

## 1.3 Table-Top Simulation “Salt Island”

Trainer’s Note

### *Session at a Glance:*

Content	Activity	Time
1 Exercise briefing	Oral Presentation with PPTs in plenary	30 minutes
2 Individual preparation	Participants read roles and prepare	30 minutes
3 Exercise	Participant-driven table top simulation	90 minutes
4 Debriefing	Plenary discussion	50 minutes
5 Conclusions	Review of main points and preview of upcoming sessions	10 minutes
<b>Total Session Time: 3 hours and 30 minutes</b>		

**Required Materials:** Individual role guides, 6 pocket calculators, envelopes (for roles and supplies), simulation coupons for money, goods, etc. 1.3 PPT set, flipcharts, simulation maps (3 copies)

### Trainer’s Notes:

#### *1. Exercise briefing – 30 minutes*

Assemble all simulation materials before workshop begins. Using the resource allocation guide and the individual roles, place each individual role into a separate envelope together with all supplies required for that role. Label each envelope and be ready to hand them out during the briefing. The files you will need for this exercise are:

EX 1.3 MEMOS.doc	These need to be printed ahead of time, and cut apart into individual messages. Arrange them by week and distribute them at the beginning of each week to their recipients.
EX 1.3 ROLES.doc	Print enough for all participants (2-3 participants per role)
EX 1.3 MAPS.ppt	Print 4 copies of each sheet. Provide them to people playing the Salt Island Administrator role
EX 1.3 ROLE LABELS.doc	Print on sticky labels for the envelopes to be given out to the participants. Print a second copy on white paper to use as nametags.
EX 1.3 RESOURCE TABLE.doc	Print a copy for yourself to help distribute the initial resources to the correct players.
EX 1.3 COUPONS.ppt	Print these on different colored paper and cut them out. Distribute resources per the resources table
EX 1.3 BACKGROUND.doc	Print out for all participants.

## **2. Individual Preparation – 30 minutes**

During this period, participants read both the general background guides as well as their individual role guides. Some participants may receive the same role, in which case they will play as a team representing that organization. Encourage participants to find their team members if they have any, and to review their role guides together, in order to harmonize their strategy for the exercise.

During this time period, roam the room and answer any questions that arise. Most of the questions that people usually ask are answered in the written materials, so you must be familiar enough with these to show them the answers. In the event that a question arises that requires an answer not found in the prepared materials, make your decision, provide a workable answer and announce it to the entire group as "new information".

Take special care to meet with the 2 representatives of the international market, and explain how they are supposed to run their operations. Make sure that they have all of their material and access to pocket calculators. Review the use of the coupons with them and explain that they may set prices as they wish in order to make a profit. Remind both sales companies that their only goal is to make more money than their competitor by the end of the exercise.

## **3. Exercise – 90 minutes**

The exercise should start precisely at the start of the hour. Use the PPT of the animated clock as a reminder to the participants of how much time has gone past. The table below summarizes the time flow of the exercise.

TIME	ACTIVITY	NOTES:
1:30	<b>BRIEFING START</b>	(use PPTs to talk through the recent background and to explain the timing of the exercise)
2:00	<b>INDIVIDUAL READING AND PREPARATION</b>	(take time to explain selling procedures to the two international market players)
2:30	<b>START EXERCISE</b>	<b>(end of week one)</b>
3:00	<b>EXERCISE CONTINUES</b>	<b>(end of week two)</b>
3:30	<b>EXERCISE CONTINUES</b>	<b>(end of week three)</b>
4:00	<b>END EXERCISE &amp; DEBRIEF</b>	<b>(end of week four)</b>
5:00	<b>ADJOURN</b>	Preferably for beers!

## **4. Debriefing – 50 minutes**

The debriefing should be conducted in a large circle if possible. The point of this debriefing is to hear from each of the players and flipcharts difficulties they had in carrying out their mandated activities. Typically this discussion will lead to some proposals for correcting these types of difficulties. As you facilitate the discussion from one perspective or role to the next keep a running list of problems and solutions found by the players. The "problems" list will likely be much longer than the solutions list.

After all players have briefly shared their experience in the table top, explain that the Sphere materials do provide guidance for people making decisions in these types of situations. Further explain that what is really needed to assess, plan for, monitor, and ultimately evaluate these types of situations and the humanitarian response is a set of indicators that could be used as a baseline for analysis.

## **5. Conclusion – 10 minutes**

Humanitarian response to displacement emergencies is often chaotic, and ineffective. This is due to several problems that seem to recur over and over again:

- Lack of basic coordination
- Widely different views/definitions of success
- Extreme biases concerning the nature, scope, and best practice in responding to problems
- Lack of common standards and indicators for program design
- Lack of understanding of the different sectoral "specialties" and the ways that they impact one another
- Political complications
- Unclear information and rapidly changing situations

We need something to help us navigate these problems and to provide a common touchstone for the multitude of organizations with different specific mandates. Hmm... Maybe Sphere has something to offer in this regard? The rest of the week will be spent in exploring this possibility.

## DOMISTAN STAR EXERCISE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

### Domistan Background.

Domistan is a small country with a GDP of US\$100 / capita, with no mineral wealth and completely ignored by the major world powers. Bordering on the ocean, with a capital city on a cliff overlooking a harbor, the country is divided into two main geographical regions. The first is the lowlands, an agricultural area, which contains rich fertile soil, and a major river that terminates in a vast delta. The second is the plateau, a full 2000 meters higher. The plateau is bisected by Domistan's border, existing from colonial times, with Neighbor Country. The Plateau contains the major cities and economic power. Two distinct ethnic groups make up the population of Domistan (and Neighbor country). The Low people are agriculturists and the High people are plateau cattle herders who have turned to commerce in the last century.

30 years ago, a coup d'etat in Neighbor Country resulted in a low-intensity civil war between the Low and High peoples which has never ended. High people, who are fighting a mobile and illusive Low People resistance army, dominate the government and army in Neighbor Country. The coup caused many deaths, and caused 100,000 of the Low ethnic group to flee to Domistan. They spread out through the lowlands of Domistan becoming laborers and small tenant farmers. Never considered citizens of Domistan, afraid to return to Neighbor country where the government also fears the shift in power should they return, the Low refugees in Domistan are one of the oldest case loads of UNHCR. Most of the world has forgotten them, and they survive mostly using their own means, while UNHCR's donors are growing tired of the yearly subsidies.

Domistani Low people resent the refugees for causing violence but all Low people are united when oppressed by the national army. Inflammatory political statements and discriminatory policies by the political parties and government of the Domistan elite make peace difficult. The result is that terror groups roam the countryside, in a running battle with the army, claiming political motivations for their actions but sustain themselves from the profits from theft and extortion. Pockets of the lowlands are cut off for months at a time due to insecurity and the population bears the brunt of the suffering through food shortages while both the army and rebels seem to be getting richer each year.

This year, extraordinary high levels of rainfall in the mountains of Domistan caused unprecedented flooding, and near complete destruction of this year's crop throughout the Domistani Lowlands. Faced with starvation, a large number of people fled the lowlands to find refuge in Southtown, on the plateau. The influx touched off violent reaction against the Low people, many of whom now are forced to take to the sea in rafts and small boats for refuge in other countries. Those with money arrange for illegal passage on large vessels, those with nothing use whatever means they can find.

## DOMISTAN STAR

### Recent developments in the humanitarian response

*(This information was provided by a news story sent around the world on wire services)*

1. The local clinics and hospitals in Domistan are completely overwhelmed. Admissions have doubled, yet many more people are turned away each day. Doctors cite examples of severe physical trauma – bullet and knife wounds, beatings and many cases of rape. In addition a large number of psychosomatic complaints in the IDP group have been recorded, severe headaches, mysterious internal pains, trouble sleeping and memory loss. The number of deaths reported in one crisis-affected province has increased by a factor of five.
2. Leaders of the displaced population claim that everyone is robbed by mountain “bandits” before arrival in coastal areas and that they have literally nothing of value left.
3. In spite of the apparent danger of returning to Neighbor country, the border post closest to Southtown has reported 100 people a day crossing the border away from Domistan - These are all Low Domistani ethnic groups and families.
4. (South Pacific News) - News of the plight of 820 Domistani passengers aboard the ship **Domistan Star**, called “illegally trafficked migrants” by some and “refugees” by others, makes world headlines as the ship is refused entry to the Pacific States (see map).
5. Caught between political pressures at home and very bad press abroad, the Government of the Pacific States uses political pressure and economic support to “convince” the constitutionally autonomous Salt Island Administration, (actually a very dependent protectorate), to accept the 820 Domistani migrants as a temporary measure.
6. (Domistan) Due to a violent flare-up of ethnic violence against Domistani Low people, and those assumed to be favorable to their cause, masses begin to take to the sea in large and small boats bound for the Pacific States or for Salt Island, which they have heard is now a safe refuge, and a likely stepping stone to resettlement in other states.
7. Commercial vessels at sea as well as the Pacific States Navy ships collect migrants from the sea in small and large boats and transfer them to Salt Island as a matter of routine.
8. International humanitarian agencies and Governments begin to address the growing emergency situation at Salt Island as people continue to arrive in need of water, food, and shelter.