Resilience of Local Governments: A multi-sectoral approach to integrate public health and disaster risk management

Background

All communities are at risk of emergencies and disasters, including those associated with natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, conflicts, technological and other hazards. Particularly in the context of increased urbanization and climate change, frequency, severity and impact of disasters are crucial. The health, economic, political and societal consequences of these events can be devastating for developed and developing countries.

Currently, countries face the COVID-19 pandemic with over 1 million cases and thousands deaths confirmed worldwide. Global spread has been rapid, with 207 countries and territories now having reported at least one case[1]. Disasters such as pandemics pose a major challenge to human health and development. COVID-19 illustrates the profound impact disasters have on health systems.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recommend scaling up the implementation of holistic disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and plans, as means to improve resilience to disasters globally (SDG 11.B).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and its Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are offering this e-learning course to present the **Public Health System Resilience Scorecard for Cities** (consultative version 1.0) as a tool to help evaluate to what extent disaster risk management strategies integrate public health considerations, while following a multi-sectoral approach.
The Scorecard addresses issues related to pandemics, epidemiology, health supplies chain management, underlying health risk factors and vulnerable group management, health data, tracking and alerts for communities, quarantine, and surge capacity. All issues which are very relevant to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.


In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and SDG 3.D, this e-Learning Course aims to contribute to strengthening the capacity of local government officials for early warning, risk reduction and management of health threats.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the key elements of the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework
2. Identify public health related issues and disasters
3. Explain the term public health system
4. Evaluate to what extent health is integrated into disaster risk reduction strategies at national and local levels

The e-Learning Course is comprised of 2 modules that can be covered over the period of 1 week:

Module 1:

- Introduction and structure of the public health system resilience assessment
- Introduction to the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Concepts

Module 2:

- Disaster resilience scorecard for cities - public health system resilience

Target Audience:

- Government officials
- Health professionals
- Disaster management professionals
- Academic and training institutions working on disaster risk management

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