



Circles of Impact

An Verelst – Victim Support Europe

Definition of victims of terrorism

- o The Victims' Rights Directive defines a victim as a natural person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by a criminal offence.
- o The EU Directive also recognises family members of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence and who have suffered harm because of that person's death as being victims.
- o The Counter-Terrorism Directive reaffirmed this definition.
- o The UN Basic Principles go even further than this, recognising as victims 'the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimisation.'

Definition of victims of terrorism

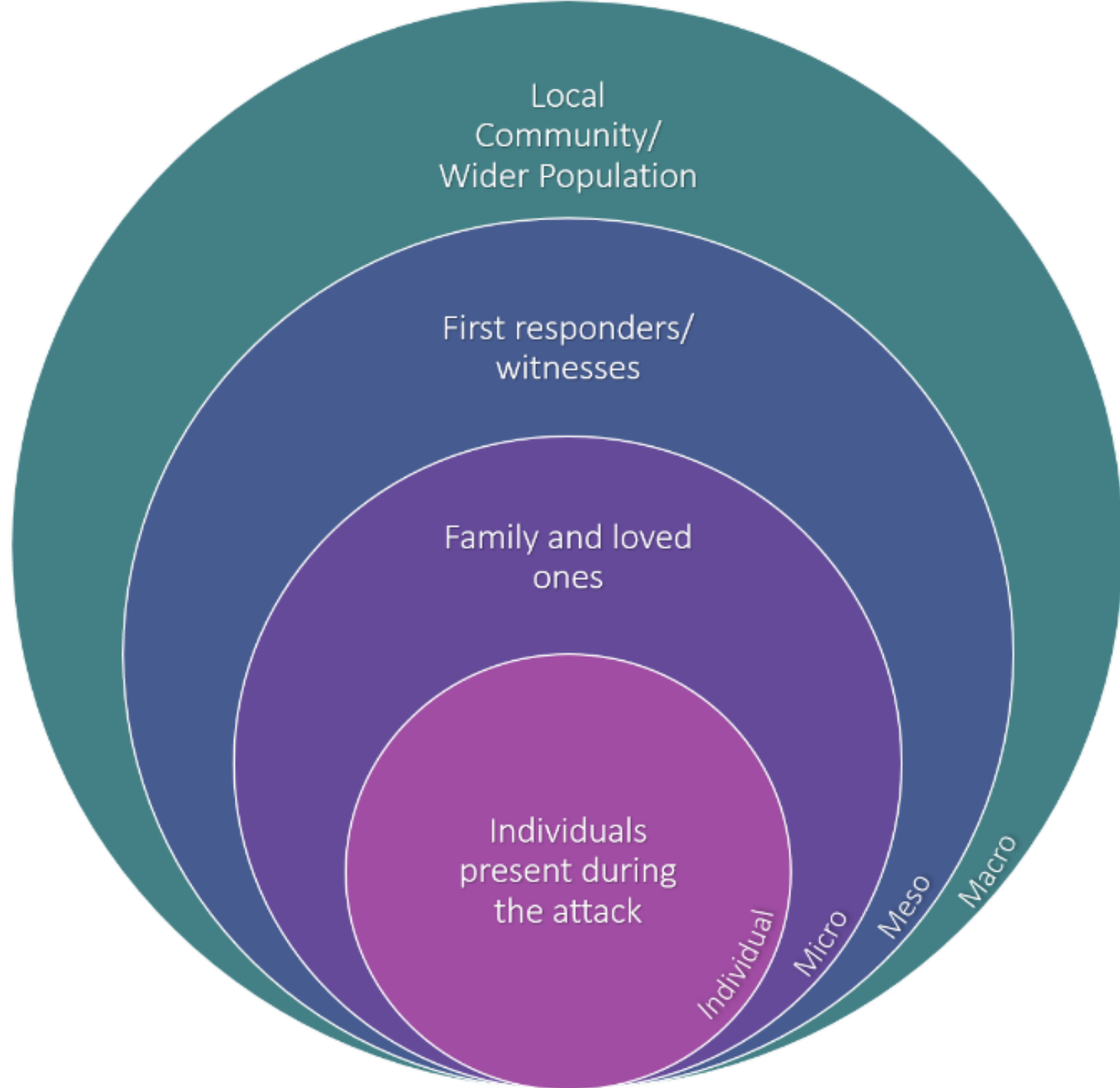
- o The United Nations Report on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms = four main categories, namely direct victims, secondary victims, indirect victims and potential victims.
- o Risks creating a hierarchical approach that does not necessarily take psychological, financial and/or physical harm into account.
- o Applying criteria like 'serious harm' to define who is a direct victim risks excluding those harmed but not deemed to be harmed enough.
- o Excludes those who are financially harmed by an attack. This could include direct victims who have lost personal property through to businesses which have been damaged in an attack or who have lost business for example due to a lockdown or through customers' fears after an attack.

Definition of victims of terrorism

- o Vary depending on the extent of the obligations imposed on States and the objectives
- o Definitions in EU Directive are primarily designed for criminal proceedings, but when considering victims of terrorism for support, compensation or information provision, Member States are allowed to and should go beyond the Directives.
- o A Much broader definition is needed to understand the impact of terrorist attacks



Socio-ecological Framework



Local
Community/
Wider Population

First responders/
witnesses

Family and loved
ones

Individuals
present during
the attack

Individual

Micro

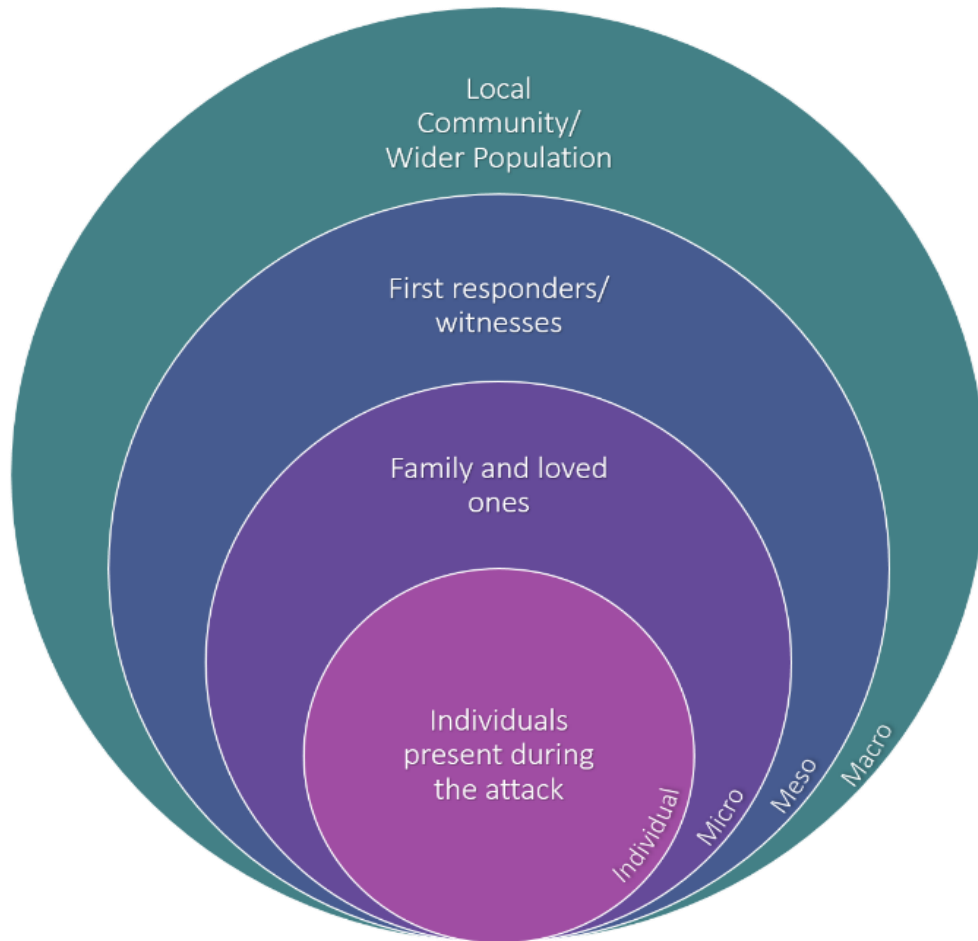
Meso

Macro

Circles of Impact

- o the impact is not necessarily gradual over
- o Often attention goes to the first circle – the individual level.
- o Broad impact on individuals, families and society

A knife attack against a single soldier on the street



Who are the victims? Those affected?

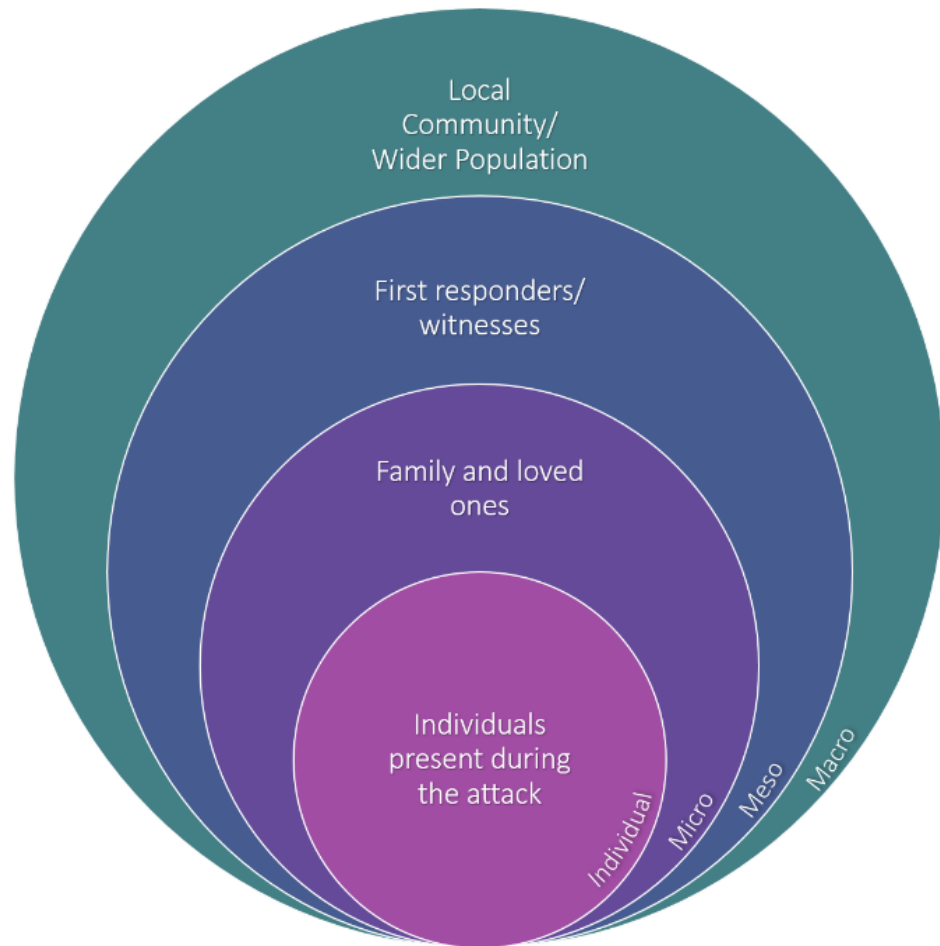
Individuals – Direct Victims? Witnesses?

MICRO – closest social environment

MESO – formal and informal support network

MACRO – wider society

A shooting in a restaurant



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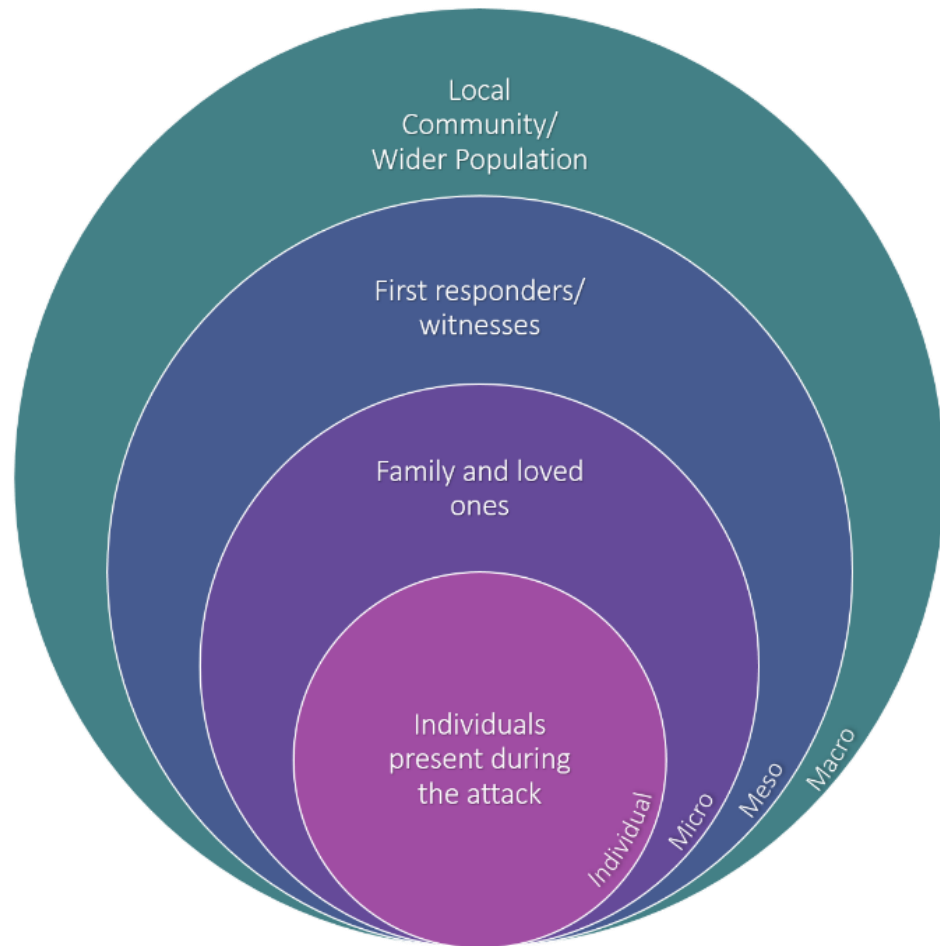
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A truck attack on a busy shopping street



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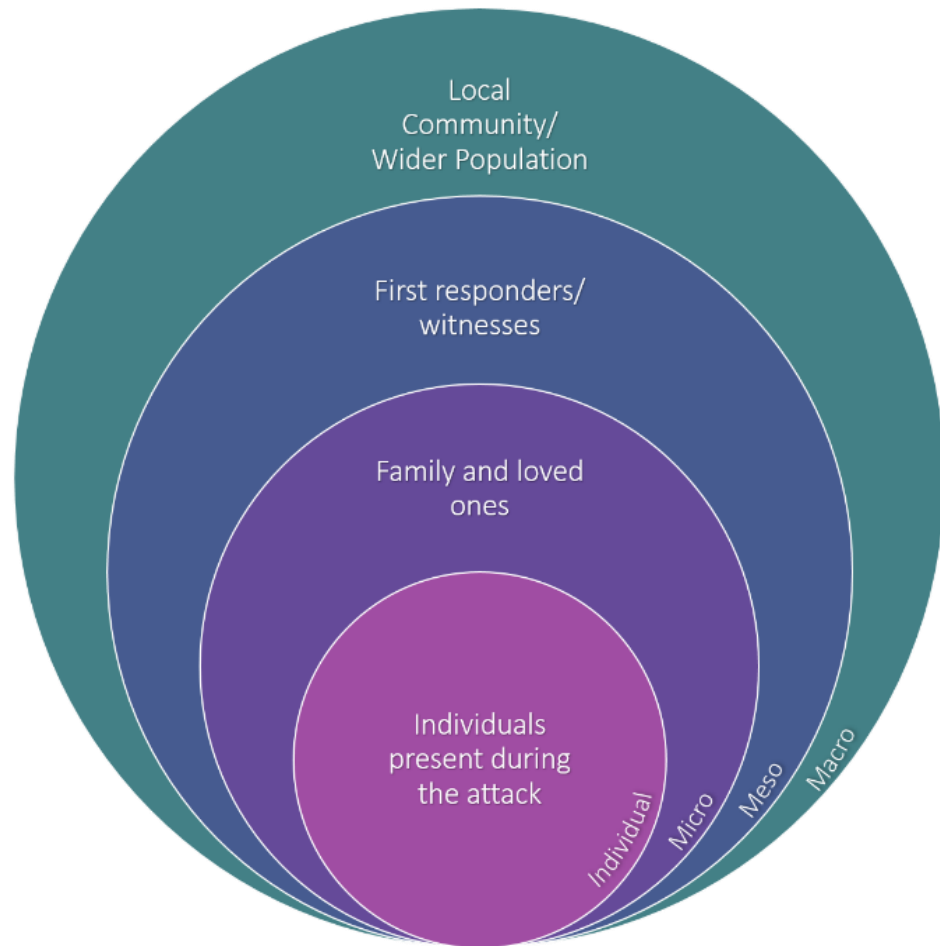
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Thank you!

Victim Support Europe

Rue de la Loi 235

Brussels

+3222310112

An Verelst



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