

Volunteer
Scotland



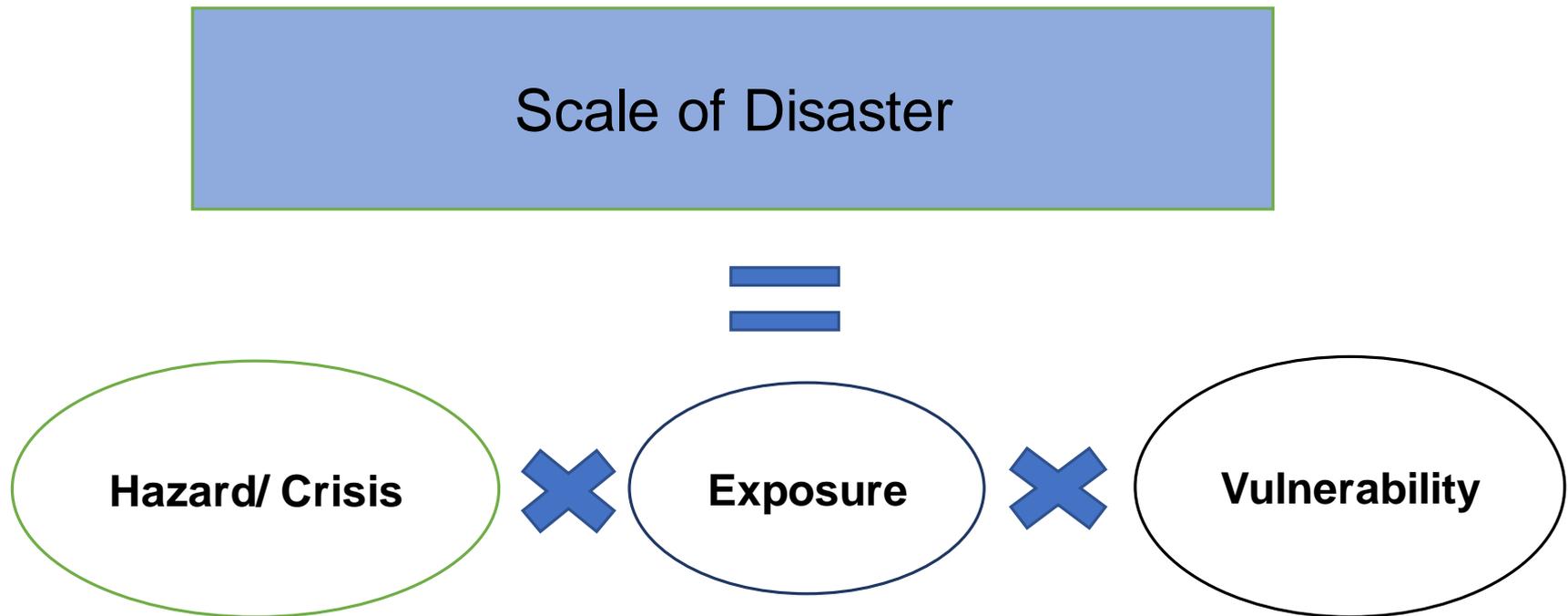
Resilience – lessons from International Contexts

Dr Cathy Hynds



Key lessons from International contexts

1. Responding to a crisis – vulnerability



Types of Crisis

- Natural – Earthquake, Flood, Tsunami
- Pest – Locusts
- Health – Ebola, SARS, COVID-19
- Man-made – Conflict

2. Resilience Framework:-

Focus on building all capacities from start of response

Resilience definition

"Community resilience is the sustained ability of a community to use available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations."

Absorptive Capacity

- Restore essential basic structures and functions in response to a crisis, including food, shelter, etc.

Adaptive Capacity

- Ability to proactively modify practices and make informed choices about alternative ways of preventing and responding to a crisis.

Transformative Capacity

- Ability to create conditions to facilitate system change so that the shock / crisis has reduced impact.

Desk Based Research

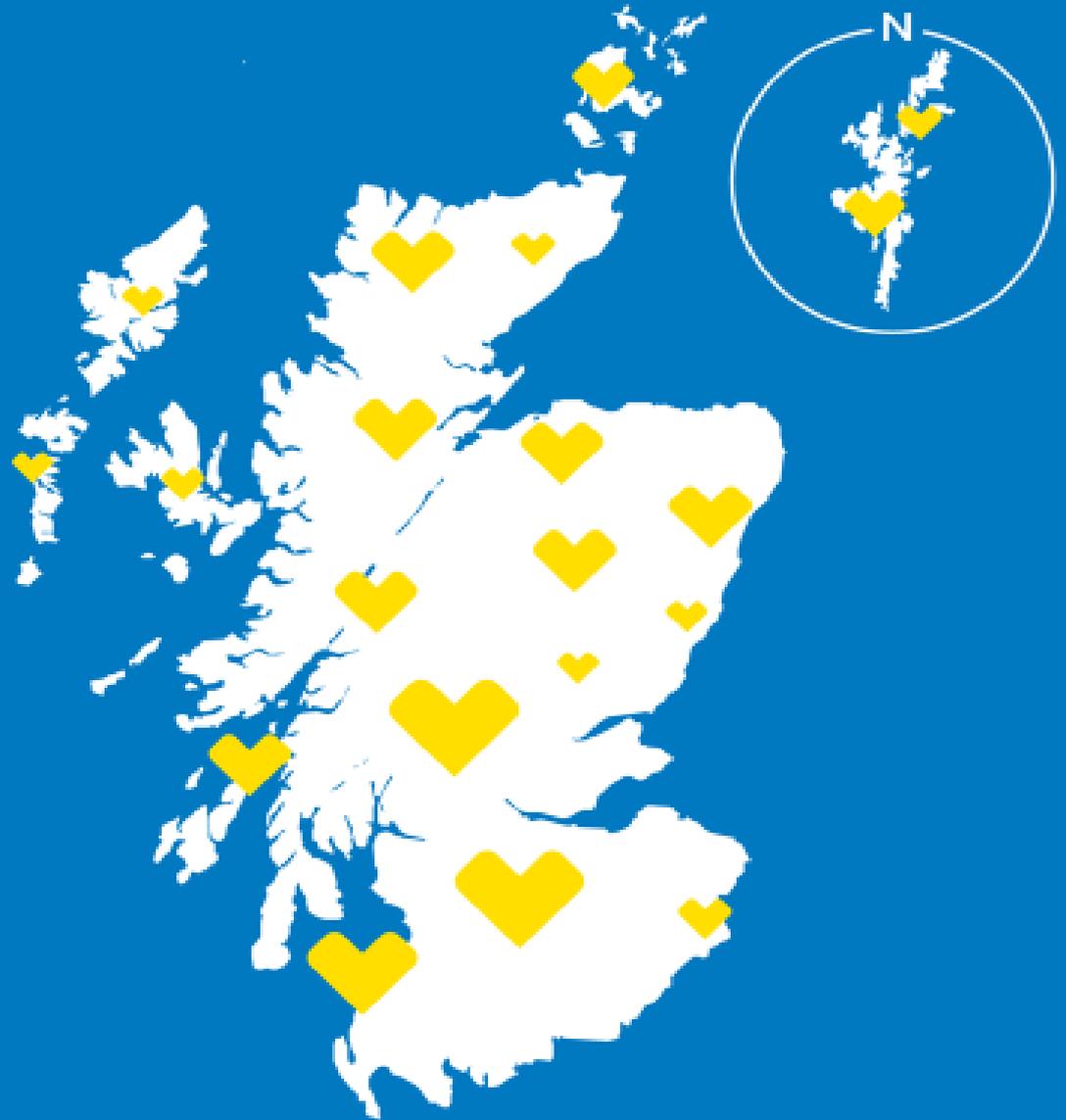
Analysis of the shape and effectiveness of the COVID-19 recovery response in Scotland in relation to the resilience framework

1. Are the COVID-19 responses building up absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities?
2. Who is being targeted in the Covid-19 responses? (To reduce the scale of disaster vulnerability needs to be reduced)

Focuses on:-

1. Informal volunteering
2. Mutual Aid
3. Formal Charity Sector

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RESULTS

Focus is on Absorptive Capabilities



Particularly for informal and mutual aid Volunteering

- Doing Food shopping
- Befriending/ keeping in touch with people who are lonely
- Helping in Household tasks
- Helping at charities which support poverty, homelessness, disability

	% of volunteers		
	Mutual Aid	Informal	Formal
Doing Food shopping	71%	77%	58%
Befriending/ keeping in touch with people who are lonely	68%	76%	64%
Helping in Household tasks	33%	37%	29%
Helping at charities which support poverty, homelessness, disability	30%	20%	42%

More support in the least deprived areas

- Mutual Aid
- Informal
- Formal

	% of Adults	
	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q5
Mutual Aid	14%	22%
Informal	30%	43%
Formal	13%	18%

↔

Who are the most vulnerable and are they being targeted?

To decrease the scale of the disaster, the focus must be on the most vulnerable



Mutual Aid Groups

- Hypothesis: Focus is not on the most vulnerable in part due to location, mode of communication and lack of awareness on vulnerability and type of support needed.

Formal volunteering

- Hypothesis: Most likely to have been involved in both more targeted support to the most vulnerable and incorporating more adaptive capacity building responses but adversely affected by economic situation.

Informal volunteering

- Hypothesis: Improved reach in deprived communities, but predominate focus is on absorptive capacity.

Impact of Covid-19 on the Third Sector

On Activities

Charities (Formal Volunteering)

Almost half (46%) of voluntary organisations continue to deliver similar services during COVID 19 but with a modified delivery model⁴



On Finances

85% of charities face some degree of financial threat within the next 12 months.

For a fifth of charities the financial threat will be 'critical'³

Community Groups and Social Enterprises

Approx. half (50% & 44%) are not able to carry out their normal activities and have stopped any meaningful delivery during COVID⁴



Social Enterprises are worst affected (86%) Community Groups least affected (52%)⁴

Third Sector is expressing concern about deteriorating mental health and increased poverty and income highlighting the gaps in current response^{4,10}

Suggestions:- Coordination

Coordinated 'tier' system could maximise the benefits from informal volunteering and mutual aid as well as helping to achieve a resilient response.

Mutual Aid/ informal volunteering's ability to respond quickly to simple requests for help is an opportunity. But more prolonged requests are likely to exhaust efforts and more complex needs require appropriate training and signposting that is best done in a coordinated effort⁶



Suggestions:- Guidance & Targeted Funding



Improved signposting

Improved guidance on the resilience strategy and improved resources to translate the strategy into meaningful local delivery plans piloted in deprived area.

Increased funding and priority should be placed on preventative measures that provide a pathway/opportunities for the most vulnerable to build upon existing capacities and generate positive change

Greater promotion and public awareness of services

References

1. Ipsos Mori Survey: Volunteer Scotland's analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering, July 2020 (publication of the detailed cross-sectional data is pending) - [Link](#)
2. Scottish Government: 'Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment: Evidence gathered for Scotland's Route Map through and out of the Crisis', July 2020 - [Link](#)
3. OSCR: 'COVID-19 impact on charities survey', June 2020 - [Link](#)
4. TSI Scotland Network: 'Coronavirus survey report', June 2020 - [Link](#)
5. Poverty Alliance briefing, April 2020 - [Link](#)
6. New Local Government Network: 'Communities vs. Coronavirus: the rise of mutual aid', July 2020 – [Link](#)
7. Scottish Government: 'Building Community Resilience – Scottish Guidance on Community Resilience' Jan 2013 - [Link](#)
8. Scottish Government: 'Economic Impact of Coronavirus Led Labor market effects on Individuals and Households', April 2020 - [Link](#)
9. Scottish Government: 'Equality and Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment of the Health and Social Impacts of COVID-19', June 2020 - [Link](#)
10. Third Force News article: 'Never more needed: 7m will seek charity help due to Covid', Aug 2020 - [Link](#)