

## CORONASYS INNOVATION SHEET 24

### RCCE TOOLKIT

#### Background

Covid-19 has emphasised once more the importance of adequate risk communication and community engagement not only in ensuring adherence to the recommended measures but also in reassuring and supporting people in coping with this extraordinary situation<sup>12</sup>. This might be particularly relevant in humanitarian settings, where Covid-19 is not the only challenge people face but occurs on top of a humanitarian crisis. This not only increases the susceptibility for the virus but makes it harder to treat and protect people and to reach them with communication tools<sup>345</sup>. This is why the *Global Readiness for Major Disease Outbreak Response Initiative*<sup>6</sup> has created a toolkit that assists officials in planning and adapting their Covid-19 messaging in humanitarian contexts.

#### Features

The *Risk Communication and Community Engagement Toolkit for Humanitarian Actors* is designed to help humanitarian actors or others involved in risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), to plan and implement RCCE in their Covid-19- response. It provides many resources, grouped and structured by topic and linked to key steps and components of effective RCCE. It includes guidelines and suggestions for hiring RCCE- staff as well as sample messages and materials. In addition, resources for the inclusion of several potentially vulnerable groups in messaging strategies are provided<sup>7</sup>.

#### Potentials

The toolkit can be immensely helpful to get a quick overview of the relevant components and basics of a successful RCCE- effort. Since it provides many resources and samples it can contribute to rapid adaption and integration of RCCE in humanitarian contexts. Furthermore, the Initiative offers short courses on several relevant topics free of charge.

#### Points to consider

The toolkit is not a one-size-fits-all- solution, of course. Although it is well structured and updated regularly, it is crucial for providers to reflect on the situation at hand and adapt the provided guidelines to the local situation.

#### Conclusion

The toolkit might be a valuable tool to improve RCCE not only in humanitarian settings.

**State of information:** 11/05/2020

**Launch:** 2020

**Country:** International

**Focus area:** Policy, Risk Communication and Community Engagement

**Developer:** READY- Initiative

**Beneficiaries:**

- Humanitarian actors
- Local authorities
- Public health officials
- Community workers

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<sup>1</sup> Malecki, Kristen M. C., Julie A. Keating, and Nasia Safdar. "Crisis Communication and Public Perception of COVID-19 Risk in the Era of Social Media." *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Accessed November 5, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa758>.

<sup>2</sup> Wu, Albert W., Cheryl Connors, and George S. Everly. "COVID-19: Peer Support and Crisis Communication Strategies to Promote Institutional Resilience." *Annals of Internal Medicine* 172, no. 12 (April 6, 2020): 822–23. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-1236>.

<sup>3</sup> Rodriguez-Morales, Alfonso J., Viviana Gallego, Juan Pablo Escalera-Antezana, Claudio A. Méndez, Lysien I. Zambrano, Carlos Franco-Paredes, Jose A. Suárez, et al. "COVID-19 in Latin America: The Implications of the First Confirmed Case in Brazil." *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease* 35 (2020): 101613. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tmaid.2020.101613>.

<sup>4</sup> Wu, Albert W., Cheryl Connors, and George S. Everly. "COVID-19: Peer Support and Crisis Communication Strategies to Promote Institutional Resilience." *Annals of Internal Medicine* 172, no. 12 (April 6, 2020): 822–23. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-1236>.

<sup>5</sup> Dahab, Maysoon, Kevin van Zandvoort, Stefan Flasche, Abdihamid Warsame, Ruwan Ratnayake, Caroline Favas, Paul B. Spiegel, Ronald J. Waldman, and Francesco Checchi. "COVID-19 Control in Low-Income Settings and Displaced Populations: What Can Realistically Be Done?" *Conflict and Health* 14, no. 1 (July 31, 2020): 54. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00296-8>.

<sup>6</sup> READY Initiative. "About – READY Initiative," 2020. <https://www.ready-initiative.org/about/>.

<sup>7</sup> READY Initiative. "COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement Toolkit for Humanitarian Actors – READY Initiative." ready-initiative.org, 2020. <https://www.ready-initiative.org/covid-19-risk-communication-and-community-engagement-toolkit-for-humanitarian-actors/#toggle-id-6-closed>.

### **Background on Innovation Sheet Series**

As part of a real-time evaluation of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic (with focus on epidemiological, medical, economical, societal, technical, and cultural developments in Germany and Armenia) the CoronaSys research team, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Martin Voss, is conducting a continuous monitoring of developments and medical, technical, and social innovations concerning Covid-19.

Multiple national and international media outlets, research platforms, and scientific and organizational guidelines, briefs, and updates are screened to feed into this outlet. The rationale behind this is to support the projects' network partners in Armenia and Germany with short summaries of key developments and promising innovations that are shaping the global, German, and Armenian outbreak response and recovery.

The aim of these short briefs is to give condensed and structured information on selected innovations emerging out of the conducted horizon scanning. This could be mainstream big-ticket items or fringe subjects that are easily overlooked in the global flood of information. Some innovations will be followed through their evolution in time while others may only appear once. While subjectively selected, the briefs are descriptive in nature and leave analysis and critical interpretation to the reader. Network partners in both countries are invited to provide feedback on their interest areas and suggest particularly relevant topics for the CoronaSys Workshop series.

The CoronaSys Innovation Sheet Series is published by the [Academy of the Disaster Research Unit](#), which is, as a non-profit limited liability company, a spin-off of the [Disaster Research Unit](#) at the Free University of Berlin. The series is part of the research project "[CoronaSys](#): Addressing the corona pandemic in Armenia through systemic risk management", sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

*If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you wish to be taken on (or off) the project mailing list for CoronaSys updates, innovation sheets, and workshop invitations, please send a message to Janina Schäfer ([schaefer@a-kfs.de](mailto:schaefer@a-kfs.de)). For general project inquiries, you may contact the team lead Sara Merkes ([merkes@a-kfs.de](mailto:merkes@a-kfs.de)) or the project lead Martin Voss ([voss@a-kfs.de](mailto:voss@a-kfs.de)).*

## Previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets

- 1 "New" Antiviral Face Masks
- 2 " Dyphox" Surface Coating
- 3 MOVES SLC Portable ICU
- 4 Portable TRI- KLEEN 500UV
- 5 Convalescent Plasma Therapy
- 6 ASIC- App
- 7 BinaxNOW Antigen Test
- 8 Corona Traffic Light
- 9 Aproof at Home Antibody Test
- 10 IVAT Hygiene Tower
- 11 LY-CoV555 Antibody Treatment
- 12 4C Mortality Score
- 13 Regional Corona Prediction Model
- 14 Computer-designed Mini- Proteins
- 15 Covid-19 Simulator
- 16 Trimodulin
- 17 BNT162b2-Vaccine
- 18 SARS-COV-2 Rapidplex
- 19 European Corona- Map
- 20 FELUDA Paper Strip Test
- 21 Humanitarian Action Mapping Tool
- 22 IKKA Score
- 23 WHO Digital Implementation Investment Guide

All previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets are available online:

<http://coronasys.a-kfs.de/category/innovation-stream/>

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