

HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS: HOW CAN A SMALL CITY RECOVER FROM A DISASTER



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Introduction

Humanitarian Logistics involves many functions, including preparedness, planning, procurement, transport, warehousing, tracking, tracing, and customs clearance from the point of origin to the point of consumption. Also known as a process or system which involves applying knowledge and skill to mobilize resources and people with the purpose of helping vulnerable and affected communities (Van Wassenhove, 2006).

As a challenge, Humanitarian Logistics needs to deal with the fact that there is great diversity and a high number of active organizations (governmental, non-governmental, military, civil society, and humanitarian organizations) (Tomasini & Van Wassenhove, 2009). In addition, to operate with a high supply flow that circulates through the chain until reaching those affected (Day *et al.*, 2012).

Collaborative action is considered one of the great challenges of humanitarian logistics, given the constant risk situations and the diversity of forms of action by organizations. According to Charles *et al.* (2010), the increasing occurrence of disasters tests the reactivity of humanitarian systems, especially the ability of different agents to work together.

A disaster that occurred in Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, is being analyzed as a case study to understand how these relations unfold. In order to do so, we are basing our study on Humanitarian Logistics theories and frameworks to create a simplified, coordinated system to overcome the challenges of recovery.

Aims

This study aims to understand how humanitarian logistics can help a city recuperate from a significant natural disaster.

We can mention two contributions that this study can provide to the area of Disaster or Humanitarian Logistics. Firstly, there is a lack of studies that relate the dynamics of government, NGO, and civil society actors when facing natural or man-made disasters. Second, evaluating objective indicators can lead to understanding how organizations behaved in past tragedies contributing to future problems. The contribution is significant since the study will augment the knowledge of the organizations and individuals in humanitarian logistics and help in the decision-making process.

Research Question 1: Small cities often have close relations between citizens and city hall. Due to size-related issues, it is easier to interact with fewer actors. However, how do these traits help the logistics organize and plan a recovery from a natural disaster?

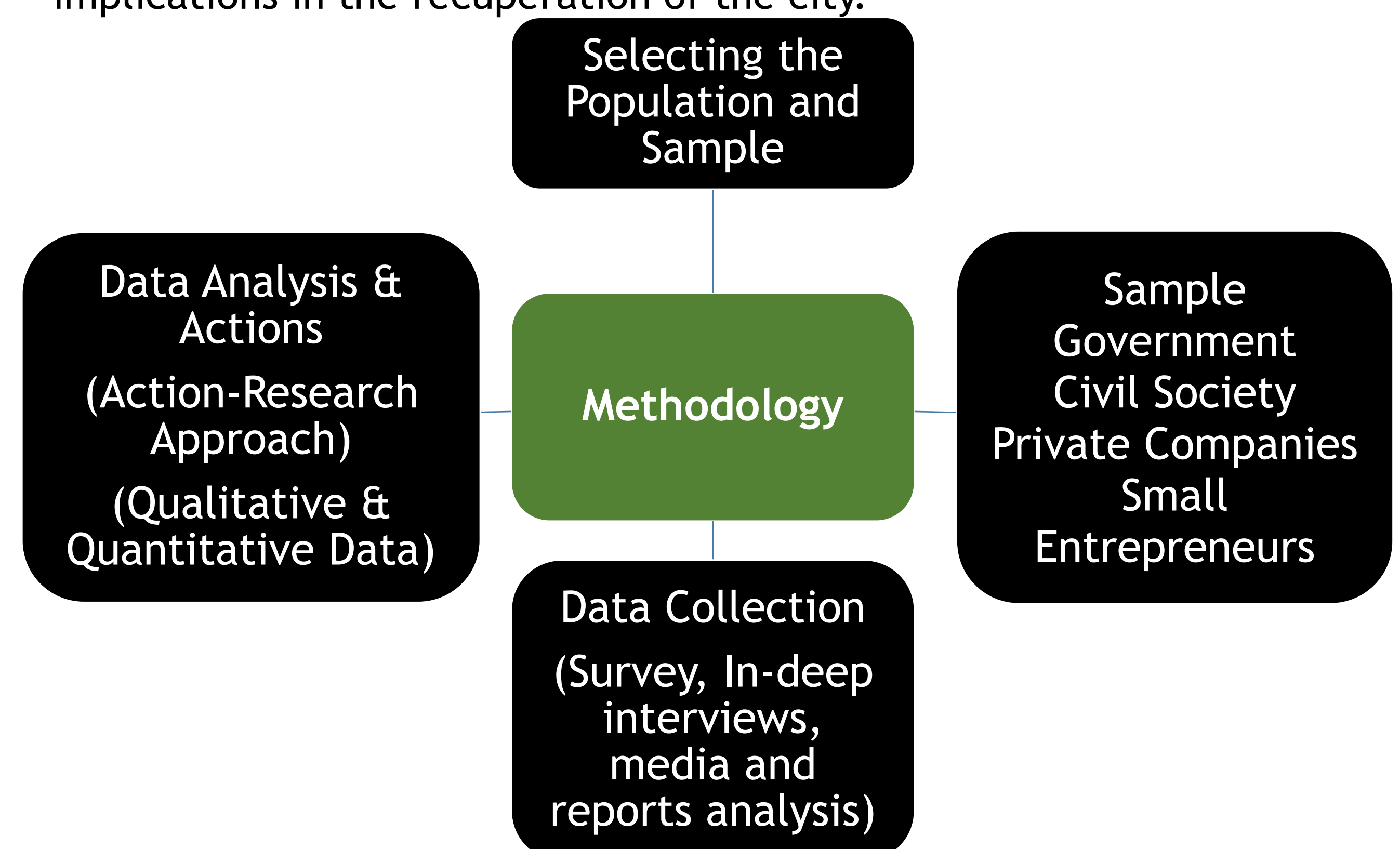
Theoretical background

This section is about Humanitarian Logistics presenting the state of the art of the field, and how this theory can help us to create a better understanding of our problem; a section about recovery of disaster indicating theories and examples of actions that can be perceived as ideal for recovery.

1. Performance of humanitarian supply chain management and dimensions to manage
2. Humanitarian logistics, area emphasis and relationship
3. Humanitarian logistics how process of mobilizing resources
4. Managing Humanitarian supply chain and difficulties
5. Triple-A Supply Chain
6. Social Network Analysis (SNA)

Method

As a methodological approach, the authors relied on humanitarian logistics literature to draw a different perspective where citizens allied directly with political powers could provide immediate help for those who need it. From this perspective, we describe the methodology applied to understand the disaster scenario and its implications in the recuperation of the city.



Preliminary Findings and Discussion

1. Active role of citizens and grassroots organizations;
2. Voluntary and solidarity actions by App and platform workers of urban transportation (called “Moto-Boys”);
3. Failure of Government Planning;
4. Low Accountability in the Government Budgeting;
5. Structural and complex problems related to the urbanization;
6. Failures related to the supplying needs (efficiency, effectiveness);
7. Absence of Post-Tragedy Planning - future approach to the disasters.

Conclusion

Low learning by the local actors with Desasters and Risk
Increase research about Humanitarian Logistics in Disasters and Risk Studies;

Future research:

- Cross-Sector Interactions (State, Market & Civil Society) analysis
- Cross-Sector Intrepreneurs Action
- Local Governance, Humanitarian Organizations and Logistics
- Action-Research & Engaged Research

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