

Improving COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness and response through the downstream of multi-hazard early warning systems

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● Research problem

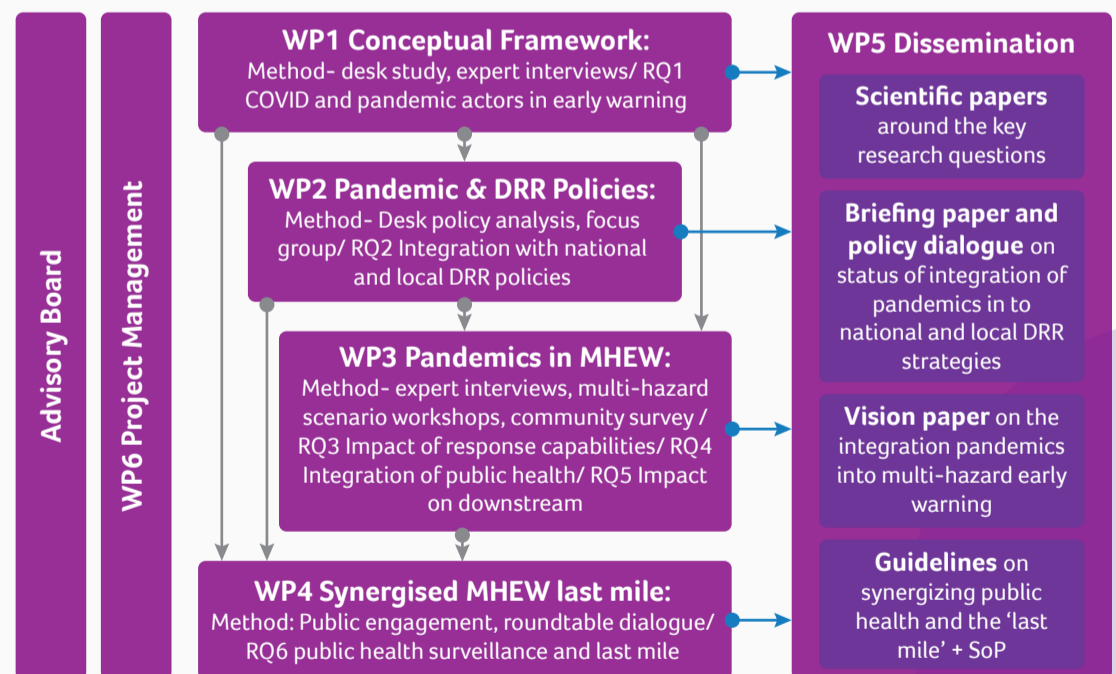
This study will address two, inter-related challenges: How to cope if a major natural hazard occurs during the COVID-19 pandemic? How can pandemic preparedness make use of the existing infrastructure for tackling other hazards? The project team will focus on the pandemic-natural hazard hybrid scenario. It will also seek to improve early warning and preparedness for such an event, as well as the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEW) and disaster risk information that include pandemic/biological hazards, Target G of the SFDRR [1]. The project will address these by examining how public health actors be embedded within a MHEW environment and how pandemic threats are integrated within national and local DRR strategies. The project will explore the impact of COVID-19 on response capabilities for other hazards, multiple simultaneous or cascading events, and consider how COVID-19 and public health surveillance can be synergised with “the last mile” of MHEW. Pandemic is global, but the preparedness and response are local and dependent on governance, laws, culture, risk perception and citizen behaviour.



● Project framework

● Partners

<p>Lead</p>  <p>University of Huddersfield, UK</p>	<p>Co-Investigators</p>  <p>University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</p>  <p>University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Lead Partner</p>  <p>Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Other Associate Partners</p>		
 <p>Disaster Management Centre Sri Lanka</p>	 <p>Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities Sri Lanka</p>	 <p>The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre Thailand</p>
 <p>The Association of Disaster Risk Management Professionals of Sri Lanka</p>	 <p>Greater Manchester Combined Authority UK</p>	 <p>The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) of The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO), Working Group 1: Tsunami Risk, Community Awareness and Preparedness</p>
 <p>The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</p>	 <p>Public Health England</p>	



● Project outcomes

- Several high quality, peer reviewed multi-institution, multi-disciplinary journal papers in high-impact journals under WP1,2 and 3
- Presentations at international conferences, workshops and other events
- A briefing paper and a policy dialog on current status and recommendations on the integration of pandemics within the national/local DRR strategies under WP2
- A vision paper will set out the future integration of pandemics into a MHEW environment under WP3

● Contact information

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