



# WFOT response to Asian Tsunami: using action research

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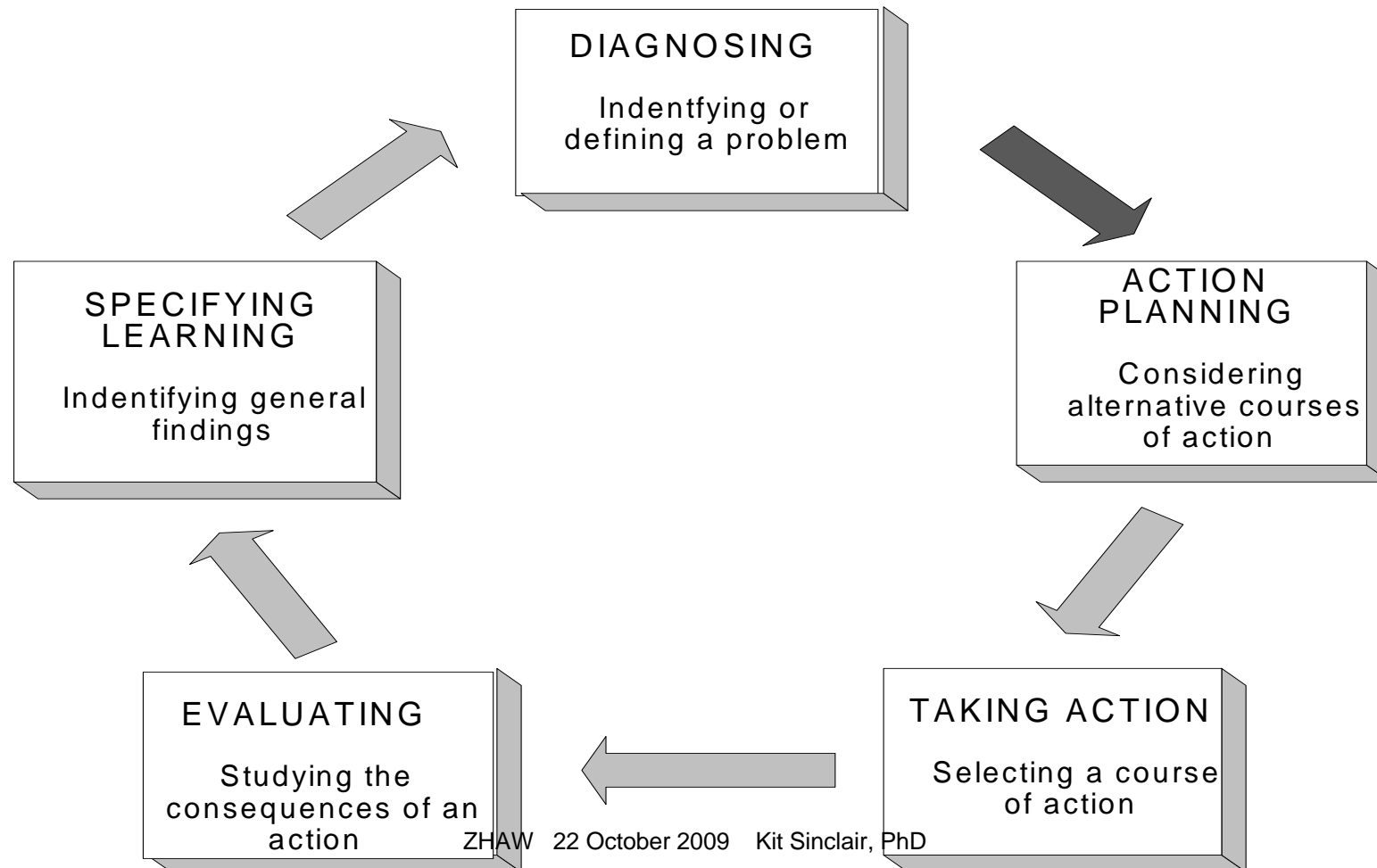
# Agenda for today

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- What is action research
- The Asian Tsunami and the WFOT response
- How was action research used to facilitate WFOT planning
- Future planning and actions in relation to disaster preparation and management



# Action research





# What is action research

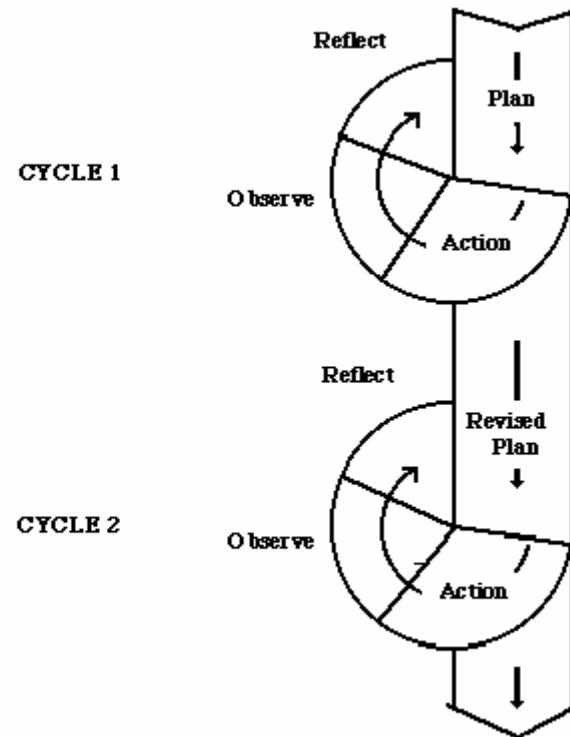
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- Flexible and creative framework for planning and evaluation, cyclic in nature
- Participatory process-
  - Participants engaged and actively learn
- Qualitative
  - Uses interview, focus group, conversation, reflection, survey, formal assessments, reports
- Responsive to emerging needs



# Action research cycles-

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# The tsunami and WFOT

## A need for action

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# How did we use the action approach in response to the Tsunami

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- Situational assessment
  - Focus groups with OT's
  - Meetings with NGO and government bodies. e.,g. Ministry of Health
  - Interviews with key stakeholders and survivors
- Consolidation, analysis and report
- Next steps





# Situational Assessment

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# Assessment objectives

- A **rapid appraisal** of community, government and the occupational therapy context.
- Identify and assess **existing responses and plans** by national occupational therapists and governments, and others including international organisations,
- Introduce WFOT and occupational therapists into the **international disaster response domain,**
- **Identify opportunities** where appropriately experienced occupational therapists (international and national) could feasibly and meaningfully contribute to the rehabilitation and recovery phases of this disaster
- Enable WFOT to appropriately **prioritize** its strategic and practical decisions, now and for the future.



# Assessment objectives (cont.)

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- **Identify capacity support requirements** and opportunities for meeting these within the realities of the disaster context and the existing national occupational therapy service delivery framework, and available resources including, for example:
  - **identifying partners** with whom national occupational therapists can link for training and service/program delivery and future/ongoing development, particularly in community-based rehab
  - accessing **funds and resources**
  - finding opportunities for appropriately community-based/disaster experienced occupational therapists to **buddy** national occupational therapists and/or provide training



# Learning about the statistics

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# Talking with village leaders and camp officials in Thailand



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# discussing needs with OTs

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# Listening to a therapist who was involved in relief in Aceh

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# awaiting reconstruction



**Sri Lanka**







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# Findings from situational analysis

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The findings show:

- **overwhelming psycho-social needs** for people affected by the tsunami
- the centrality of **occupation and productivity/income generation** to rehabilitation and as a vehicle for addressing psycho-social/PTS needs
- the lack of occupational therapy professional involvement in the overall response, and therefore the **needs in enabling involvement of occupational therapists** in ongoing rehabilitation as well as in future disaster situations



# Reflection and development

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- How to address national issues
  - Agreed that a regional workshop was appropriate step forward
- Where to implement next step
  - Agreed that it should be in one of the countries
- Who to involve in next step
  - National association representatives
- Where to get necessary resources
  - Look for funding from WHO, aid agencies, etc



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## WFOT DP&R Regional Action Planning And Capacity Building Workshop (December 2005)

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- National action plan for each country
- Questions to guide preparation
  - Community needs
  - Objectives for OT
  - Key partners for OT action
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Resources
  - OT capacities and needs



# Next step (national action planning)

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National action plans were developed during the regional workshop

Activity	With Whom	When



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# Recommendations and Strategies were established post workshop

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- Permanent WFOT task force
- Capacity development framework and plan
  - Education modules
- DP&R support to individual countries
- Monitoring evaluation and reporting
- Disseminating outputs and learning
- Resourcing strategies



# Relationship between National Association and WFOT project team

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- National association
- Task force
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting mechanism



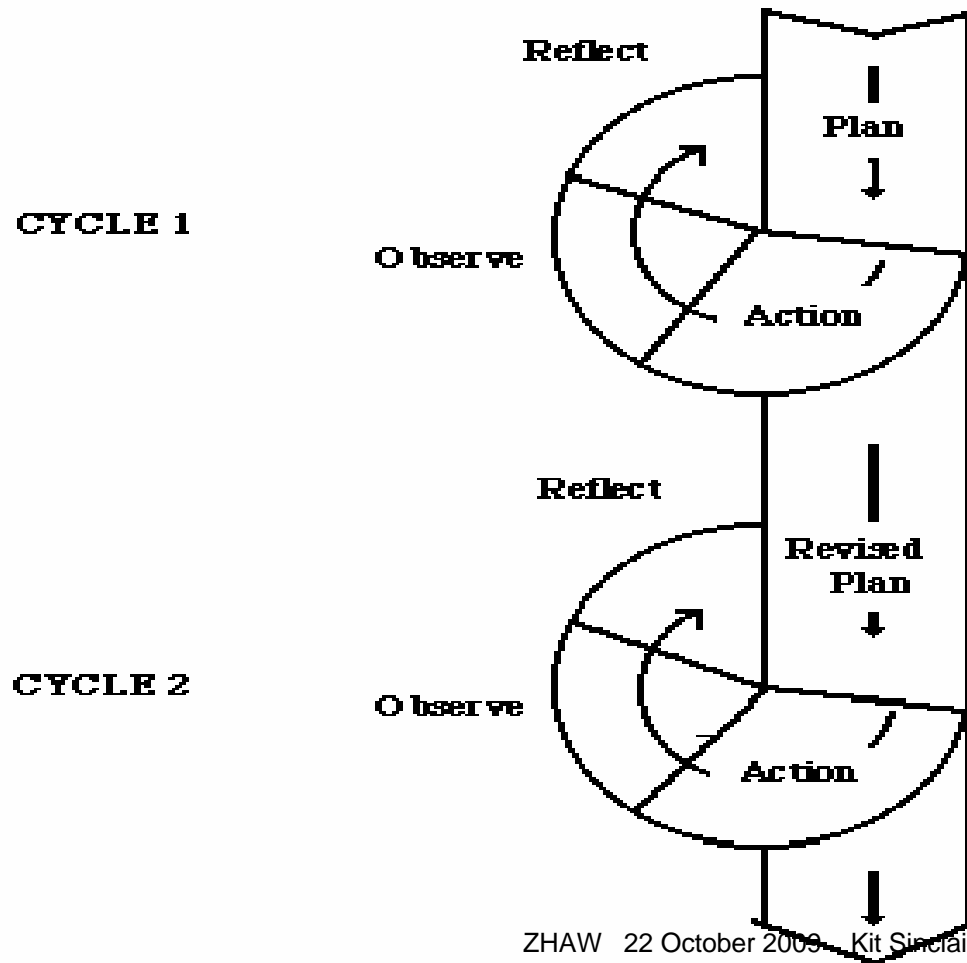
# National capacity building workshops

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- Held in Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka
- E-workshop held with India
- Different forms of workshop to meet specific needs of each country.



# Action research cycles





# National outcomes

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- Taking these ideas and applying them in other situations
- E.g. Indonesia- post earthquake 2007
  - Training volunteers to do post traumatic stress assessment and simple counseling
  - Running play groups for children while schools are being re-established
  - Providing suggestions for access for elderly and persons with disabilities



# National outcomes

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- E.g. Sri Lanka –
  - Ministry of Health diploma education moving to Bachelors
  - increased community based occupational therapy
- E.g. Thailand-
  - mental health clinic developed for survivors of tsunami
  - OT set up self-help group in south Thailand with post conflict widows



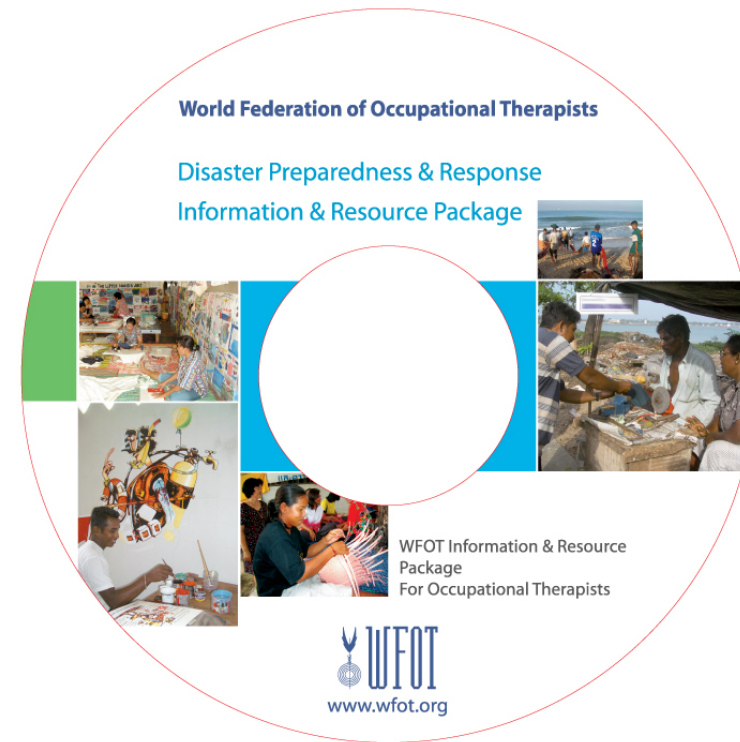
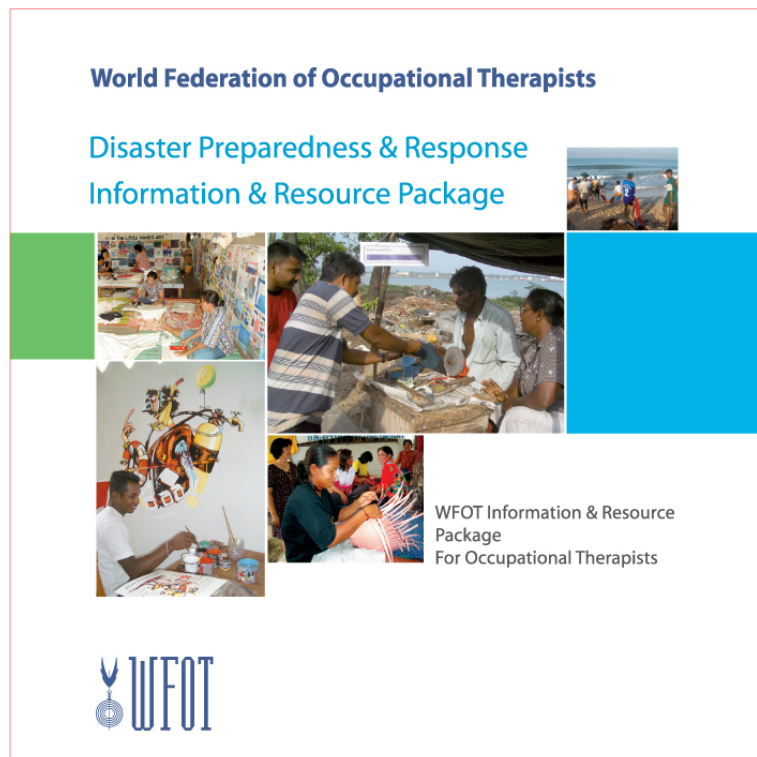
# Outcomes - Going global

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- ❑ Information package now available on WFOT website- [www.WFOT.org](http://www.WFOT.org)
- ❑ Education module being prepared for use in schools and continuing professional education
- ❑ Textbook-*Disaster and Development* will be available in 2010
- ❑ Work in other disaster regions....
- ❑ What about you? What's next?



# Information Package [www.WFOT.org](http://www.WFOT.org)







# Action Research and planning: Directive or participative?



EDUCATION OF **AUTHORITY**:



EDUCATION FOR **CHANGE**:



The outcomes of the research are still being realized and progressed

