

INCREASE-HEALTH-CORONA: WORKSHOP PROTOCOL

REAL TIME EVALUATION OF GLOBAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE SARS CoV 2 PANDEMIC
& IDENTIFICATION OF BEST PRACTICES TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS IN IRAN AND GERMANY

Rationale:

The international exchange between technical experts on evolving strategies, technological and medical solutions and the discussion of gaps and challenges but also the identification of best practices and sharing of experiences in the response to the SARS Cov 2 pandemic are at the forefront of the workshops organized by the Academy of the Disaster Research Unit at the Free University of Berlin.

The workshop protocols are documenting the conversational course with an emphasis on key findings rather than as word for word transcript. All participants will have had the opportunity to review and comment on the draft version of the workshop protocols prior to their publication

Workshop № 01, date: 15.04.2020

Workshop Topic: Introduction to the INCREASE Health Corona Project

This initial workshop meeting takes place at the beginning of the project roll out and functions as an introduction to the project and team members in Berlin and initial network partners in Iran.

Introduction to the Project

In light of the commencement of a 4 year cooperation project between Germany and Iran on “Inclusive and Integrated Multi-Hazard Risk Management and Engagement of Volunteers to INCREASE Urban Resilience in Times of Changing Climates”, facilitated by the Disaster Research Unit at the Free University of Berlin, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research agreed to support a 12 month project, led by the Academy Disaster Research Unit (ADRU) at the Free University of Berlin, to conduct a “Real time analysis of the global response to the SARS CoV 2 pandemic and identification of best practices to strengthen Health Systems in Iran and Germany”, as the pandemic is evolving. A research team has been recruited, and will be supported by additional staffs in the near future to produce the following:

Expected outputs:

- Building a network of experts, in a process approach, which will possibly be developing in different directions in the coming weeks/months

- Looking at measures taken to increase health service capacity. German and Iranian systems are very different in their approach. The project is not only health based but extends to other services which are involved to different degrees, taking up different roles.
- Looking at collateral consequences of the outbreak including escalating risks
- Looking at crisis related communication – social/technological approach, find opportunities where 'lock down' can be eased while keeping measures in place, possibly technology driven, to keep the outbreak "under control".
- Identification of vulnerabilities, including unexpected/new/unfamiliar vulnerabilities that become visible in the coming weeks and months
- Cooperation, mutual learning, exchange

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ Webinars
- ✓ Mind maps
- ✓ Discussion – visualisation – policy paper(s), state of the art monitoring in health developments
- ✓ Real time monitoring reports of scientific

Introductions:

The introduction of the project outline was followed by an introduction of the team involved at the Academy Disaster research Unit (ADRU) and Iranian counterparts involved in the project planning and roll out. The 3 staffs currently involved in the project roll out will receive additional staffing support in the coming months to ensure the delivery of the project objectives.

Network partners in Iran and Germany will be approached and identified on a rolling basis, in particular through the planned workshops to which experts are invited and common themes of research interest identified. Partners will remain connected collectively through regular exchanges of the real time monitoring reports and in bilateral and multilateral conversations.

Short summary of situation in Iran:

Key network partner Dr. Hamid Khankeh gave a short summary of the current epidemic situation in Iran:

- Epidemic spread quickly through Iran.
- National disaster management in Iran is very vertical. All authority has been dedicated to the MoH by the President.
- First week: split the country in cold, warm and hot zones. Development of protocols and guidelines. Emergency level 3 (national disaster) has been announced 3 weeks into the outbreak.
- Clinical manifestation was not clear and testing capacity (PCR) was not available in sufficient amount. A number of protocols have been developed.

- Chest CT imaging has become the main diagnostic tool.
- Lock down was established. Population was supportive of the lock down and social distancing. The first 20 days were difficult as no one knew how to protect themselves.
- Health offices (70.000) screen patients using signs and symptoms as indicator.
- Establishment of three different call centres 71 million people have participated in registration – people are referred to health facilities when they have symptoms where they will be triaged.
- Shelters (17.000 beds in shelters are available) are established for mild cases, people are not interested in going to the shelters even if they are tested positive.

Action Points:

- Brief consideration of potential workshop themes led to deciding on a clinical subject to be of highest interest at the moment. This could include clinical management of COVID-19 including patient flow, contact tracing or else. The ADRU team will propose a subject for consideration in the coming days.
- Workshop calls to be using WEBEX as platform for communication.
- Workshop series to commence when ADRU team recruitment has completed