

- **Not a part of the formal or established response system**
- **Not attached to a response organization***
- **Ad hoc affiliation at time of disaster**

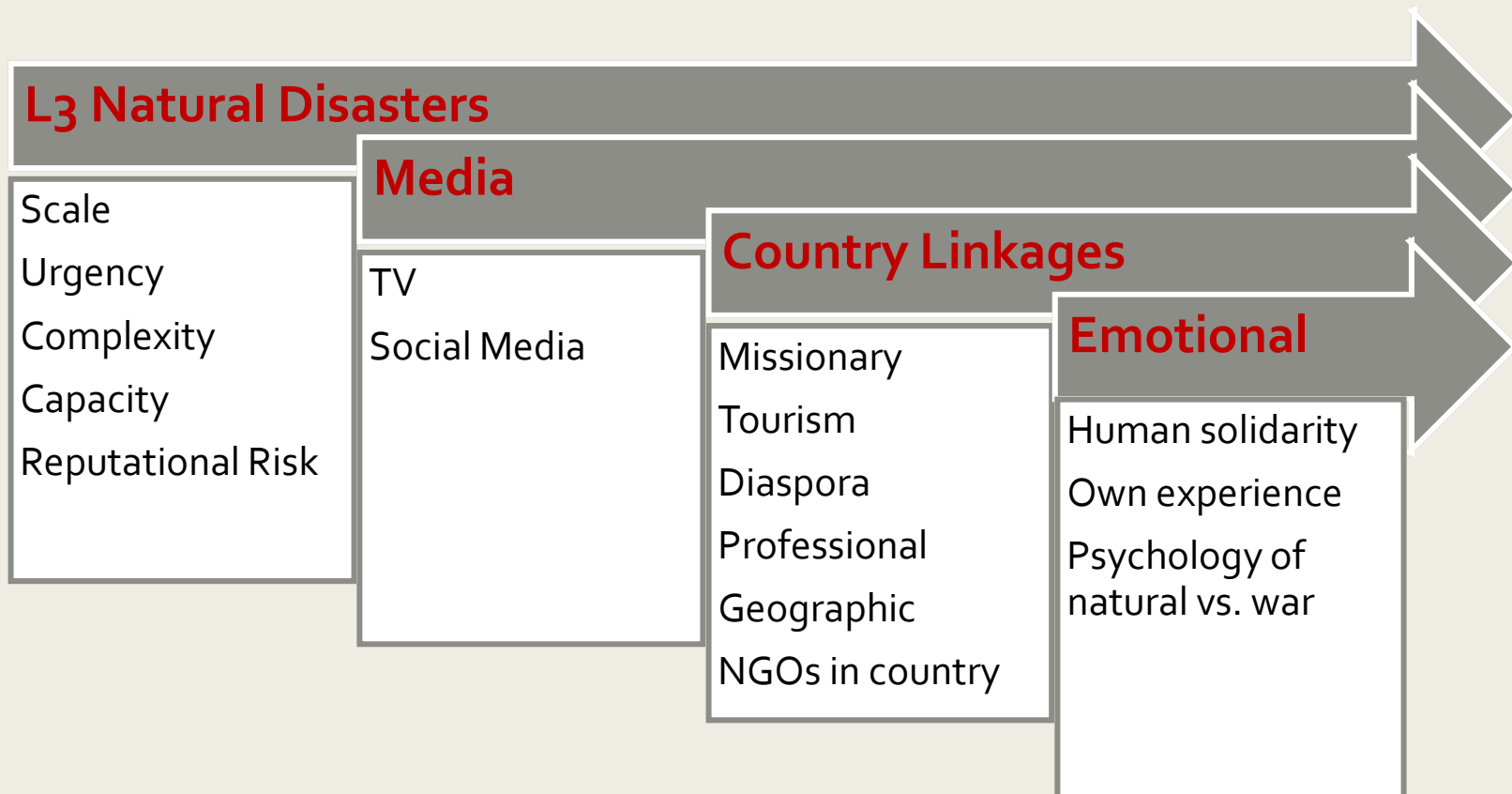


International Relief Players

International Unaffiliated
Volunteers/The Episodic
Humanitarians



What Brings Out The Episodic Humanitarian/ International SUV?



Value Added or Negative?

The Many Negatives

Extraordinary pressure on border entry processes

Ignorance of impacted country's culture, environment and approaches leads to "second disaster" of injury and death

Further drains resources intended for affected population

Unfamiliarity with international system(s) infrastructure and standards (Core!)

Confidence damaging for future international assistance

The One Positive?

A needed human resource....under the right circumstances?

Sector Self-Regulation Model

INSARAG

Est. 1991

Urban Search and
Rescue

Headquarters at UN
UNOCHA

WHO FMTs

Foreign Medical Team
Working Group

Est. 2011 by World
Health Organization

Strongly influenced by
INSARAG approach

INSARAG's Evolving Framework of Action

The Many "Cs"

**Coordination and
Common
Methodology** (1991-
1999)

Codification
(1999-2002)

Peer Classification
(2005-present)



FMTs: From Haiti to Haiyan

Global Registry
Self-classification
Minimum Standards
In-country
Coordination



SUV Management Model

“The paradox is clear: people’s willingness to volunteer versus the system’s capacity to utilize them effectively.”

From Managing Spontaneous Volunteers: The Synergy and Structures of Good Intentions, p. 2.

Domestic DM Principles and Protocols: A Potential “Semi-Adequate Solution”?

Volunteers can be value added

Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers are *an inevitable phenomena*

Because SUVs are unavoidable, responsible disaster planning must anticipate and plan accordingly regarding their management (in other words, not just response but also preparedness)

Domestic DM Principles and Protocols: A Potential “Semi-Adequate Solution”?

Volunteer Coordination Center (in tandem with UN OSOCC-NDMA?) with trained staff to register, assess potential role and assign responsibilities

Develop a departure strategy/accountability mechanism related to SUVs

Train and integrate into system for future disasters?

FEEDBACK (OF ALL KINDS) WELCOME!

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