PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2021

WS405

DEALING WITH DISASTERS FAST AND SLOW: HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE FOR COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

| BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that many Health Systems around the world are poorly prepared for the co-occurrence of acute and chronic stressors. What will it take to enhance the resilience of health systems?

One critical step will be to make better use of data and information on environmental drivers of health at a variety of time scales, from the immediate time scales required to manage increasingly severe extreme events, to the decadal time scale required to understand potential changes in diseases and other health threats related to climate change. Health systems need to have situational awareness of multiple co-occuring disasters, including weather-related disasters, while at the same time require improved anticipation of emerging risks and future stressors, like zoonotic disease spillover and food or water insecurity.

In addition to weather and climate data, climate resilient health systems will need to incorporate data on land use and land cover, demographics and migration, agricultural systems and nutrition, etc. Effective use of data on weather, climate and other environmental drivers will require enhanced collaboration between the various related scientific communities to improve mutual understanding of requirements and build capacity in all sectors. Moreover, the development of successful public health resilience will be aided by implementation and evaluative research analyzing the effectiveness of early warning systems and risk reductions measures.

| OBJECTIVES

Participants in this webinar will be able to:

- Describe how health systems have dealt with co-occurrence of COVID -19 pandemic and climate-related disasters
- Identify key steps in operationalizing the WHO framework on Climate Resilient Health Systems
- Describe global efforts to enhance cooperation between health and hydrometeorological services and the provision of meteorological and climate services for health
- Describe approaches to developing rapid research responses to disasters

Speaker

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Joy Shumake-Guillemot leads the WHO/WMO Climate and Health Joint Office in Geneva Switzerland. She is an environmental health scientist and public health practitioner who has worked with WHO, WMO, UNICEF and others to develop public health policy and programming for climate adaptation and risk management. She has extensive field experience in Africa, Asia, and Latin America supporting public health and humanitarian assistance programs. Her current work focuses on enabling WMO and WHO to work together to accelerate the availability, access and use of climate and weather information that can improve public health policy and practice. She is the founder and co-coordinator of the Global Heat Health Information Network; and plays a leading coordination role for the Health, Environment, and Climate Change Coalition (HECCC) between UN Environment, WHO, and WMO.

Joy has led several strategic efforts as the lead author of the WHO Operational Framework for Climate Resilient Health Systems, the health strategy for the Global Framework for Climate Services, the Climate Service for Health Guidebook, and has contributed to numerous research, policy, and technical publications. Joy received her Doctor of Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from Johns Hopkins University.