



Community Engagement and Epidemic Response and Preparedness: Materials Available on Mesh

All Community Engagement and Epidemic Resources

A full list of the guides, reports, papers and case studies exploring community engagement and epidemics response and preparedness on Mesh. More honed lists of resources can be found organised under the headings below.

General CE and Epidemics Resources

A list of gateway websites and repositories of content.

Resources Giving a High Level Justification for CE programmes associated with Epidemics

For those looking for content to help make the case that community engagement in epidemic response and preparedness is important and needs to be awarded attention and resource, either within the humanitarian response or in the context of biomedical research. These come from high-level organisational perspectives and you will find that the terms Community Engagement or others synonymous with it are used without a lot of explanation. However, the inclusion and proliferation of the terms demonstrates that engagement has become a central concern to multilateral and bi-lateral organisations as well as national authorities and service providers.

High Level Justification for CE in Humanitarian Response or Preparedness for an Outbreak.

High Level Justification for CE with Biomedical Research During an Outbreak or in an Area of Epidemic Risk.

Resources Giving a General Overview of CE programmes associated with Epidemics

Engagement programmes are often one of the things to see resources cut in tight budgets. Yet, it is important that engagement programmes are adequately funded in order to achieve what they hope to. It is vital to be able to clearly advocate for and justify your budget convincingly. The materials below may help with this, and make the case for approaches that are sensitive to the context (justifying the integration of social research and a responsive and adaptable programme design).

This Area Includes general guidelines, training and events. It will support people looking to draw generalisable lessons and thinking in more detail about programme design and budget justification.

Programme Design for CE in Humanitarian Response or Preparedness for an Outbreak.

Programme Design for CE with Biomedical Research.

Doing CE and Epidemic Response and Preparedness: Lessons from Experience

This area contains project reports and documents derived from direct experience of initiating and implementing CE for preparedness or in response to an epidemic. One section is for initiatives taking place in an immediately post epidemic context where we are likely to see social movements and other initiatives which raise grassroots voices, draw lessons and advocate for continued support and resource.

Doing CE for Preparedness

Certain areas are at greater risk of emergence or re-emergence of an epidemic. There may be opportunities to engage specifically with at risk groups, actors in the health system, or the wider public in these times.

This can build capacity for a rapid and well informed response should an epidemic emerge. In other contexts with a lower risk of experiencing an epidemic it still might be of value to engage public groups in conversations around the risks and causes of epidemics overseas so as to inform public opinion and perhaps civil society or national policy responses in light of this.

Humanitarian and Public Health Initiatives

Biomedical Research Organisation

Civil Society and the Cultural Sector

Doing CE During an Outbreak

Challenges must be expected when conducting engagement during an epidemic outbreak since issues such as those around rumour, fear, stigma and mistrust, which necessitate engagement, are also those that engagement efforts must encounter in order to understand and make efforts towards addressing.

It is therefore vitally important to find spaces and methods that enable different and perhaps conflicting voices to be heard. This is likely to be a messy exercise of trial and error. The context in which you are engaging is likely to be shifting continuously as people become increasingly exposed to communications, messages, engagement efforts and the response programmes. This will have consequences for the tone and also the modes of engagement/communications that might be appropriate.

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Doing CE Immediately Post-Outbreak

The immediate period after an epidemic might be where social movements are gathering momentum and most audible. Engaging with such voices is likely to be politically charged but important to engage with if there are lessons to be learnt about the direct experience of people having experienced humanitarian, public health and medical research efforts. These projects may be instigated from outside of institutions associated with humanitarian or biomedical research response however. They demonstrate opportunities to hear perspectives that would not be voiced in other CE Spaces.

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