

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Calls to integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into disaster risk reduction (DRR) will never be enough: this is an urgent and huge task for authorities and health actors. For this reason, I am grateful to dr. Kouhirostamkolaie for his reminder. Honestly, I am not familiar with the US context and I appreciated the introduction on the historical process of configuration of preparedness and response mechanisms.

Nevertheless, the paper does not seem relying on a strong theoretical framework. Too often the bio-medical approach, focused on individual mental health conditions, and the social approach, rather based on the community dynamics, are confused. I strongly invite to better define each approach and articulate the interaction between those two synergic kinds of interventions.

I believe that the paper could gain in clarity if, for instance, the cycle from preparedness to response will be clearly described. At this stage, the different phases seems overlapped.

The reference to vulnerable communities is an important point, but it deserves, in my opinion, a deeper explication about the vicious circle of pre-existing vulnerabilities and discriminations with the higher exposure to risks and their negative outcomes in terms of mental health.

His contribution could be much more effective if the author could sharpen his recommendations in a more straightforward way. I fully agree with the idea of integrating professional support with the long-term support self-organized by and for communities, but it is not clear to me how communities could be better involved, nor how communities' support works.

Considering the ongoing work on this topic in humanitarian settings and some potential useful parallelism and lessons learnt, I invite to add to the references the work done by the IASC working group, available here:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-emergency-settings/technical-note-linking-disaster-risk-reduction-drr-and-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-mhpss>