



Reimagining Preparedness, Response and Resilience in the Post-COVID World

Dr. Joe Leitmann

Executive Director

University of California Disaster Resilience Network



COVID-19 Impacts

- As of this week
 - 264 million confirmed cases globally
 - 5.2 million confirmed deaths
 - Actual mortality likely to be above 6.9 million
- Economic consequences
 - Fast, steepest downgrades in consensus growth projections among all recessions since 1990
 - 88-115 million people pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 (first reversal in poverty alleviation in a decade)
 - Peak of 1.5 billion students out of school could lose \$10 trillion in earnings (almost 10% of global GDP)



The pandemic as an unprecedented challenge

CHALLENGES:

- a) **Data** - the need for real-time data that can be used for sound decision-making
- b) **Communications** - communicating accurate and usable information to key audiences
- c) **Logistics** - mastering the globalized supply chain
- d) **Cross-cutting** - addressing a threat that cuts across socio-economic groups, sectors and jurisdictions;
- e) **Vulnerability** - protecting the groups and economic sectors that are most vulnerable to the virus;
- f) **Resilient recovery** - ensuring that recovery builds resilience to future risks.

STORYLINE: reliable information needs to be generated for decision-making and communicated to stakeholders (a and b); the response needs to ensure that critical supplies are available, actors and their resources are well-coordinated and the needs of the vulnerable are addressed (c, d and e); & recovery must be resilient (f).



Emerging Good Practice 1 (EGP1): Linking science & policy

- Establish a structure and process to use data for decision-making
- Employ digital tools to transparently obtain and manage information
- Use evidence to inform the response strategy
- Collaborate to develop and share data



EGP2: Communicating clearly

- Develop a communications strategy
- Use diverse methods to communicate with citizens
- Aggressively combat disinformation
- Update the strategy to adapt to changing needs



EGP3: Preparing supplies

- Stockpile PPE for emergencies and rely on local capacity for restocking
- Take early action to approve and procure vaccines
- Diversify sources of vaccines to avoid delays in availability



EGP4: Strengthening governance

- Coordinate a unified national response while allowing local authorities to retain autonomy and decision-making power – and to learn from one another
- Link a well-coordinated system with good and transparent sources of data
- Maintain and update national and local infectious disease plans which incorporate lessons from past health emergencies



EGP5: Reducing vulnerability

- Use a living standards framework to identify vulnerable social groups that need support
- Target low-income households with financial support
- Provide special support to MSMEs, the self-employed and hardest-hit sectors
- Identify and implement programs for citizens with special risks



EGP6: Recovering resiliently

- Design and implement a phased recovery program that covers immediate response, economic revitalization and long-term economic growth
- Take a phased approach to reopening the economy with clear standards and a timetable
- Use the recovery as an opportunity for long-term resilience and growth
- Establish, monitor and report on clear indicators to assess the impact of stimulus initiatives for recovery

Thank you! Merci! Teşekkürler!



➡ www.ucdrn.org