Sphere

INTEGRATING
HUMANITARIAN
STANDARDS INTO
DISASTER SIMULATION
EXERCISES – EXPERIENCE
SHARING WEBINAR

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Sphere
Handbook

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum
Standards in Humanitarian Response

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PARAMEDIC

**MONDAY
11TH DEC**

ONLINE

objectives

- Explain the core elements of Simulation and Tabletop Exercises (TTX)

- Expose participants to real-world examples

- Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarifications

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Simulation and TTX

❖ **Nature of Activity:**

- **Simulation**: Simulations use realistic scenario that mimics real-world conditions.

- **TTX:** Tabletop exercises are more discussion-based.

❖ **Level of Realism:**

- **Simulation:** Simulations strive for a high level of realism.

- **TTX:** They are more focused on testing plans, procedures, and decision-making processes.

❖ **Participant Interaction:**

- **Simulation**: Participants often engage in physical actions or use equipment and resources as they would in a real emergency.

- **TTX**: Participants talk through the scenario, identify challenges, and discuss how they would respond.

Simulation and TTX

❖ **Use of Technology:**

- **Simulation:** Simulations frequently make use of technology, including computer models, virtual reality, or other advanced tools to create realistic scenarios.

- **TTX:** Tabletop exercises typically rely on simple tools such as maps, documents, and communication systems. While technology may be used to support the exercise.

❖ **Focus and Objectives:**

- **Simulation:** Simulations often focus on testing specific skills, equipment, or procedures in a realistic environment. They are particularly useful for hands-on training and skill development.

- **TTX:** Tabletop exercises are more focused on testing and refining plans, policies, and coordination among participants. They are valuable for assessing decision-making processes and communication strategies.
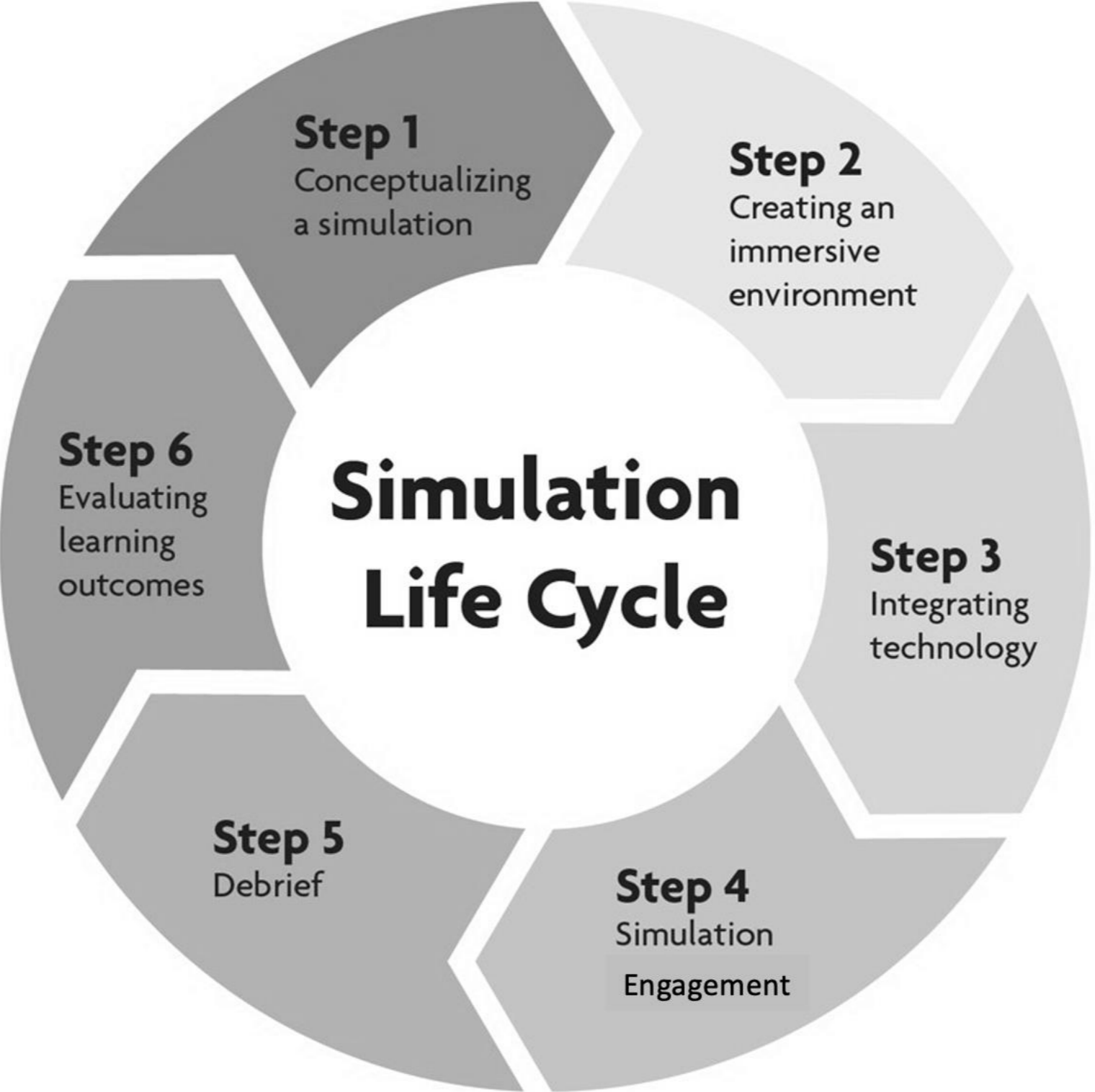
Why...

Research show that people generally respond to an emergency in the way they are trained.

Governments and organizations must exercise their plans and procedures, so they are better prepared to react.

Simulation/TTX Life Cycle

Simulation Life Cycle

Step 1 Conceptualizing a simulation

Step 2 Creating an immersive environment

Step 3 Integrating technology

Step 4 Simulation Engagement

Step 5 Debrief

Step 6 Evaluating learning outcomes

Conceptualizing a simulation/TTX

How this activity will meet the course teaching and learning objectives, as well as considerations related to time frame, target participants and level instruction.

Specific steps:

- **Objective settings**: Clearly state what you want them to learn or practice.

- **Scenario development**: Keep the scenario realistic and relevant to the participants' roles and responsibilities. Use credible and current information to create a compelling scenario.

- **Participants Selection**: Study your audience and aim to select participants that are at the same level; this might impact the group outputs and the exercise's quality.

Conceptualizing a Simulation

Creating an immersive environment

Create a learning environment that facilitates student investment in the experience

Specific steps:

- **Activity environment**: Identify the location/ platform and specify how participants will engage in this environment with clear instructions.

- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Ensure that participants understand their roles and responsibilities within the scenario. Clarify their decision-making authority and interactions with other roles.

- **Injects and Events:** Introduce at appropriate intervals to challenge participants and drive the scenario forward.

- **Time Management:** Allocate specific time slots for different phases of the exercise, including scenario introduction, discussion, and debriefing.

Creating an Immersive Environment

Integrating technology

Use resources to enhance a simulation's ability to meet its learning objectives.

Specific steps:

- **Serious Games:** Develop games with educational objectives, allowing participants to learn and practice skills in a game-like environment.

- **Radio Communication Simulation:** Simulate radio communication protocols and procedures for scenarios involving emergency response or military operations.

- **Drone operations:** Integrate drones into emergency response simulations. Evaluate how well participants can deploy drones for rapid assessment, situational awareness, or communication in crisis situations.

Integrating Technology in Simulations

Simulation engagement

Facilitate active engagement and decision-making among participants by fostering open communication, highlighting key decision points.

Specific steps:

- **Discussion and Analysis:** Focus on critical decision points, problem-solving, and coordination among participants.

- **Decision-Making**: Highlight key decision points within the scenario and ask participants to make decisions based on the information provided.

- **Communication:** Emphasize effective communication and coordination among participants.

- **Documentation**: Encourage participants to document their decisions, actions, and observations.

The debrief

Provide an opportunity for the participants to receive immediate feedback from their facilitators.

Specific steps:

•**Debriefing Preparation**: Allocate time at the end of the exercise for a brief initial debriefing. This should include discussing key takeaways, lessons learned, and areas for improvement.

•**Participant Feedback**: Gather feedback from participants on their experiences during the TTX. This can help you refine future exercises.
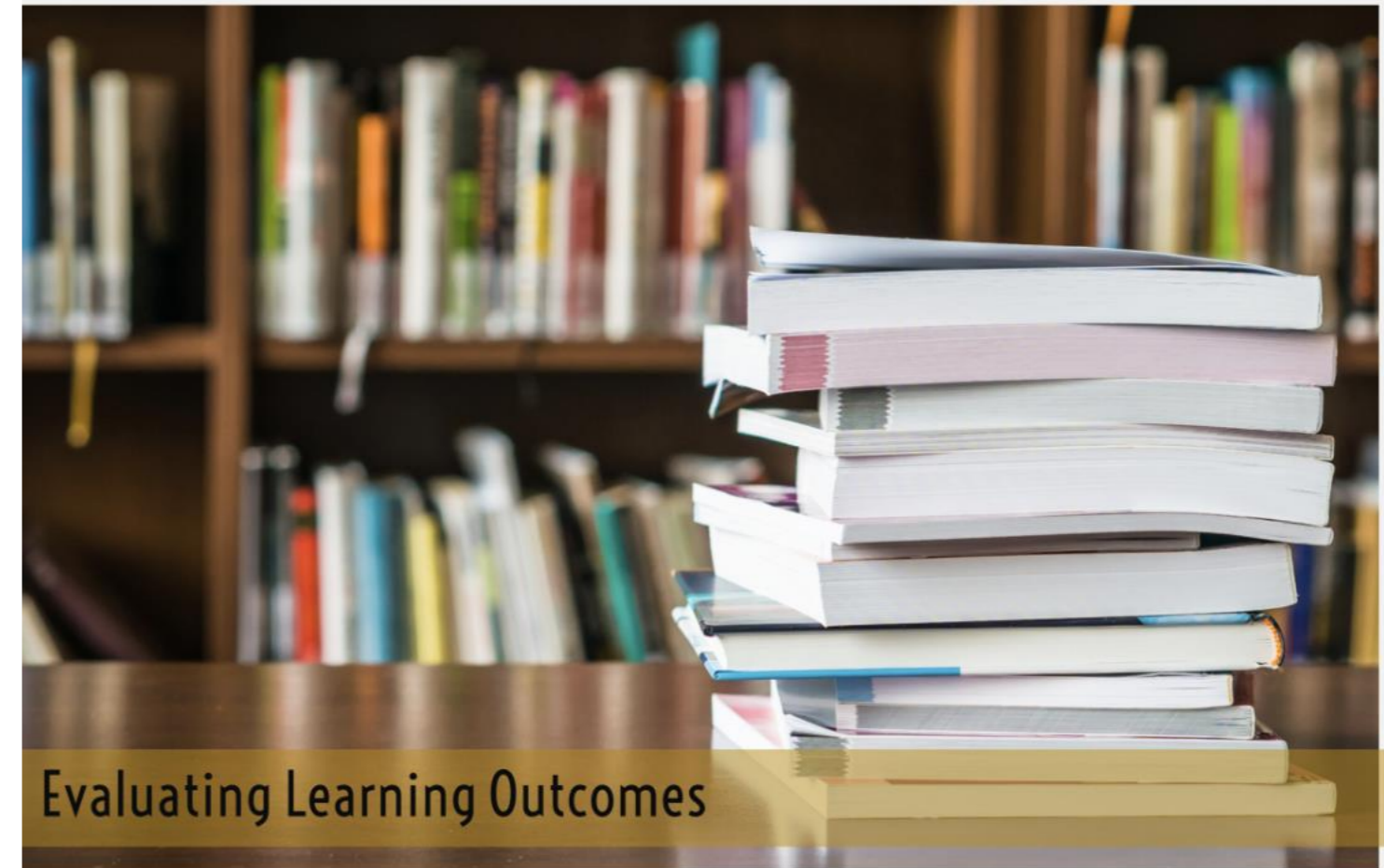

The Debrief

Evaluating learning outcomes

Identify the strengths and weaknesses and measure whether the simulation succeeded in achieving its core learning objectives.

Specific steps:

Wrap-up: Conclude the exercise by summarizing the main points, thanking participants for their involvement, and highlighting the importance of continuous improvement and preparedness.

Evaluating Learning Outcomes