

The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19

International lessons for local and national government recovery and renewal

Twenty-third briefing: Week beginning 19th October 2020

Produced by Professor Duncan Shaw, Dr Jennifer Bealt with guest briefing by Dr Marianne Sensier and Professor Fiona Devine, The University of Manchester, UK

What is 'The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19'?

The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19 is aimed at those who plan and implement recovery from COVID-19, including government emergency planners and resilience officers.

We bring together international lessons and examples which may prompt your thinking on the recovery from COVID-19, as well as other information from a range of sources and a focus on one key topic. The lessons are taken from websites (e.g. UN, WHO), documents (e.g. from researchers and governments), webinars (e.g. those facilitated by WEF, GCRN), and other things we find.

We aim to report what others have done without making any judgement on the effectiveness of the approaches or recommending any specific approach.

This week

We have provided four briefings:

Briefing A: Levelling up regional economic resilience:

Policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Briefing B: Lessons you may find helpful from across the world

Briefing C: Preparing for compound disasters during COVID-19

Briefing D: Useful Webinars

**Please register at
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receive future briefings**

Other information

If this is the first briefing you have received and would like to access the previous ones, they can be found [here](#)

If you would be willing to contribute your knowledge to the briefing (via a 30-minute interview) please contact duncan.shaw-2@manchester.ac.uk

We also produce a blog series which you can access [here](#) along with other news about our team and our work.

Briefing A: Levelling up regional economic resilience: Policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Written by Dr Marianne Sensier and Professor Fiona Devine, The University of Manchester

Introduction

The UK has the greatest spatial inequality among European countries to such an extent that the Government has made it a central mission to 'level up' UK regions. In the 10 years of austerity policy in the UK, output growth has been subdued along with growth in investment, real wages and productivity¹. Regional disparities have widened since the financial crisis of 2008, with some regions demonstrating greater economic resilience while others have been slow to recover.

In our analysis of the UK's regional economies, we set out to understand how resilient they were to the 2008 global financial crisis. In this research, business cycle turning points were dated (in output, employment and labour productivity) to determine when the region was experiencing recession, how they recovered, and then compared the recovery growth rate to the rate of growth before the onset of the crisis. By quantifying expansion gains and recessions losses for the economic resilience dimensions of resistance, recovery and renewal between the peak and trough turning points of the cycle a 'resilience scorecard' was created to rank and map the regional resilience for UK sub-regions².

Economic Resilience in UK Regions

Regional economic resilience

Regional economic resilience is defined as: "the capacity of a regional or local economy to withstand or recover from market, competitive and environmental shocks to its developmental growth path, if necessary by undergoing adaptive changes to its economic structures and its social and institutional arrangements, so as to maintain or restore its previous developmental path, or transit to a new sustainable path characterized by a fuller and more productive use of its physical, human and environmental resources"³.

The root cause of shocks to a regional economy could be global (the 2020 coronavirus pandemic), national (1990s house price crash), or local (closing of a factory) in origin. In contrast to previous studies that largely rely on the onset of the recession to be in the same time period for each region within a country, this research dates individual

¹ For references see Sensier, M. and Devine, F. (2020). "Levelling up regional resilience: policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis", An Industrial Strategy for Tomorrow Policy Series, no. 5, Bennett Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge. <https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/media/uploads/files/Indust. Strat. 5 Levelling up.pdf>

² The details of this methodology can be found in Sensier, M. and Devine, F. (2020). "Understanding regional economic performance and resilience in the UK: trends since the Global Financial Crisis", National Institute Economic Review, Volume 253, pages R18-R28, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/nie.2020.27>

³ From Martin, R.L. and Sunley, P. (2015). 'On the notion of regional economic resilience: conceptualisation and explanation', Journal of Economic Geography, 15:1, 1-42. DOI:10.1093/jeg/lbu015

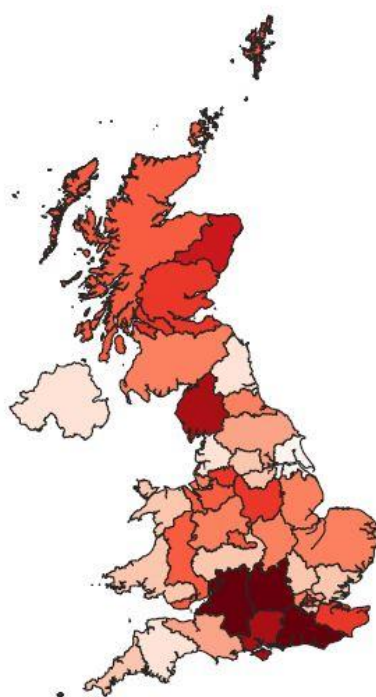
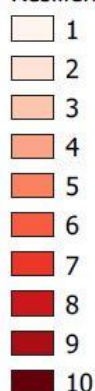
region's business cycle turning points (peaks and troughs). This allows some regions to lead and some to lag the movements in the national business cycle.

Mapping Regional Resilience

The research compared the regional loss to the national loss (as the benchmark) over the recession to determine the economic resilience dimension of resistance⁴. The duration of recession is noted along with how quickly it recovers its pre-crisis peak. The regional growth paths are compared before and after the crisis by calculating the expansion average growth rate before the recession (the 5 year average of the growth rate – the first difference of the natural log), including the date of the peak year. Following the recession, the rate of growth for the series is calculated after the trough by taking the second expansion average of the growth rate for 5 years. The renewal measure compares the growth rates 5 years before the recession and then 5 years after the recession. A greater rate of increase after the recession indicates that the region is accelerating to a higher growth path. The resilience scorecard compiles the statistics for each region and three time series (GVA, employment and productivity) between 1998-2018.

Figure 1: Map of Resilience Scorecard for UK NUTS⁵ 2 level regions

Resilience Scorecard



Note: 10 is the most resilient region
and 1 is the least resilient region

⁴Sensier, M. and Devine, F. (2020).

https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/media/uploads/files/Indust._Strat._5_Levelling_up.pdf

⁵NUTS: Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) is a geographical nomenclature subdividing the economic territory of the European Union (EU) into regions at three different levels (NUTS 1, 2 and 3 respectively, moving from larger to smaller territorial units).

We found that the most resilient NUTS 1 region was the South East of England, followed by the South West. The least resilient area was Northern Ireland, then in England the regions of the North East and Yorkshire and The Humber (where the pre-recession productivity level had not recovered). **The summary of the resilience scorecard for NUTS 2 sub-regions is shown in Figure 1.** When analysing the sub-regions at the NUTS 2 level⁶ it emerges that sub-regions within the South East were the most resilient, along with Bristol, Cumbria and Aberdeen. Other sub-regions within the South West (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset) perform poorly on output and productivity indicators, so they are lower down in the scorecard. The least resilient regions are East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, Lancashire and Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

Factors that affect resilience were analysed in our study by correlating determinants with the variables for each stage of the business cycle. Sub-regions with greater loss of output and productivity in the recession correlated with areas of greater population density and with more new enterprise start-ups. In the jobs recession, sub-regions with greater concentrations of less knowledge intensive services had greater employment loss. In the expansion phase following the financial crisis, generally, resilient regions had: greater shares of the population with higher level qualifications; higher shares of managers and professionals; more specialised industries (particularly in knowledge intensive services and high tech); lower concentrations of low-medium tech manufacturing industry; denser populations; more investment; greater amount of new enterprise start-ups; and they were quicker to recover.

Along with economic resilience it is also important to understand the well-being of people and the sustainability of places to help with a stronger recovery. We analyse the resilience of Greater Manchester and find that the City of Manchester has been the most resilient district (particularly in the recovery of jobs since the crisis), but peripheral towns (Bolton and Wigan) have continued to suffer; policies targeted at dense agglomerations do not seem to have benefitted surrounding areas⁷. When the analysis was widened to examine indicators for societal well-being, Manchester ranked poorly for inclusive growth, particularly with poor health and life expectancy outcomes. Within Manchester the proceeds of growth are not being shared equitably to improve the life chances of its poorest citizens. Preston has enjoyed increasing output and a recovery in productivity but at the same time as falling levels of employment. It has scored better on good growth measures in that it has reduced unemployment and the number of people earning less than the real living wage as a direct result of the community wealth building policies. It ranks highly for measures of health and income equality and local conditions which contribute to inclusive growth.

Adaptation of policy responses in recovery from the crisis

The current crisis brought about by the coronavirus pandemic has seen immediate UK government reaction in the form of support for businesses (Job Retention Scheme, business rate relief, local grants and business loan schemes), the self-employed and a number of sectors. Although too early to judge these measures, the response

⁶ See Sensier, M. and Devine, F. (2020). "Levelling Up Regional Resilience Following the Coronavirus Pandemic", Economics Discussion Paper Series, University of Manchester, No. EDP-2008, <http://hummedia.manchester.ac.uk/schools/soass/economics/discussionpapers/EDP-2008.pdf>

⁷ See Sensier, M. and Uyarra, E. (2020). "Investigating the Governance Mechanisms that Sustain Regional Economic Resilience and Inclusive Growth", Economics Discussion Paper Series, University of Manchester, No. EDP-2005. <http://hummedia.manchester.ac.uk/schools/soass/economics/discussionpapers/EDP-2005.pdf>

to this crisis has been led by the central state with some resources redistributed by local authorities. We assume that as countries gradually emerge from lockdown an adjustment process will lead to a 'new normal' until a vaccine is developed. Social distancing measures and further local lockdowns will continue and this could inflict lasting economic damage to some communities as employers are unable to continue with much lower demand for particular services, such as hospitality and tourism. We assume that those places least economically resilient in the recovery from the 2008 financial crisis may also be least resilient to this current crisis, and will need greater support to assist in the recovery phase from this recession. Directing recovery policies to the places that need the most support now will help those least resilient sub-regions emerge stronger from this crisis.

The direct and indirect impact of this crisis will probably last for a number of years and further policies are needed such as:

- More flexible job retention for part-time working and training, to tackle the scarring effect of the recession for workers, particularly those who are new to the labour market
- . In cities, agglomeration advantages may turn into disadvantages with greater need for social distancing, requiring significant investment to improve infrastructure, accelerating the roll out of superfast broadband to encourage working from home, and investing in alternative transport schemes, such as improving cycle and walking routes

Strengthening the resilience of local industrial strategies

Local industrial strategies are being introduced across England to improve productivity and create more inclusive growth to benefit people and communities. The challenge now is for localities to increase their resilience as they move into the recovery phase when the public health dangers have receded. In recovery from the crisis there has been a rise of mutual aid community organisation and support for local business. Local industrial strategies have a crucial role to play in the pro-active recovery of regions from the crisis, to encourage reorientation and renewal within local economies. There is a need to prioritise the environment, (to reach the net zero carbon target by 2050), and social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of current and future generations.

There is an opportunity for government to channel resources into local industrial strategies to offer greater support for firms as they emerge from this crisis. The government needs to increase local capacity and link up the provision between local government and LEPs. As the Local Resilience Forums have been at the forefront on this crisis they could help direct investment into localising manufacturing capacity to supply the health service (for example with personal protective equipment) so local communities can cope with further outbreaks. An innovation voucher scheme was introduced in Stuttgart during the financial crisis which offered grants to firms in the automotive sector to diversify into electric vehicle development. The local industrial strategies could offer green innovation vouchers to firms following the crisis to incentivise investment into green activity to strengthen resilience. These will enhance the capacity of firms to adjust their products and processes and adapt in response to the climate crisis. Environmental policies and green infrastructure investments should be linked up with work retention, training schemes and finance provision to shore up existing employers and provide new employment opportunities to enhance regional economies.

A large number of companies have furloughed staff and even closed down. This has particularly affected those in low paid sectors, such as hospitality, which led the way in employment growth out of the last recession. As many

firms have suspended operations they may find if demand does not pick up in their sector they may be forced to go out of business. The government could incentivise SMEs to work with universities and take on graduate apprentices; mothballed firms could be offered cash lifelines where equity is bought by the state for them to offer goods and services that are needed locally; and firms could be pivoted into socially responsible and sustainable business activity.

Consider policies to strengthen the resilience of local industrial strategies⁸ in recovery from the crisis, including:

- Setting up a co-operative development network to encourage co-operative company development (as they are found to be more productive and resilient)
- Encouraging demand-side policies and joining this up with business support services, education and skills opportunities (work retention and training programmes) to improve local supply chains
- Increasing the pay for key workers in the foundational economy, as these are generally in lower paid sectors that predominate in lagging regions, but have become the vital front line services in the coronavirus pandemic

Conclusions

Most UK regions' real productivity series have returned to their pre-recession levels (apart from Yorkshire and Humberside) but rapid job growth in most regions (apart from Scotland) has reduced productivity growth rates, possibly due to the growth of low paid employment and the 'hollowing out' of middle earning jobs which are easier to automate.

The English regions of the South East, South West and the Midlands rank highest in the resilience scorecard but when looking at sub-regions within these some are not doing as well. Sub-regions with the greatest resilience have not always provided equitable distribution of growth to their poorest citizens. In recovery from the crisis it is important to understand the resistance and recovery of places at the local level. Timely regional metrics need to be compared to understand how places have recovered from shocks in the past.

Policies are needed that encourage reorientation and renewal for local areas in line with challenges in the government's industrial strategy. The financial crisis may have provided a window of opportunity for some places to develop new institutional arrangements and to diversify their own economies. Examples of this in the UK include Greater Manchester brokering devolution deals with central government; Preston following community wealth building policies; and the West Midlands encouraging firms to diversify into higher value activities in the automotive industry. It is essential to learn from previous crises and to adapt policies to strengthen local capacity. Most citizens across the globe have been affected by this pandemic and the call for a transformed society is growing. Bold economic policies are needed to transform how the economy provides for its citizens and the planet before this window of opportunity closes.

⁸ Sensier, M. and Devine, F. (2018). Designing a resilient local industrial strategy, chapter 24, Craig Berry e-book, 'What we really mean when we talk about industrial strategy', from <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/future-economies/publications/what-we-really-mean-when-we-talk-about-industrial-strategy/>

Briefing B. Lessons you may find helpful from across the world

We provide the lessons under six categories, with sub-categories for ease of reference. We have selected lessons that are of specific interest to the recovery process although many also relate to the response phase, and the likely overlap between response and recovery.

This week our lessons on humanitarian assistance focus on gender inequality during recovery, and providing women-led recovery responses and services, considering how to manage Remembrance Day gatherings, and COVID-safe alternatives to traditional Halloween or Bonfire Night celebrations. Economic lessons consider the need to address economic inequalities between different groups in society. Infrastructure lessons focus on the digital literacy of teachers, in an increasingly digitized world. Environmental lessons consider how to promote conservation agriculture to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and food insecurity during the pandemic. Communications lessons focus on innovative way to disseminate risk communication through humour, and developing easy-to-use websites to disseminate information about local lockdowns. Governance and legislation includes lessons on evaluating the accessibility and inclusivity of current evacuation plans.

Table of Contents

Humanitarian Assistance	8
Community engagement	8
Economic	11
Economic strategy	11
Infrastructure.....	12
Environmental	13
General Environment	13
Communications.....	14
Targeted communication	14
General communications.....	15
Governance and legislation	15
Emergency planning	15

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Humanitarian Assistance			
Community engagement	<p>Consider how to encourage localised women-led recovery efforts through gender inclusive and responsive services. Research has shown that disasters impact men and women differently. While COVID-19 has been shown to disproportionately affect men physically, women are more likely to be adversely impacted by disasters generally, and more likely to be failed by recovery efforts that do not meet their needs. Consider how to develop gender-inclusive disaster recovery that considers impacts of COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tackle the drivers of gender inequalities in areas such as access to healthcare and economic recovery e.g. impacts of COVID-19 on low paid precarious work, health risks to care workers ▪ Include multi-stakeholder processes that ensure women's rights organisations are included in designing national response and recovery measures – this should also include groups representing vulnerable or marginalised women ▪ Assess bid for new funding using an additional criteria of impact on gender responsiveness ▪ Increase funding and capacity development for local and national women's groups; including for action against gender-based violence which saw a global increase during the pandemic ▪ Strengthen COVID-19/disaster responses to address women's leadership roles, not only their vulnerability to the virus ▪ Examine the availability of gender-responsive health services and vital sexual and reproductive health needs at local level ▪ Consider communications designed for women, to reach women. Women and girls may be less likely to receive and contribute to accurate COVID-19 information due to patriarchal norms/structures ▪ Include the voices and rights of trans women in response and recovery so they are equally involved in determining needs 	Pacific Island Countries	<p>https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/STPC-AdvocacyReport2020-FINAL-pages.pdf</p> <p>https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/why-we-need-integrate-gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment-disaster-recovery-and-how-do-it</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Community engagement	<p>Consider how to manage Remembrance Day gatherings. In the UK, war veterans attending Remembrance Sunday commemorating the deaths of those in the armed forces across the Commonwealth, will be exempt from new laws restricting gatherings. Many of these people are vulnerable to COVID-19 as a result of age or underlying health conditions which has meant many local councils cancelling parades and church services; urging people to pay their respects in other ways and at home this year. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If parades take place in your area how to ensure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rigorous risk assessments are carried out, including the enforcement of social distancing ○ That the event does not draw much larger crowds, and what contingencies are in place if this happens ○ That people, especially elderly and vulnerable veterans understand the risks posed to them by participating in a parade ○ That PPE is provided for event organisers and participants ▪ If parades do not take place consider designating a period of a few weeks for people to pay their respects and lay wreaths at memorials, rather all on one day ▪ Live stream local events that include small select parties of individuals laying wreaths e.g. in Bradford where parades are cancelled, The Lord Mayor will lay a wreath at each memorial site across the district ▪ Encourage residents to pay their respects at home in different ways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By observing the national two-minute silence ○ Displaying poppies or other symbols (posters, children's drawings etc.) in home windows ○ Using hashtags on social media such as #Bradfordremembers with pictures of acts of remembrance at home or school 	UK	<p>https://www.thelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/18788077.covid-pandemic-leads-changes-remembrance-day-events/</p> <p>https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/remembrance-sunday-veterans-coronavirus-ban-gathering-risk-areas-b996583.html</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Community engagement	<p>Consider how to continue to provide fun family events for children during COVID-19. Children have been particularly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, so continuing to provide child-friendly events is an important way to safeguard their well-being. Consider how and what advice to provide to the public to make celebrations such as Halloween and Bonfire Night COVID-19 safe. Consider widely publicising the safety concerns of some activities such as trick or treating and firework parties, and provide ideas for low risk alternatives. Consider suggesting:</p> <p>Halloween</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual trick or treat parties or costume parties Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them Having a scavenger trick-or-treat hunt with your household members in or around your home Look for community events focused on safe ways to have fun e.g. children can colour in Halloween posters and display them in a window at home so, on Halloween children can get dressed up and look for posters in their local area and get a treat from their guardian for each poster spotted – ensuring social distancing and ‘the rule of six’ <p>Bonfire night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instead of putting on fireworks displays, consider lighting up local landmarks at certain times. In Dudley, UK the council intends to honour NHS workers by also lighting up hospitals. The display is also accompanied by music played on local radio stations Consider secret firework displays which are planned at undisclosed locations to avoid crowds gathering – providing locations to ensure full area coverage Livestream displays on social media Heighten awareness of firework safety as COVID-19 restrictions may result in more firework displays at homes. Promote following the firework code and relevant COVID-19 restrictions 	UK USA	<p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween</p> <p>https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Halloween-COVID-Safety-Tips.aspx</p> <p>https://captain-fantastic.co.uk/trick-or-treat/</p> <p>https://www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk/da/344971/Halloween.html</p> <p>https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/18783282.free-bonfire-night-fireworks-display-promised-dudley/</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Economic			
Economic strategy	<p>Consider how to address economic inequalities between different groups in society. In the USA, Black Communities are amongst some of the hardest financially hit communities as a result of the economic fallout from COVID-19. Recovery to date has shown to neglect women, Latino and Black Americans. Similar patterns are seen globally, with marginalised and already vulnerable groups being hit the hardest economically. Like many countries, this is a result of pervasive existing inequalities in access to income, assets, health, education, formal employment, equal opportunity, social protection, internet and public services. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explicitly acknowledging the heightened economic vulnerabilities of specific socioeconomic groups – and address these with targeted measures ▪ How to encourage broad public participation and collective action in government planning and response to effectively address existing inequalities and the needs of vulnerable populations as well as minimise elite capture and urban bias ▪ How policies should account for constraints faced by specific marginalized groups in terms of economic recovery such as job precarity, lack of education, low wages ▪ That economic recovery programmes that do not address these inequalities run the risk of reinforcing and deepening inequalities into the future which can burden economies and health systems ▪ Assessing funding proposals for their impact on different societal groups 	<p>USA</p> <p>All</p>	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/oct/05/covid-has-highlighted-americas-flaws-says-bank-boss-jamie-dimon</p> <p>https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CA8843EN.pdf</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Infrastructure			
Education and training	<p>Consider the digital literacy of teachers, and their capacity to teach children effectively in an increasingly digitized world. Computers and other digital devices are increasingly being used to teach children, and as part of children's education into today's digital economy. However, research shows that technology's impact on student learning has remained limited, partly because the rapid adoption of technology has not been accompanied by appropriate training of teachers. COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of digital technologies. It is important that teachers have the capacity and capabilities to use emerging and new technologies, and to impart these skills onto students as they will be required to navigate and work in a digital world. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to develop partnerships between schools and the technology industry to help teachers develop the skills they need to educate children effectively How to offer and encourage teachers to undertake additional qualifications to support the curriculum e.g. Fujitsu's Certificate of Digital Excellence (CoDE) which is a free, online learning experience for teachers, which helps educate them on topics such as Artificial Intelligence, cyber Virtual Reality, Big Data and Programming and Robotics. Each of these has been recognised as a technology or skill needed by the next generation to help with their future careers. 	UK	<p>https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11423-020-09767-4</p> <p>http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/</p> <p>https://www.qaeeducation.co.uk/computing/digital-skills-fujitsu</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Environmental			
General Environment	<p>Consider how to promote conservation agriculture to mitigate the impacts of climate change. COVID-19 has resulted in food shortages in certain parts of the world due to disrupted supply chains. The compounding impacts of poor harvests as a result of climate change requires the adoption of new farming techniques to protect the environment and lives and livelihoods. Conservation agriculture promotes minimal soil disturbance, crop diversification and the use of organic fertilizer to conserve and improve the soil, and makes more efficient use of natural resources. It is therefore climate-smart from an adaptation as well as mitigation viewpoint. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introducing environmentally friendly legislation and incentives. In the UK, the Agriculture Bill is reforming farming to provide subsidies not simply for cultivating land (which is the current EU approach) but for delivering “public goods” e.g. sequestering carbon in trees or soil, enhancing habitat with pollinator-friendly flowers ▪ Moving beyond a model of short-term farming subsidies e.g. through stronger legislative commitments to long term funding, domestic environmental and animal welfare standards, and safeguards on import standards ▪ How to promote the benefits of conservation agriculture for farmers including financial savings that can be made due to less use of machinery, labour and pesticides ▪ Using digital technologies to disseminate important information on how to limit post-harvest losses, and improve better access markets and financial services ▪ Encouraging the public to continue to ‘buy local’ during the pandemic (e.g. through farms practicing conservation agriculture), as this supports local, sustainable food supply chains 	<p>Zambia</p> <p>UK</p>	<p>https://www.insuranceilience.org/zambia-how-smallholder-farmers-are-adapting-to-climate-change-despite-covid-19/</p> <p>https://www.wcl.org.uk/what-does-covid-19-mean-for-food,-farming-and-nature.asp</p>

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
Communications			
Targeted communication	<p>Consider how humour may be used in the right settings as a risk communication and engagement tool. While humour is not readily identifiable with disaster risk management, it has been shown as a useful tool to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the audience, breaking through boredom Enable new ideas to emerge Invite people to change their frames of reference Creates a safe space to be candid and innovative Envision how things can go wrong/could change <p>One means of sensitively using humour is through cartoons. From week 13 of the speaker series, “Cities on the Frontline”, the World Bank and the Global Resilient Cities Network commissioned cartoonists to create cartoons that represented the weekly theme to create cartoons that engage webinar participants differently. Consider how to sensitively use humour through outputs like cartoons to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Augment frank discussions about risk, meaningful engagement, and provide a safe space for respectful disagreement Explain information to individuals who may not have the technical experience in disasters e.g. there is often an expectation that communities who at risk are making decisions the same way that technical specialists do, yet, most individuals who are at risk in a floodplain, for instance, derive some benefit from living there. Thus, there are different decision-making factors to consider. Cartoons can help change the frame of reference for both risk specialists and communities Highlight potential problems. Cartoons can serve as metaphors, helping participants to see their role or project in a new light Provide non aggressive commentary on particular situations, especially those which are sensitive Encourage participatory discussions by depicting ideas at their extreme logical conclusions, or challenging positions or proposals to inspire dialogue about risk 	Afghanistan	http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/759291593573896277/pdf/An-Exploration-of-Case-Studies.pdf

Recovery: Categories of impact	Actions	Country/ Region	Source
General communications	Consider how to develop an easy-to-use website to disseminate information about local lockdowns. The COVID-19 pandemic has produced a huge amount of information from a variety of sources, not least on the rules for local lockdown. In the UK, COVID-19 rules vary depending on whether you live in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. In addition, millions of people are also affected by local restrictions. In Greater Manchester, for example, these restrictions have differed between metropolitan boroughs. The BBC have created a webpage 'Local lockdown rules: Check Covid restrictions in your area' that provides an example of how to support the public in finding information about COVID-19 restrictions in their areas, or areas of interest, through postcode searches. This helps to provide information about restrictions in individuals' locations and that of their friends, family or workplaces.	UK	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54373904
Governance and legislation			
Emergency planning	Consider evaluating the accessibility and inclusivity of current evacuation plans. Vulnerable people and people with disabilities are most at risk during disasters. The impacts of COVID-19 have exacerbated the risk to vulnerable people and people with disabilities, and has exacerbated the risks for marginalised groups of people. Consider assessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well evacuation plans incorporate vulnerable people and people with disabilities. This should include consideration of compounding impacts on at risk groups from COVID-19, and new vulnerable groups such as those with new underlying health conditions from contracting the virus The inclusiveness of disaster preparedness activities e.g. the accessibility of hygiene facilities, and accessibility of early warning messaging for those with disabilities, in poverty or with limited access to information The availability of alternative evacuation accommodation (rather than mass shelters) for particularly vulnerable people, where specialised care can be provided 	Bangladesh	https://www.preventionweb.net/files/submissions/73645_187snetcovid19impactinsouthasia.pdf

Briefing C: Preparing for compound disasters during COVID-19

Compound disaster pose a serious risk during the pandemic, which requires a dual focus on the constant threat of COVID-19 to people's health and to economies, and on natural disasters. The compound nature of natural disasters and COVID-19 intensifies the scale and broadens the scope of human, social, economic and environmental impacts⁹. Disasters have continued to rise year on year. In 2019, EM-DAT recorded 396 natural disasters globally, that led to 11,755 deaths, affected 95 million people, and resulted in 103 billion US\$ in economic losses across the world. Floods were the deadliest type of disaster accounting for 43.5% of deaths, followed by extreme temperatures at 25% (mainly due to heat waves in Europe) and storms at 21.5%. Storms affected the highest number of people, accounting for 35% of the total people affected¹⁰.

This trend has continued, 2020 is on course to be the hottest year on record¹¹ - impacts of this have been witnessed in parts of Africa and the Middle East where crops have been devastated by locust swarms that begun breeding several months earlier than normal due to weather conditions¹². Of the 132 unique extreme weather events that have occurred in 2020 (as of late September), 92 have overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic¹³.

Learning from two cases: Vanuatu and Bangladesh

A recent example of a large scale disaster during COVID-19 is the category 5 Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold that struck Vanuatu on 5 April 2020, affecting over 130,000 people (approx. 43% of the population) and resulting in three deaths. TC Harold caused significant damage to schools, medical facilities, homes, agricultural crops, telecommunications and the local boat fleet¹⁴. More vulnerable groups such as women were reportedly dealing with multiple concurrent crises, namely drought, scarcity of portable water, volcanic ash, acid rain and sulphur gas as there are also several active volcanoes¹⁵.

While Australia did provide humanitarian aid, strict protocols were implemented when delivering supplies to minimise any chance of transmission to Vanuatu¹⁶, and to date there are no, nor have been any cases of COVID-19 in Vanuatu¹⁷. However, much of the humanitarian support was offered remotely which demonstrates a shift in how aid is provided e.g. aerial surveillance to assess the scale of impact, logistics support to release relief items that were locally pre-positioned.

The cyclone that hit Bangladesh in May 2020 presents the opposite scenario. The impacts of cyclone Amphan were lessened by decades of disaster risk reduction strategies and a weakening of the storm as it made

⁹ https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/tc_harold_and_covid-19_vanuatu_recovery_strategy_v3_130820.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.cred.be/publications>

¹¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/27/meteorologists-say-2020-on-course-to-be-hottest-year-since-records-began>

¹² <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>

¹³ <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/press-release/least-51-6-million-people-doubly-hit-climate-related-disasters-covid-19-new-analysis-ifrc-reveals/>

¹⁴ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/vanuatu/development-assistance/Pages/supporting-cyclone-recovery-reconstruction-vanuatu>

¹⁵ <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/STPC-AdvocacyReport2020-FINAL-pages.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/crisis-hub/Pages/tropical-cyclone-harold>

¹⁷ <https://covid19.gov.vu/>

landfall, which meant the death toll was in the dozens rather than thousands¹⁸. However, the large number of COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh had serious ramifications for ‘normal’ disaster response. Coastal communities in the path of the cyclone had to make choices between braving the cyclone’s impacts as it hit land, and risking COVID-19 infection as 2.2 million people in Bangladesh were evacuated to shelters¹⁹.

The combination of these cases – heavy impact on people and resources from a natural disaster, combined with high COVID-19 infection rates – demonstrate the worst case for which emergency planners and the humanitarian community need to plan. Going forward, disaster affected countries will be impacted by limitations faced globally, as countries contend with COVID-19 and the impacts this has on their own health systems and economies, and the impacts of this on offers of humanitarian aid. Additionally, logistical support, made more complex by travel restrictions and pressures on global supply chains for resources also needs to be considered, for example:²⁰

- Impacts of restricting travel on providing and receiving support, including legislation to override COVID-19 restrictions for assistance
- Implications for efficient response if 14 day isolation periods are required e.g. if dispatching urgent search and rescue teams; how do you choose between saving people from a collapsed building or (re)infecting a community with COVID-19?
- Availability of reliable partnerships for international support including financing, mutual aid and personnel when many countries’ own health systems and economies are under huge strain
- Availability of appropriate protective equipment for all personnel deployed to support a humanitarian effort, including those working in-country
- Pressures on internal mobilization of resources, including the health system which is required for first response to both COVID and disasters
- Risk of infection during evacuations while travelling to and from evacuation centres and residing there

Despite these challenges there are measures which can help countries better prepare for compound COVID-19 disasters. Consider how to:

- Reconceptualise all disaster response as simultaneous COVID-19 response and mitigation of virus transmission
- Develop strategies that incorporate both climate change adaptation and reducing global health threats, by building COVID-19 into disaster risk reduction strategies. Use pre-existing resources such as the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, and it’s related Public Health Addendum²¹, or the UN’s Build Back Better approach²²

¹⁸ https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/05/south-asia-confronts-double-disaster-cyclone-and-covid-19?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WRI+News+and+Views+%28WRI+Insights+Blog%2C+News%2C+and+Publications+%7C+World+Resources+Institute%29

¹⁹ https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/05/south-asia-confronts-double-disaster-cyclone-and-covid-19?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WRI+News+and+Views+%28WRI+Insights+Blog%2C+News%2C+and+Publications+%7C+World+Resources+Institute%29

²⁰ <http://nautil.us/blog/a-warning-from-history-about-simultaneous-disasters>

²¹ https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/assets/toolkit/documents/Disaster%20Resilience%20Scorecard_Public%20Health%20Addendum%20Ver1%20Final_July%202018.pdf

²² https://www.unisdr.org/files/53213_bbb.pdf

- Partner with disaster risk reduction and emergency planning organisations to integrate health management and disaster management
- Integrate data on COVID-19 and disasters to inform early warning systems, and invest resources into upgrading and expanding systems to manage complex situations
- Deliver preparedness messaging about disasters and other diseases, alongside COVID-19 advice, to keep issues at the forefront of people's minds and to ensure communities have up-to-date information about mitigating risks posed to them, and the support services available²³
- Build an understanding based on expertise and skills guided by science, while also building capacity in communities to better understand the hazards of a double disaster and plan collective action²⁴
- Keep messaging simple. COVID-19 messaging is already fraught with confusion and misinformation, detailing the risks from other hazards may doubly confuse people if not done in a simple way

The influences of climate change has resulted in disasters which have become seasonal, reoccurring and protracted. This, combined with COVID-19 results in compound disasters that are continually unravelling, which blurs the lines between response, recovery, preparedness, and prevention²⁵. It is therefore important to consider humanitarian assistance for a world that is facing two chronic challenges; COVID-19 and climate change.

²³ <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/79>

²⁴ https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/05/south-asia-confronts-double-disaster-cyclone-and-covid-19?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WRI_News_and_Views+%28WRI+Insights+Blog%2C+News%2C+and+Publications+%7C+World+Resources+Institute%29

²⁵ https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/tc_harold_and_covid19_vanuatu_recovery_strategy_v3_130820.pdf

Briefing D: Useful webinars

Taken place in the past week	Webinar Title	Link to presentation
8.10.2020	Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the Icelandic population and the public health response	https://www.ed.ac.uk/usher/news-events/covid-19-webinars
8.10.2020	Cities on the Frontline Speaker Series: Risk and Crisis Communication	https://medium.com/@RCitiesNetwork/coronavirus-speaker-series-sharing-knowledge-to-respond-with-resilience-5a8787a1eef5
13.10.2020	Disaster Risk Governance in Context of COVID-19	https://www.undrr.org/event/asia-pacific-iddrr-webinar-disaster-risk-governance-context-covid-19
Coming up		
Date	Webinar Title	Link to registration
4.11.2020	The Impact of COVID19 on the Environment - Observations and Insights	https://www.iopconferences.org/iop/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=980478&eventID=1558&CSPCHD=004001000000MDetccvkqDlpeG7poV\$NQ1M0oXXRbv7Ft96SjE
5.11.2020	Communications in the time of Covid-19	https://www.slcc.co.uk/event/communications-in-the-time-of-covid-19-webinar-5th-november/
12.11.2020	UK Productivity and COVID-19	https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/events/vital-topics-webinar-uk-productivity-and-covid-19-with-juergen-maier/