



# Improving Pediatric Mass Casualty Triage in Guatemala: A Pilot Program

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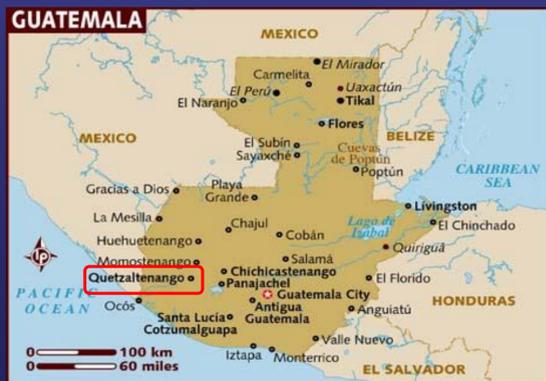
## Introduction

Different methods of mass casualty incident triage are available throughout the world; to the best of our knowledge, there has been no published literature on the teaching of these methods in Latin America.



## Objective

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of providing training in the triage of pediatric mass casualty victims to prehospital personnel as well as physicians in Guatemala through the **Global Emergency Medicine Initiative (GEMINI)**.



Instruction has taken place in Quetzaltenango



## Methods

- 12-hour educational model with lecture & small groups
- Pre and post education tests to measure efficacy
- Live moulaged victim triage scenario
- Instruction, written and practical testing in Spanish
- Class enrollment: 55 students
- Levels of training included:
  - Prehospital personnel
  - Senior medical students
  - Pediatric housestaff
  - Pediatric attending physicians
  - Surgical and critical care attending physicians



Lectures



Victim Triage

## Outcomes

- Increased communications between the prehospital and in hospital personnel
- Understanding and performance were assessed by written evaluations
- The mean correct score for the pre-test was 43%
- The mean correct score for the post-test was 95%



## Limitations

- Real time translation for the non-Spanish speaking instructors
- Material was adapted to include more plausible scenarios for the local environment
- Further research is needed to determine long term retention of information



## Conclusion

Providing disaster and triage education to prehospital personnel and physicians in Guatemala vastly improves the ability of these providers to accurately triage pediatric victims of disaster. Additional research is needed to determine long-term efficacy of the education that was provided and to reevaluate the goals and objectives of PDLs taught in a Latin American country.

- The PDLs [Pediatric Disaster Life Support] course was designed at the University of Massachusetts and there was need for adaptation of the course to have the lectures and small group sessions translated into Spanish for better educational value

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