



Guiding Principles to Build Resilient Post-Corona World

- Towards building a more resilient and adaptive post-corona society -

The COVID-19 Pandemic has gravely affected countries all over the world, socially and economically, and disrupted efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the current COVID-19 environment, the immediate attention of the national leaders, governments and people around the world has been focused on mitigating the COVID-19 infection. Nonetheless, the threats of water-related disasters remain as imminent now as they were before COVID-19. Urgent actions are needed to prevent concurrent catastrophes of water-related disasters and COVID-19 that, as a duo, aggravate each other.

The introduction and dissemination of vaccines has initiated a likely process of abating the pandemic. Actions for health, economic and social recovery have partially commenced. However, the next pandemic and/or disasters will hit humanity even harder if we have not learnt the lesson and improved our societies to be more resilient to changes and disturbances. It is vital to share globally the experiences and good practices, along with practical guidance, amongst leaders, administrators, private sector, civil society and all stakeholders, so as to better cope with the challenges and mitigate their impacts. The political commitments that have been made must be matched by appropriate policies and investments, given the current and future circumstances of society with regards to COVID-19.

The Guiding Principles offer practical advice to political leaders, managers of DRR and COVID-19, and to all stakeholders, with ways to create a more resilient and sustainable post-corona society. They will help leaders and stakeholders take effective actions to recover from the damages of the pandemic and rebuild countries and societies towards ones that are more resilient and adaptive to pandemics, disasters, and other disturbances. The Principles provide a helping hand towards the acceleration of globally agreed agendas to get back on track, by providing useful lessons, innovative ideas, and common understandings.

- **Principle 1: Integrate all crisis-related sectors including DRR and pandemics prevention**
- **Principles 2: Keep effectively coping with disasters and COVID-19 until the pandemic is fully abated**
- **Principle 3: Improve governance systems, decision making and funding to cope with a crisis by reflecting on experiences of COVID-19**
- **Principle 4: Reflect the experiences of COVID-19 on practices**
- **Principle 5: Develop and fully utilize science and technology for crisis management**
- **Principle 6: Position water and sanitation as a foundation of sustainable development in the post-corona society**
- **Principle 7: Strengthen global solidarity and international cooperation to cope with disaster/pandemic challenges**
- **Principle 8: Share and pass on the memory of the COVID-19 response to enhance risk preparedness for all sectors**

Principle 1: Integrate all crisis-related sectors including DRR and pandemics prevention

- Make the concept of Building Back Better, from the Sendai Framework, become the world's vision for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. All stakeholders should implement the policy and plan to envision a post-corona world.
- Be aware how tightly interwoven our social and economic ties are, which should be taken into account when addressing the pandemic and climate disasters; floods, cyclones and droughts.
- The organizations that are mandated to address DRR and the pandemic should propose ways to integrate practices between both.
- Introduce pandemic response into project designs of DRR-related sectors. For example, the proposed Integrated Urban Flood Management in Chennai, India, would help prevent infections and control COVID-19 by enhancing water, sanitation and hygiene at schools and community health centers.
- OECD Network focused its efforts on adapting measures for managing water-related risk to the COVID-19 context.

Principles 2: Keep effectively coping with disasters and COVID-19 until the pandemic is fully abated

- Fully apply HELP Principles in countries to Address Water-related DRR under the COVID-19 Pandemic to policies and practices.
- DRR sectors should proactively assist vaccination delivery and other activities for COVID-19 to subside.
- Adapt to the new operating environment and make risk-informed decisions based on objective assessments of COVID-19 related risks to the workforce and its impacts on program delivery.
- Develop standard operating procedures for deploying support to emergency response operations, which includes several checklists for both managers and personnel, all designed to mitigate the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 while responding to emergencies.
- Promote understanding of the public on various risks and policy impacts of risk reduction to deal with this pandemic and for necessary resource mitigation through website collaboration with various nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations.
- Support provision of vaccines, PPEs, and sanitation and hygiene materials to developing countries to swiftly abate and contain the pandemic.

Principle 3: Improve governance systems, decision making and funding to cope with a crisis by reflecting on experiences of COVID-19

[governance system]

- Develop new forms of governance that can quickly detect and respond to an emerging crisis, swiftly and flexibly make science-based decisions, communicate with the public in transparent, accountable and convincing manners, and implement policies with proper adjustment to changing situations.
- Establish disaster risk reduction policies and plans based on data and science, and develop adequate budget allocation systems to reduce future risks.
- Develop transparent and accountable procedures for crisis management actions. Mitigate public concerns for uncertainty by proactively ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Differentiate legislative systems between normalcy and a mega-crisis, so that catastrophes can be addressed in a flexible and prompt manner.

[decision making]

- Enhance the capability for detecting and sense-making crisis including early warning.
- Promote and support science-based decision making before, during and after catastrophes. Role of science in risk evaluation, risk management, and risk communication should be clearly defined in transparent and accountable manners before, during and after a catastrophe, and particularly at the time of critical decision making.

[funding]

- Invest in critical infrastructure including hospitals and health facilities and take measures to ensure their functions at all times.
- Based on the Sendai Framework, strengthen the following three pillars of actions: (i) realization of pre-disaster investment and critical infrastructure for capital concentration centers, especially in mega cities, (ii) establishment of DRR institutions for understanding disaster risk and strengthening disaster risk governance, and (iii) establishment of the principle of Build Back Better in disaster-affected areas. Strengthening the three pillars will be essential for disaster risk reduction in a post COVID-19 world.
- Increase the share of climate funds to make pandemic, as well as disaster prone regions, more resilient by tracking climate-related expenditure and humanitarian operations.

Principle 4: Reflect the experiences of COVID-19 on practices

- Reflect on lessons learnt when responding to COVID-19, improve the way we approach development, to ensure that it is genuinely risk informed, to protect lives and livelihoods, and secure our progress towards the main framework for disaster risk reduction and SDGs.
- Provide inputs to the governments on how we respond to the pandemic in terms of operational technicalities as well as financing and budgeting.
- Introduce experiences of the pandemic response into project designs. For example, the proposed Integrated Urban Flood Management in Chennai, India, would help prevent infections and control COVID-19 by enhancing water, sanitation and hygiene at schools and community health centers.

Principle 5: Develop and fully utilize science and technology for crisis management

- Increase financing for and accelerate development of R&D to prepare for future disturbances such as pandemic, climate change and disasters.
- Promote holistic, integrated and interdisciplinary science approaches in order to connect water, human and nature, and coordinate the capacity development component of the SDG6 global accelerator framework.
- Scientific knowledge is needed for inclusive evidence-based and agenda transformative water policies, and sustainable water development and management.
- Develop political science to help make critical decisions balancing economic and social impacts of a policy on various sectors.

Principle 6: Position water and sanitation as a foundation of sustainable development in the post-corona society

- Remind leaders of the urgency to address the challenges related to clean water and sanitation for all as a foundation for building resilience.
- Establish the link between water security and resilience to COVID-19 and to all forms of existing or future pandemics.
- Launch a hand-washing campaign to prevent infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and improve public health.

Principle 7: Strengthen global solidarity and international cooperation to cope with disaster/pandemic challenges

- Strengthen global and regional networks on various risks, including pandemics and disasters, to share information and take preventive actions to enhance readiness for another pandemic and disturbances.
- Create networks as exemplified by the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network to support and mobilize cooperation efforts for integrated multi hazard warning systems, including those for biological hazards.
- Keep funding mechanisms for COVID-19 that support their developing members to ensure a more resilient post-pandemic recovery.

Principle 8: Share and pass on the memory of the COVID-19 response to enhance risk preparedness for all sectors

- Create global archives for policies, lessons, good practices and guidance notes and manuals for key sectors which were created during and after to help government response, recovery, and rejuvenation for the next pandemic.
- Create dialogue forums with institutions related to health, environment, resiliency, and global supply chain institutions.
- Use opportunities on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia as of May 2022, and the midterm review for the Sendai Framework in 2023, to share lessons and good practices during COVID-19.
- Organize regional conferences to learn from lessons and experiences concerning policies and decision making and present best practices to address COVID-19 and co-occurring disasters from risk management perspectives. OECD intends to convene a conference on drawing interim lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis to inform needed improvements to governance of critical risks.
- Organize workshops by individual sectors to learn from experiences to address COVID-19 and feed in the lessons, to enhance preparedness of the sectors.