Review of: "Integrating Mental Health Support in Emergency Planning and Disaster Risk Mitigation Strategies"

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Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript titled "Integrating Mental Health Support in Emergency Planning and Disaster Risk Mitigation Strategies," and I would like to commend you on your important work addressing the integration of mental health into disaster response strategies.

In my overall assessment, your manuscript is a significant contribution to the field, highlighting a critical gap in current emergency preparedness frameworks. The relevance of your topic, especially in light of recent global events, cannot be overstated. The arguments presented are compelling and well-structured, making a strong case for the need for comprehensive mental health strategies.

To enhance the quality of your work, I recommend:

1. Expanding the literature review to include recent studies and examples of successful mental health integration in disaster planning.

2. Providing a more detailed methodological framework to support your findings.

3. Outlining specific, actionable recommendations for stakeholders to implement mental health strategies effectively.

Here are some examples of recent studies and cases that can be included in the expanded literature review:

1. Integrating Mental Health in Disaster Response:

Elshazly, M., Rebolledo, O., & Rosenbaum, S. (2022). "Integration of Mental Health into   Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for the Monsoon Season in Bangladesh." This study discusses the integration of mental health services in response planning for climate-related disasters, providing valuable insights into effective strategies.

2. Mental Health Needs During Public Health Emergencies:

Gaiser, M., Buche, J., Baum, N. M., & Grazier, K. (2023). "Mental Health Needs Due to Disasters: Implications for Behavioral Health Workforce Planning During the COVID-19 Pandemic." This paper highlights the mental health impact of public health emergencies and suggests workforce planning strategies to address these needs.

3. Appraising Mental Health Guidelines:

Dückers, M. L. A., van Hoof, W., Willems, A., & te Brake, H. (2022). "Appraising Evidence-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Guidelines—PART II: A Content Analysis with Implications for Disaster Risk Reduction." This systematic review assesses existing mental health guidelines and emphasizes the need for evidence-based practices in disaster response.

4. Collaborative Approaches to Mental Health in Disasters:

Newnham, E. A., Dzidic, P. L., Gibbs, L., Murray, V., & Kayano, R. (2023). "The Asia Pacific Disaster Mental Health Network: Collaborative Research to Advance Mental Health and Community Resilience." This article discusses collaborative research efforts aimed at improving mental health resilience in the face of disasters.

5. Psychosocial Support Frameworks:

Saltzman, L., Hansel, T., & Ferreira, R. J. (2024). "Climate Change and Disaster Mental Health: Addressing Burnout and Leveraging Wearable Technology for First Responder and the Healthcare Workforce Retention." This study explores innovative approaches to mental health support for first responders, particularly in the context of climate change-related disasters.

Here are some suggested methodologies to support findings:

1. Qualitative Interviews: Conduct interviews with disaster response professionals, mental health practitioners, and community members to gather firsthand accounts of the challenges and successes in integrating mental health support during disasters. This qualitative data can provide rich insights and context for the findings.

2. Surveys and Questionnaires: Develop and distribute surveys to stakeholders in disaster planning and response to assess their current practices regarding mental health integration. This quantitative data can help identify common barriers and areas for improvement.

3. Case Studies: Analyze specific case studies of successful mental health integration in disaster response from various regions. This could include examining the response to specific disasters (e.g., hurricanes, wildfires) where mental health support was effectively implemented.

4. Focus Groups Discussion: Organize focus groups with community members affected by disasters to understand their mental health needs and perceptions of available support services. This participatory approach can highlight community-driven solutions.

5. Meta-Analysis: Conduct a meta-analysis of existing studies on mental health interventions in disaster contexts to identify patterns, effectiveness, and gaps in the literature. This could provide a comprehensive overview of what has been effective in various settings.

6. Policy Analysis: Review and analyze existing policies related to disaster response and mental health at local, national, and international levels. This can help identify policy gaps and inform recommendations for future improvements.

Incorporating these suggestions will strengthen your manuscript and further its impact on policy and practice.